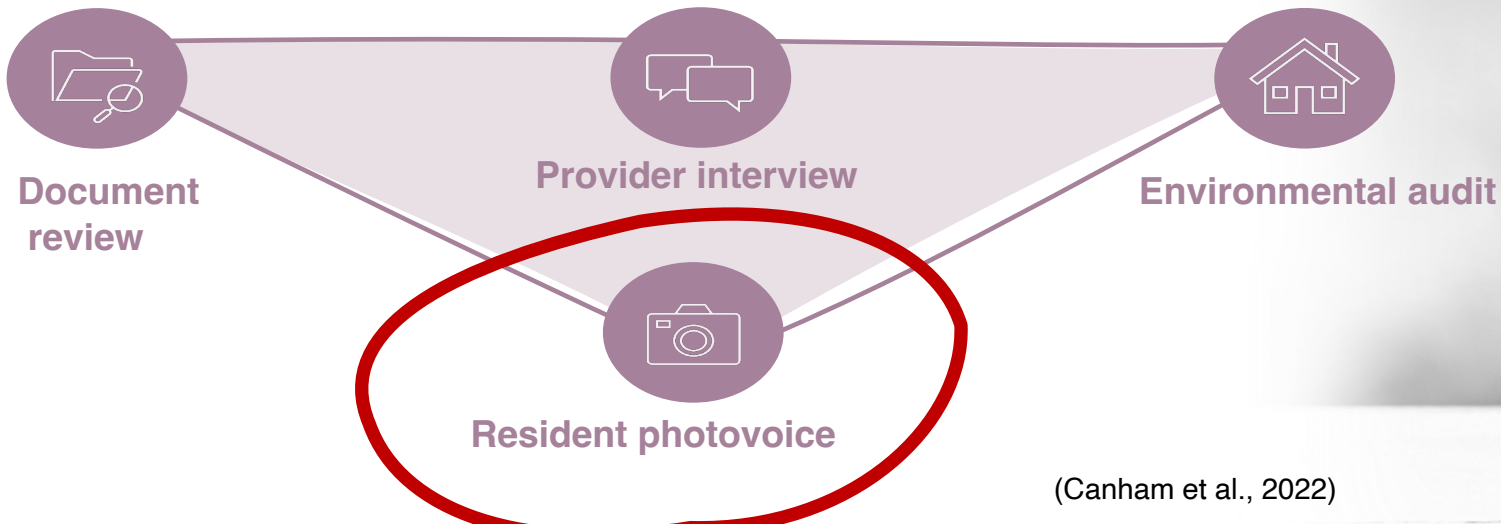
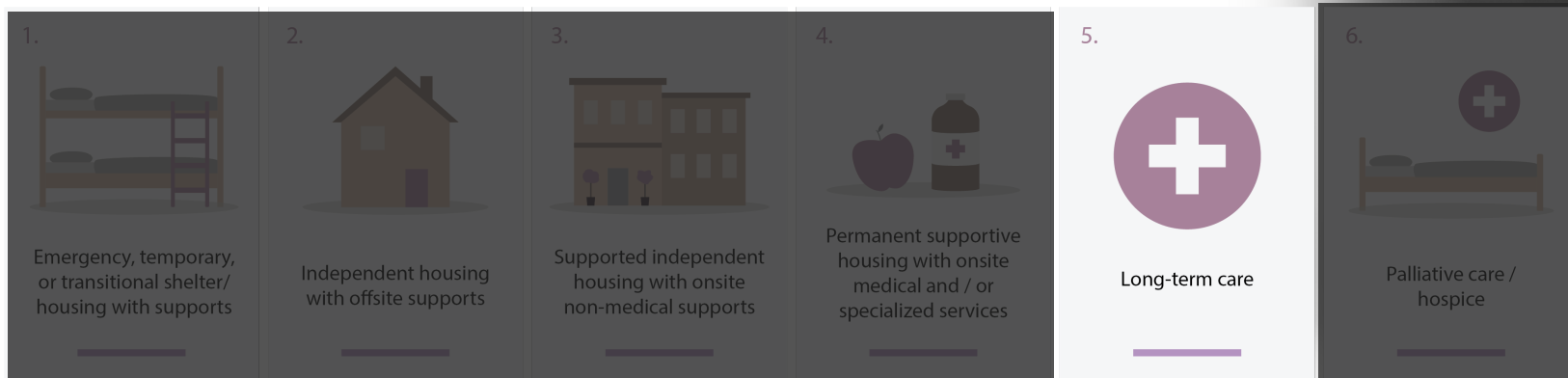


