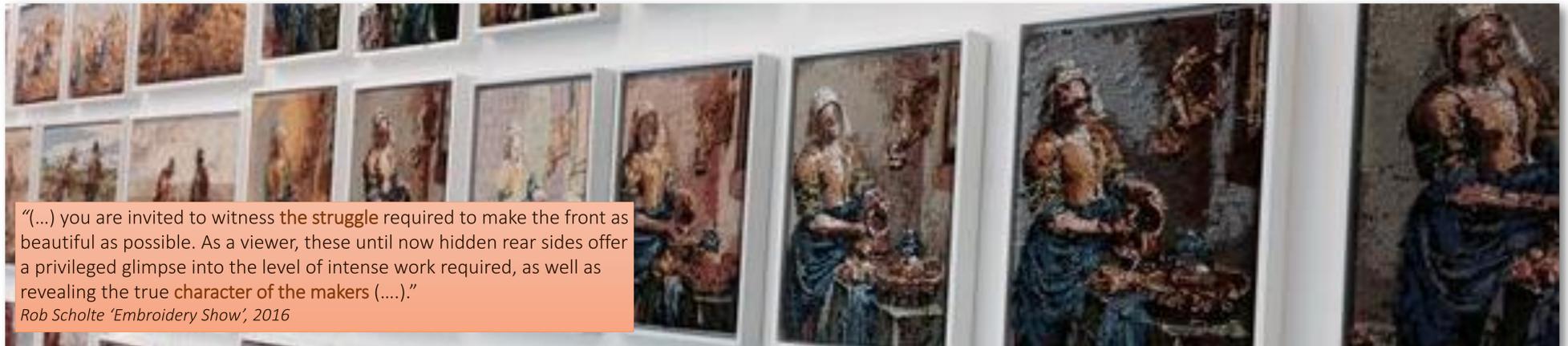


'Given the circumstances'

On Methodology for Practice Oriented Social Work Research by UAS in The Netherlands



"(...) you are invited to witness the struggle required to make the front as beautiful as possible. As a viewer, these until now hidden rear sides offer a privileged glimpse into the level of intense work required, as well as revealing the true character of the makers (...)."
Rob Scholte 'Embroidery Show', 2016

Universities of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands conduct research that is with scientific rigor and contributes to both education and practice. This PhD study has the following research aim and research questions.

Research Aim

- Contribute to an insight on **dilemma's** and **motives** of social work researchers at UAS in choosing and applying research strategies for SW research.

Research Questions

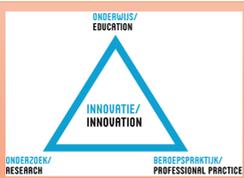
- What research methods are used in social work research at UAS
- How do these methods live up to the scientific and practical claim (rigor and relevance)
- What further development is to be made to strengthen both claims?
- What underlying **motives** do SW-researchers at UAS have in choosing a certain method?

Research methods

- Review of literature on SW research
- Analysing research publications by UAS; create an inventory and typology of the methodologies used (I)
- Online a-synchrone focus groups
- In-depth interviewing (self confrontation method or Qmethodology)
- Analysing and defining promising strategies
- Observing and participating in strategies

Case of The Netherlands

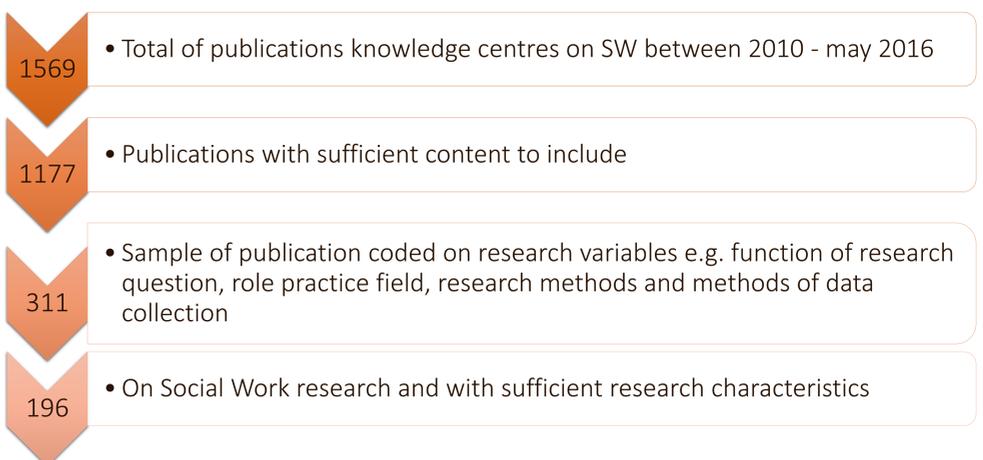
- 37 Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS)
- 19 UAS offer Social Work education (AD, BA of MA level)
- 18 UAS with a knowledge centre on SW



Definition Social Work

"SW a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, (...). Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, (...)." (IFSW, 2014)

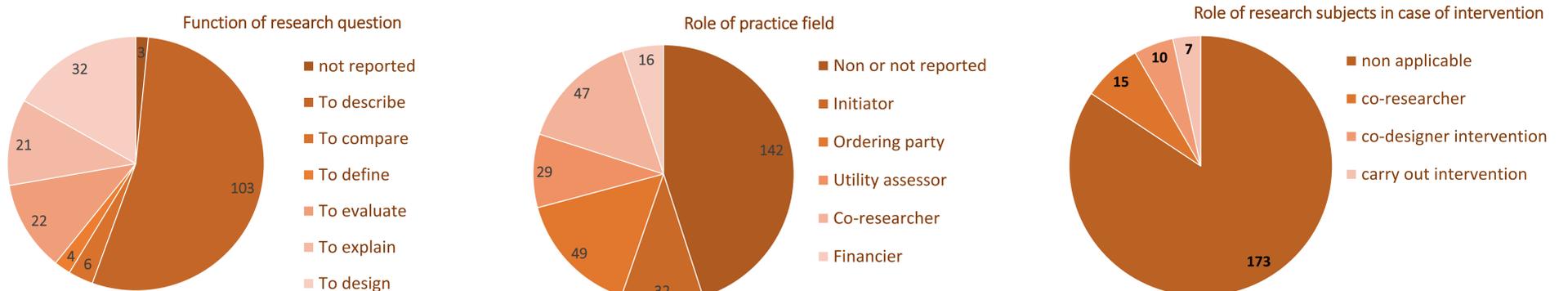
(I) Analysing research publications by UAS



Definition Social Work Research

"The purpose of social work research is to develop knowledge in support of the mission and purposes of social work as a discipline and a profession. Social work research is conducted to aid in understanding individual, interpersonal and larger social and structural problems and to inform education and practice". (SOOKRAJ, ET AL, 2016 P. 37)

(I) Preliminary results



Questions

- Given the ambition of research by UAS is it remarkable that the majority of publications is descriptive?
- Given the two definitions of SW and SW research is it to be expected that in so few publications the professionals in the field have the role of co-researcher?
- How do you as a researcher deal with the dilemmas to obtain both high rigor and high relevance in your research?
- In choosing your research strategy what are your considerations?