

# A qualitative study of homeopathic consultations

## Reflecting on the Journey

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# Aim and overview

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- The aim of the presentation is to give a reflexive overview of my journey so far through this PhD.
  - My background
  - Reflexivity
  - Methodology
  - Practitioner/researcher issues
  - Findings



# From homeopathic practitioner to practitioner/researcher

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- Joining the CAM research meetings
- Desire to push the boundaries with new challenges
  - To develop my own CPD
  - To help develop the profession
- Have specific interest in the homeopathic consultation.
- Belief in the homeopathic remedy



# Practitioner reflexivity

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- Has been defined as a “turning back on the self” :
  - Reflect on the “active self” i.e. looking at self as part of the process.
  - Reflect on the “inner self” i.e. self awareness

(Rennie, 1992)



# Researcher reflexivity

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“The capacity of the researcher to acknowledge how their own experience, thoughts, feelings, culture, environment, social history, personal history and contexts (which may be fluid and changing) inform the process and outcomes of inquiry.

(Kim Etherington, 2004)



# Aims of the research

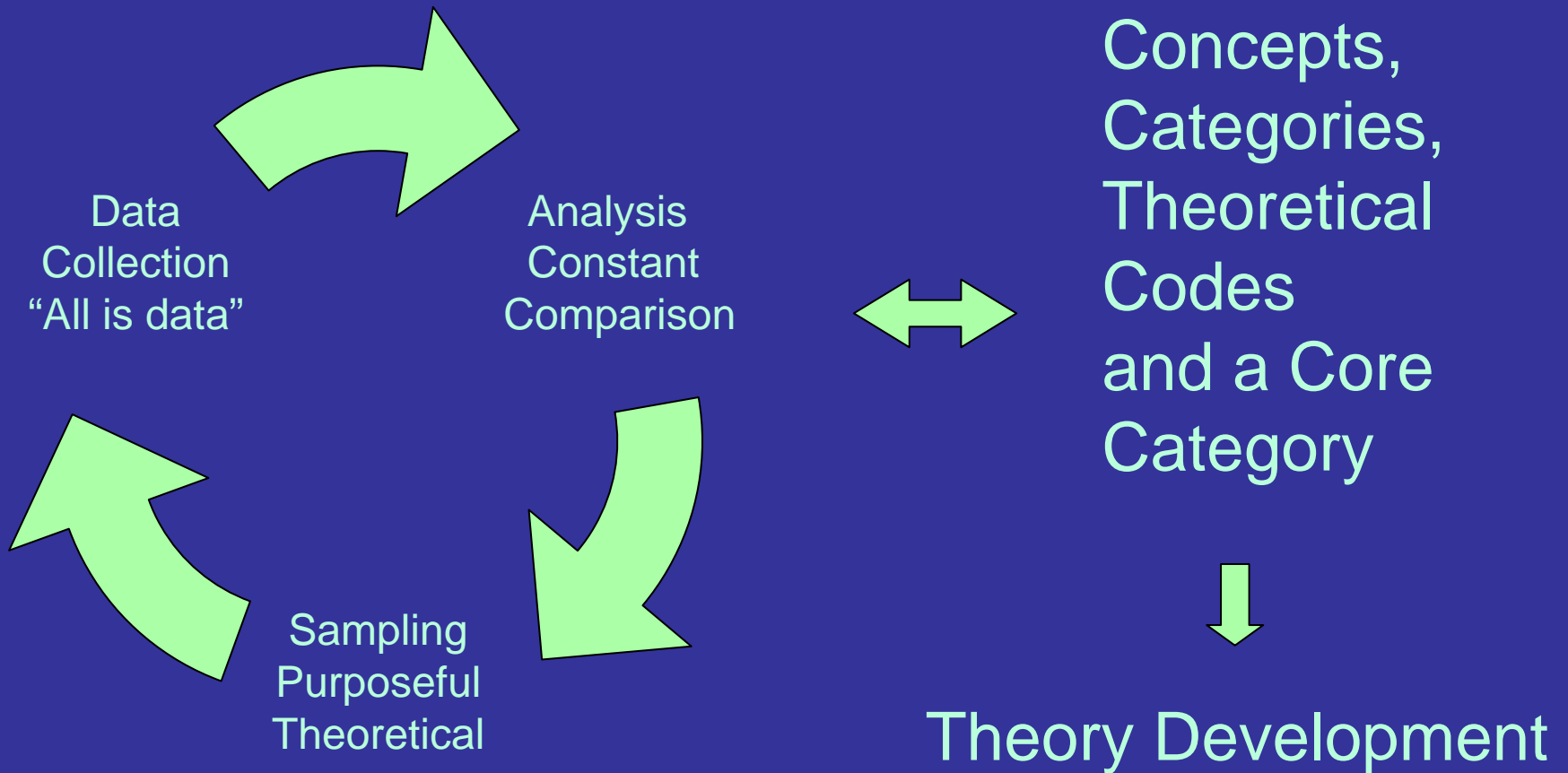
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- To focus on the nature of the homeopathic consultation.
- To explore the role of the homeopathic practitioner.
- To identify factors that homeopathic practitioners perceive to be important in promoting therapeutically effective consultations.
- To develop a theory of the homeopathic consultation.