Disenfranchised tragedies

Living in LTC as older persons with
experiences of homelessness

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Sarah L. Canham

Aging in the Right Place : The research project



(Canham et al., 2022)

The promising practice

- 20 beds unit of a larger 169 beds publicly regulated LTC home housed within an Integrated Health and Social Service Network(IHSCC) with expertise in aging and homelessness
- Serves older persons with experiences homelessness (OPEH) with :
 - a history of substance use and/or mental health challenges,
 - a geriatric profile,
 - a need for 2-3 hours of personal care and
 - a lack of available alternatives from which to receive care.



Conceptual framework for this analysis

- Transitions to LTC are challenging

(Fraher & Coffey, 2011; Heliker & Scholler-Jacquish, 2006; Jackson, Swanson, Hicks, Prokop & Laughlin, 2000; Newson, 2011)

- Some elements that support people in adjusting and even thriving in LTC include: connection, care, community, control.

(Brown Wilson, Davies & Nolan, 2009; Cooney, 2012; Sussman & Dupuis, 2014; Sussman & Orav-Lakaski, 2018)

➤ Supporting continuity of self is key



Conceptual framework for this analysis

- OPEHs are at greater risk of early transitions to LTC

(Brown et al., 2017; Brown, Kiely, Bharel, & Mitchell, 2012; Canham, Custodio, Mauboules, Good, & Bosma, 2019; Crane & Warnes, 2010; Grenier et al., 2016a; Lee, Guzman, Ponath, Tieu, Riley, & Kushel, 2016)

- Many aspects of their realities make the relocation process even more challenging

(Garibaldi, Conde-Martel, & O'Toole, 2005; Grenier, Sussman, Barken Bourgeois-Guerin, & Rothwell, 2016b; McDonald, Donahue, Janes, & Cleghorn, 2009; van Dongen et al., 2019)

- Research on OPEHs' adjustment to community resource

(Goering et al., 2014; Padgett, Bond, Gurdak, & Henwood, 2019)

Research question

How do OPEH experience life in LTC ?

*How do they make
sense of this relocation ?*

What does living in LTC means for them ?

