Narratives methods – Interactive workshop  

Dr Tom Quarmby

This interactive workshop will focus on narrative inquiry and its potential to elicit and share understandings and experiences in different ways to more traditional approaches. It will highlight the benefits of adopting narrative inquiry before considering different types of narrative analysis. More specifically, by drawing on examples of how narrative inquiry has been employed with a specific group of youth from socially vulnerable backgrounds, the workshop will demonstrate how narrative can serve as a method for understanding how young people experience the social structures that impinge on their daily sport/physical activity practices. Within the workshop, different types of creative analytic practice (e.g. creative non-fiction) will be discussed along with the specific process, informed by Blodgett and colleagues (2011) that was used to craft the stories. Finally, the workshop will provide a platform to reflect on the use of narrative and the challenges and pitfalls encountered when first attempting to engage with narrative inquiry.

Dr Thomas Quarmby is a Senior Lecturer in Physical Education (PE) and Sport Pedagogy at Leeds Beckett University. His research explores the role of sport and PE for youth from socially vulnerable backgrounds – specifically care experienced children and young people. Given the challenges associated with engaging with specific groups of children/young people, Thomas has engaged with a range of qualitative, participatory research methods to help children and young people share their experiences. Thomas is also concerned with exploring PE pedagogies for socially vulnerable youth and more broadly, issues of social justice.