

Research Project:

Choice, Personalisation and Self-directed-support: from policies into practice passing by their tools and actors.

My name is Francesca Pozzoli and I'm a PhD candidate in Sociology and Methodology of Social Research at the University of Milan.

Before starting my PhD, I worked in social care in London in the field of transition services for disabled young people. I then decided to move back to Italy (where I am from) to undertake a PhD.

My PhD project focuses on the topic of choice, personalisation and self-directed-support in the field of social care services for disabled adults and in the contexts of England and of the Italian region of Lombardy.

My analysis aims at following – in both contexts - the journey of policies promoting choice, personalisation and self-directed-support as they translate into practices through the work of 'policy actors'. A specific attention will be given to social workers and service users as 'actors' of policies. I am in fact particularly interested in exploring choice, personalisation and self-directed-support through the lived experiences of both social workers and service users.

For this reason, I am currently in the process of recruiting social workers and service users to take part in my project by participating in an interview. In particular, I would like to hear from:

- Social workers with experience of working with disabled adults (learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autism, ADHD) and familiar with self-directed-support tools such as direct payments (DP) and personal budgets (PB).
- Disabled adults who, because of their disability, have been allocated a PB and/or DP.

Interviews will last between 60 and 90 minutes and will be audio-recorded. Confidentiality and anonymity will be respected at all stages of the research.

I am currently conducting the fieldwork for my research in London.

If you are a social worker or a service user from a local authority in London and you are happy to share your experience by taking part in an interview, or if you are a social care professional or a carer and you know people who might be interested and willing to take part in my project, you can contact me at francesca.pozzoli@unimi.it or +447459811712. Also, if you would like to ask any question or to know more about the study, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Your experiences and your voices are of paramount importance for my research and I hope to hearing from many of you.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Best wishes,

Francesca Pozzoli