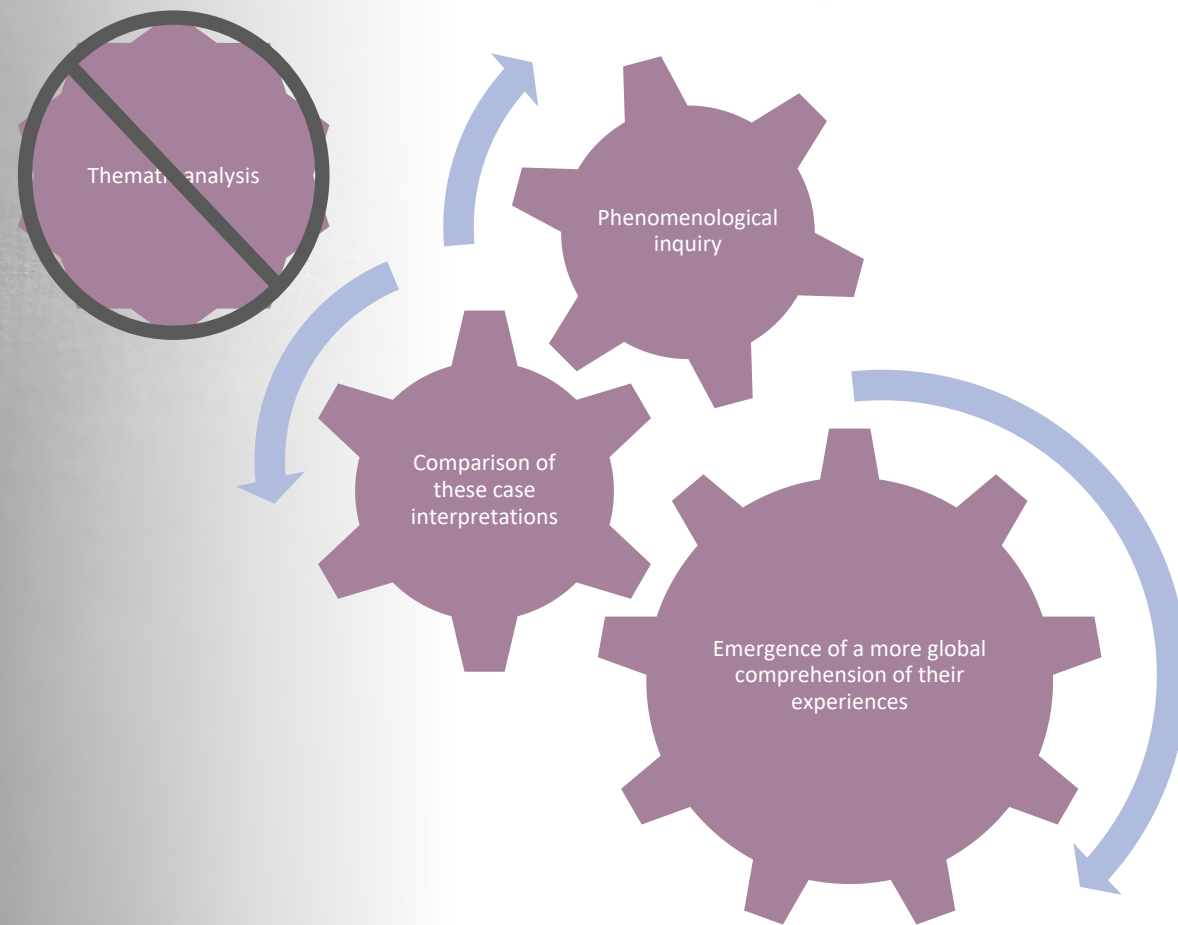
Method

Photovoice interviews with 11 residents

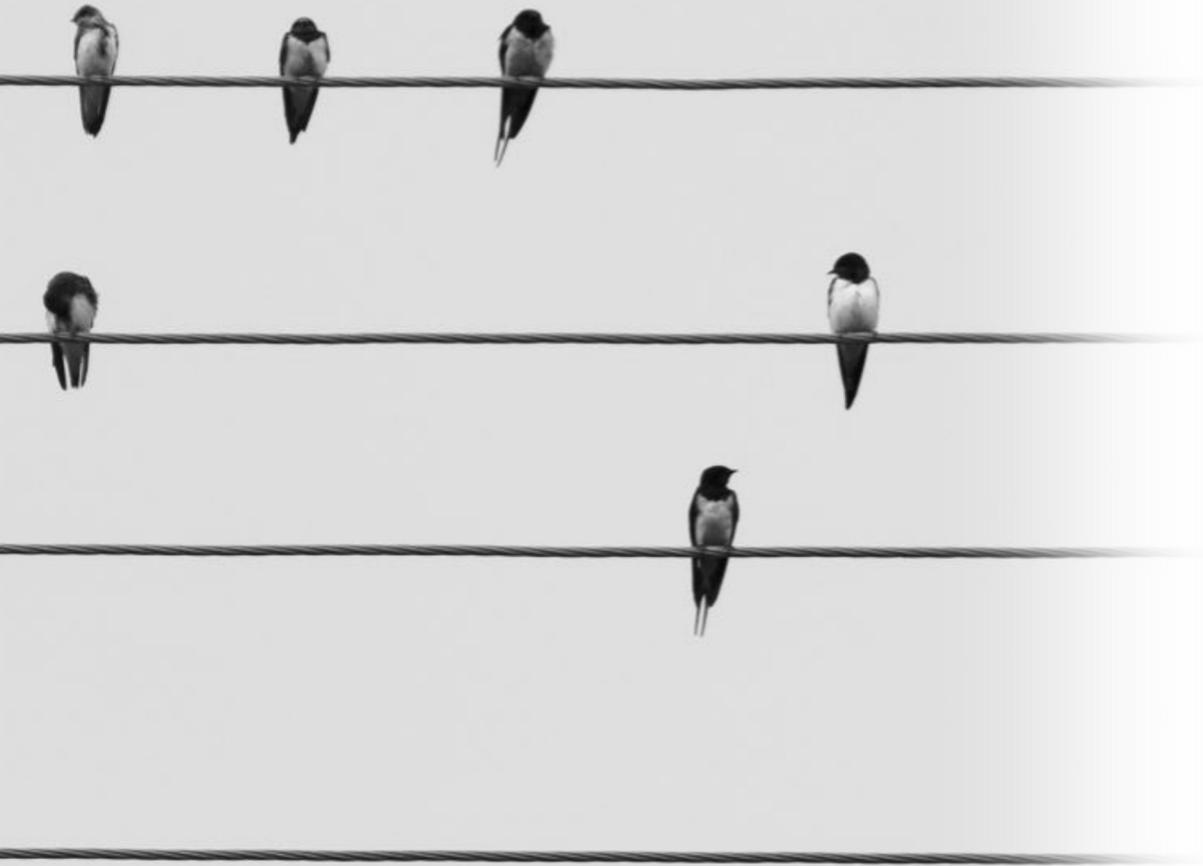
2 interviews + photos: n=8

2 interviews and no photo: n=1