# Grounded theory

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# Glaser vs. Strauss

# Constructivism



- Sees both data and analysis as created from shared experiences and relationships with participants and other sources of data.

(Charmaz, 2006)



# Doing the interviews

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“I am really interested in your experience of the homeopathic consultation, please could you describe a typical consultation to me”

- Interviews were started before literature review
- Interviews were started early in transition from practitioner to practitioner/researcher
- How do I present myself in the interviews



# Influence on interview

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**H:** The moment people suddenly see something, is when I think ah ha. You know this is croton tig or something and in that moment they may say "actually I feel different"

**I:** *Yes, because its hard to know what is going on in that moment isn't it? Sometimes just the energy of your realisation is.....*

**H:** Yes, sometimes you can feel the whole dynamic in the room change in the moment



# Influence on interview

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**H:** There is something very important going on there. Not necessarily well but he had a response, a big response. It may well be that it was too potent?

**I:** *Maybe he is very sensitive and.....*

**H:** I've a feeling somewhere I did actually use Phatak's repertory and I think, um, material medica, and I think there was something about red vision, very small print. I'll look at it whilst we're talking (*getting book*)...

**I:** *It's not as though he's proving Rhus tox.*

**H:** That was the thing I'd hoped he might be proving but it wasn't.

**I:** *Unless it's an old symptom or something but he would have mentioned that wouldn't he?*

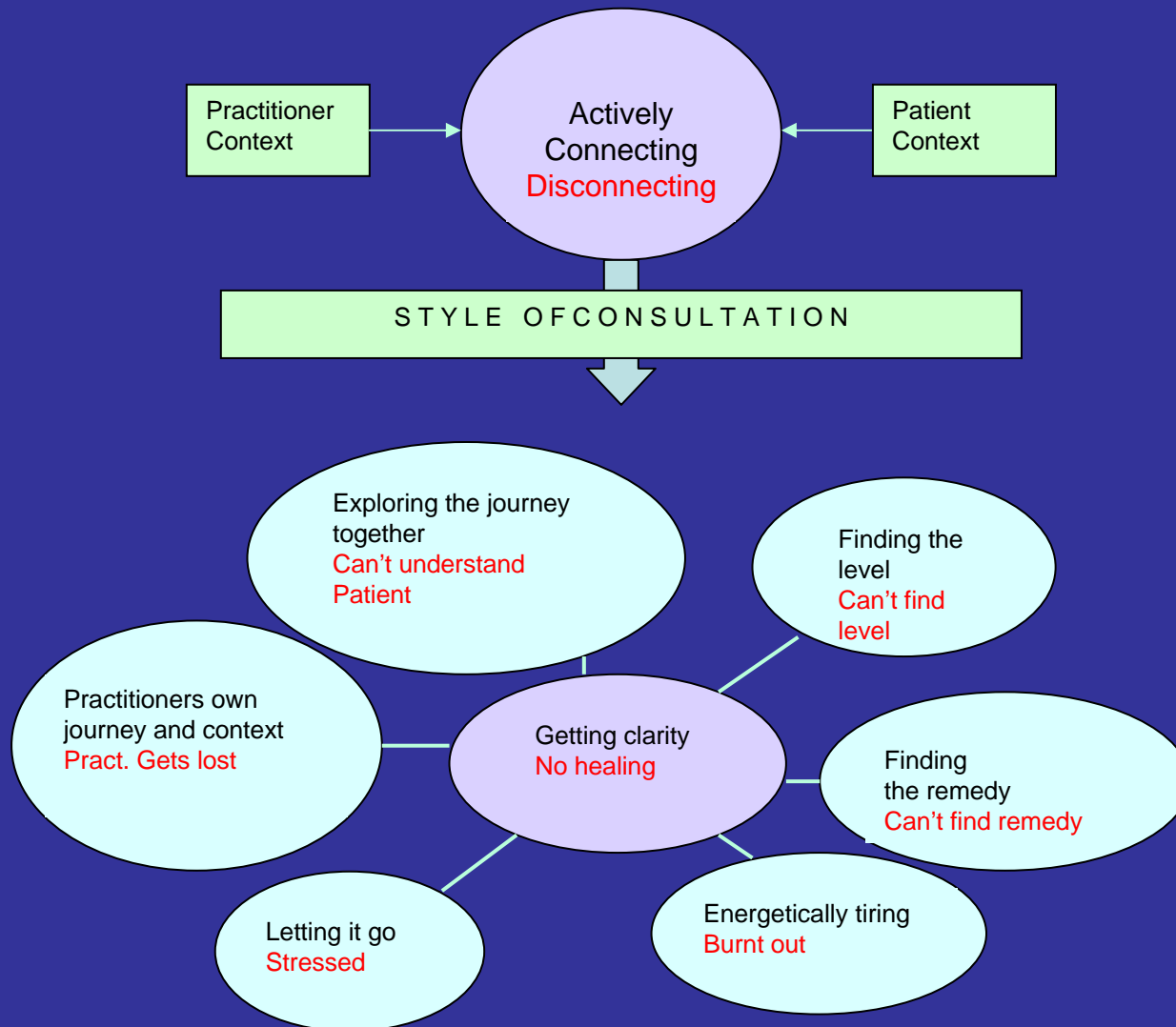
**H:** I'd like to ask him more about.....I find this.....I remember patients sometimes years later, possibly because someone else has done something that triggers it, and I want to then just look it up...