1 interview and no photo: n=2



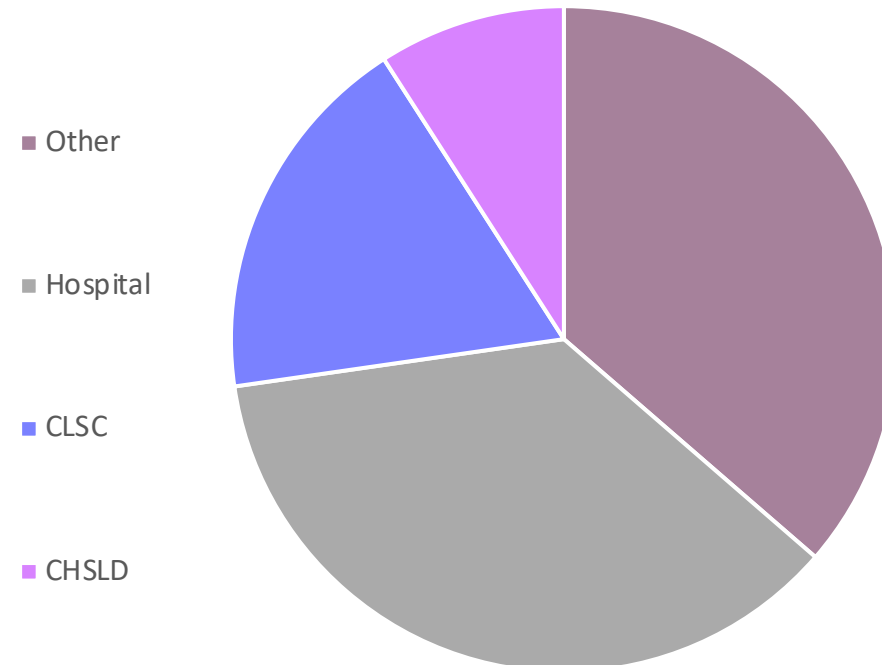
Sample



Average Age: 61 years old
Between 44-75 years old

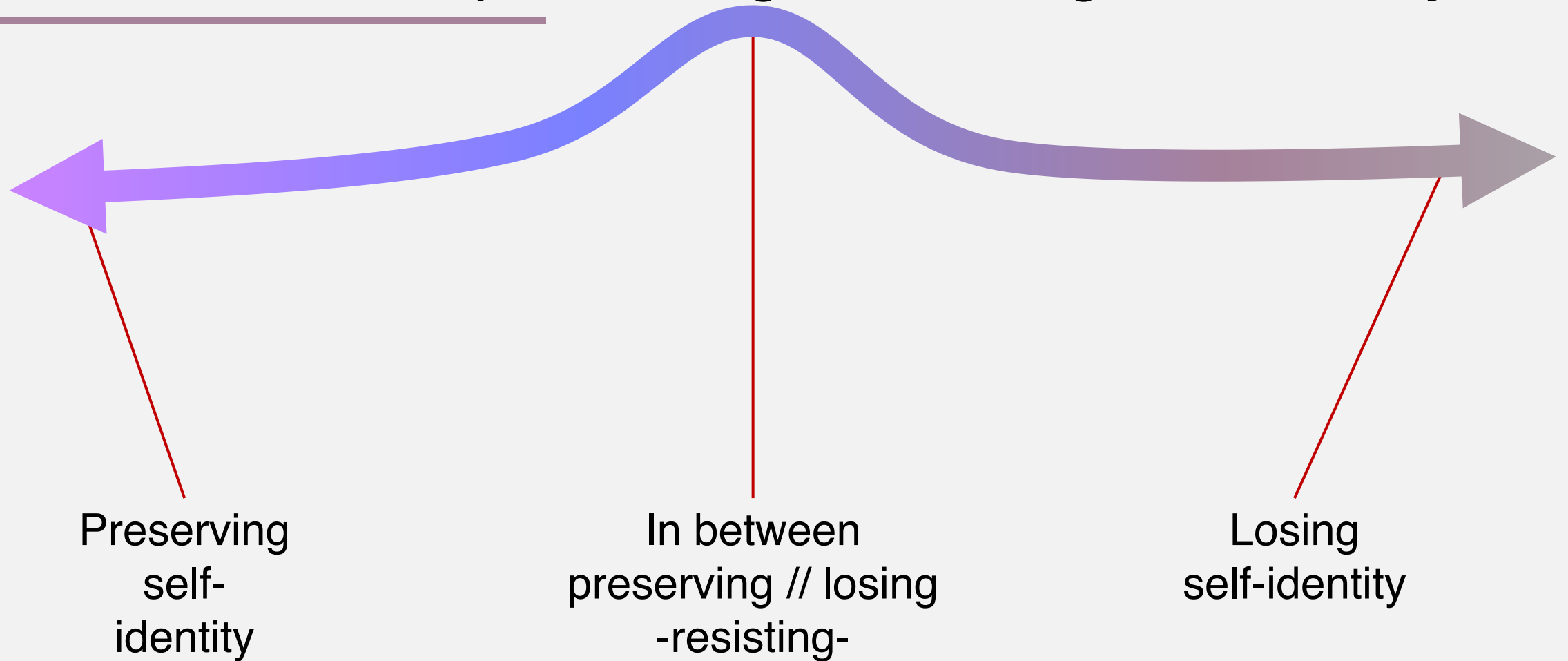
Average Length of Stay: \approx 5 years
Between 1-9 years

Former Location

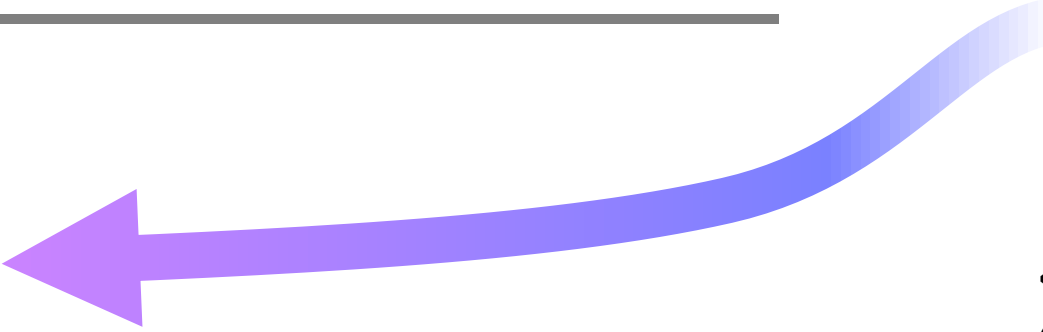


3 profiles

A tension between preserving and losing self-identity



Preserving self-identity by...

- 
- Reshaping the story
 - Philosophizing
 - Relying on a selective memory

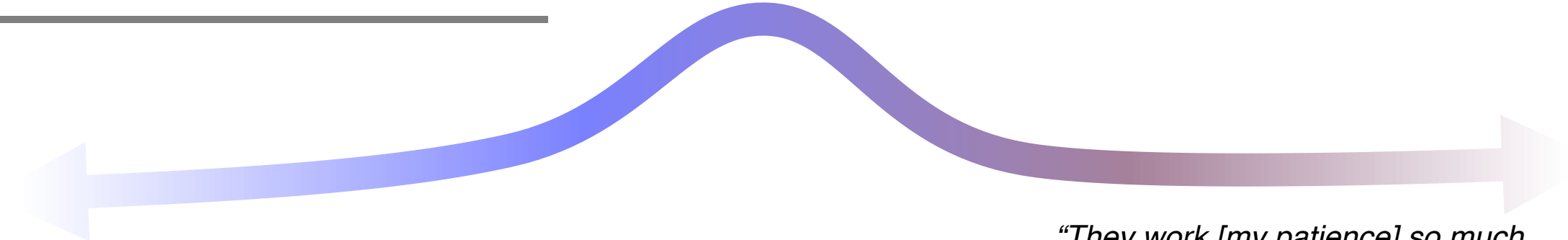
« *I don't know. I think **I found it by chance**. Only by chance. [...] I saw the building outside and I said, OK, I'll go look there. [...] **I rented** [...] Just like that.* »

Georges 75 years old who transitioned to LTC from the hospital

« *[Thinking you deserve more is an] infinitely **big problem for the spirit**. You get more, no I need more than that. You get more than that, no I need even more than that. So, what do you do? What do you do with that situations, it's intolerable*»

Tom 67 years old

In between preserving and losing self-identity



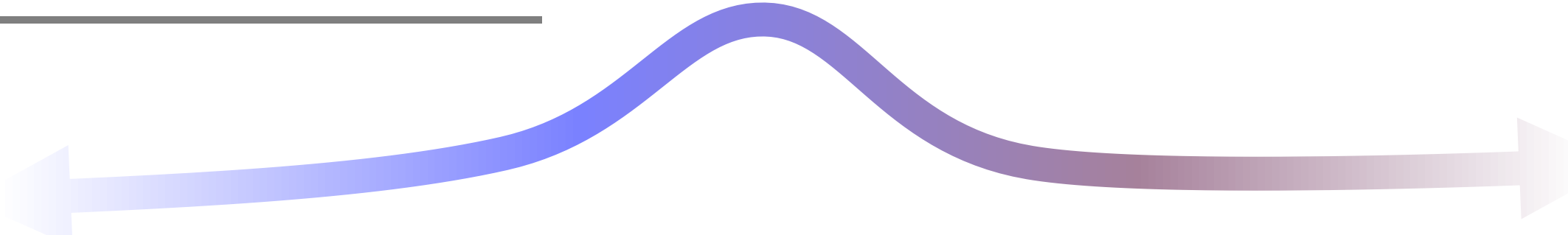
*"My father told me about it. "Maybe there's a place over there you could go. It looks like a good place. They have rooms in there. Then this, then that." I said, "Oh yeah, **I'll go check that out. Then if it's good enough for me, I'll stay here.**" And that's what happened."*

PRISON
vs
LTC

*"They work [my patience] so much. [...] **I've always waited to have my freedom.** I've waited too long in my life to get it/I've lost it all so it hasn't helped me at all. [...] I've always said to myself, "I'm through, I'm through". "Did you get through or not?" This is a question I ask myself in my head. **It's exhausting.** [with emotion] It's very tiring. But then again, **I'm powerless... I'm powerless in almost every area.** I forget in this time I try to forget."*

Jo is under 60 years old and has been living in LTC for 6 years with mild cognitive impairment