**I:** *Sometimes if people produce a symptom like that in.....it's sometimes an indication of it being not quite a simillimum or a partial simillimum isn't it?*

**H:**.....Yes

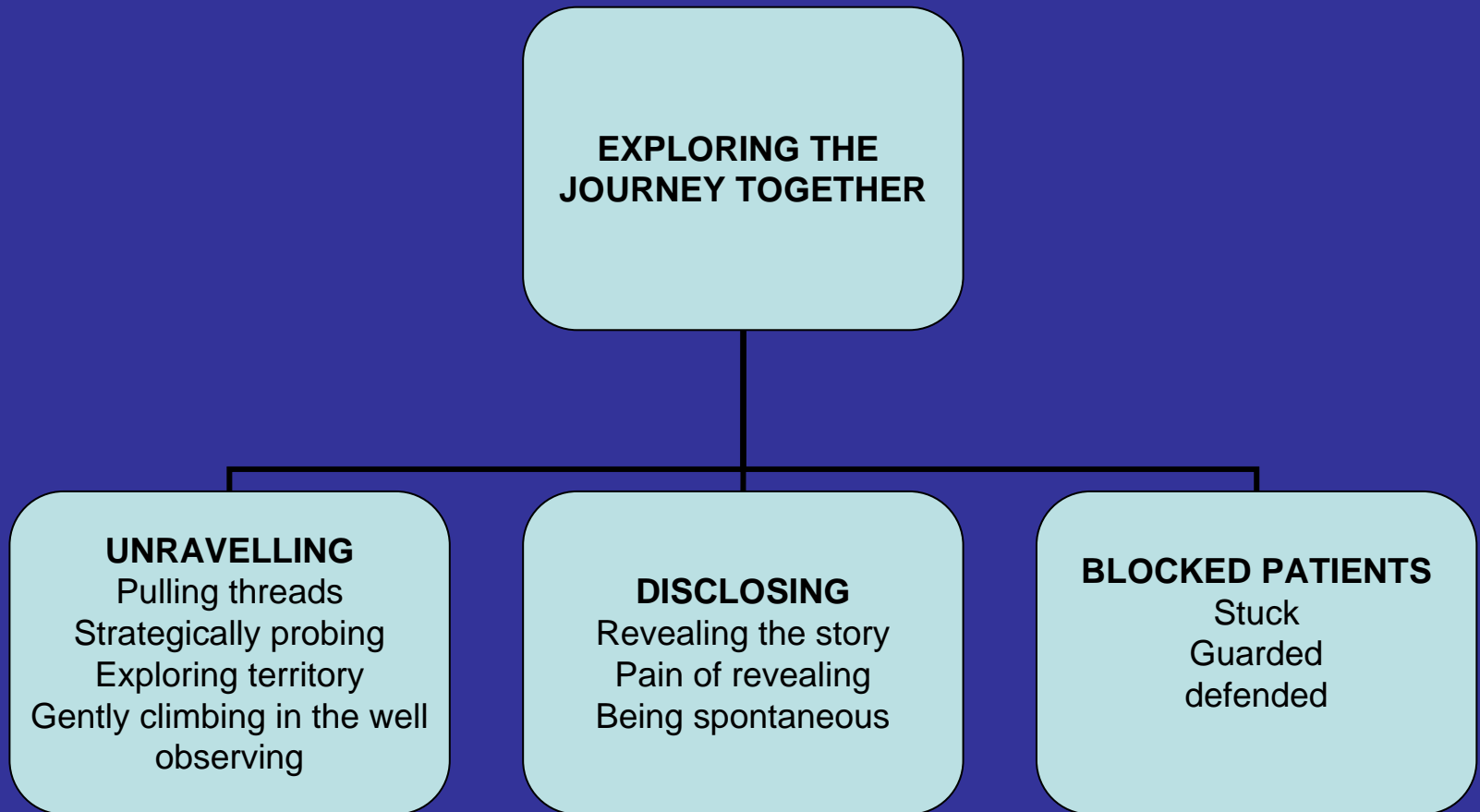


# Theoretical codes



# Writing the findings chapter

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# Practitioner/Researcher

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- Transition from practitioner to practitioner/researcher
  - Between two worlds
  - Issue of placebo
  - Change in practice
  - Skills are more focussed
  - Negative media on homeopathy



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