In between preserving and losing self-identity



Not having choice but taking the choice

Denouncing and protesting

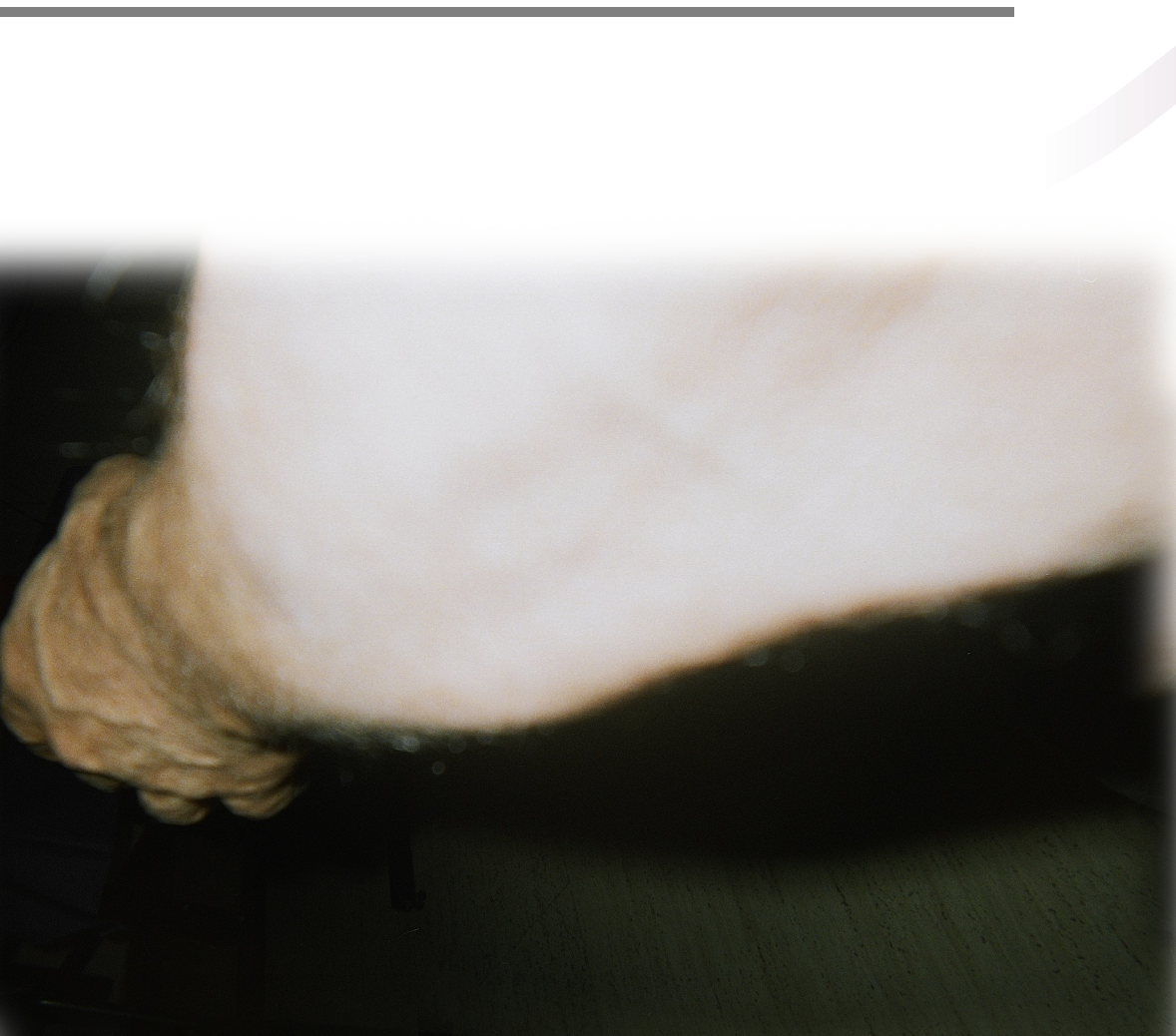
*"[...] they **don't listen to me.**
They don't focus on my file."*

Jim, who is under 50 years old and has lived in LTC for more than a year

***"I lost all my pride.** I couldn't do much here. You can't have much here. That's how it is."*

Mike who is under 65 years old and has lived in LTC for almost 10 years

Losing self : an example of what it can look like



« Because it's been too long and I don't know what I would be missing to begin with. [...] **blocked it out of my memory.** [...] But this is a situation that is a problem that I don't even know what I'm missing, I have no idea. »

Tony 62 years old who's been living in LTC for more than 6 years

« Walking is very stale. **I'm on a stale mood.** Even going to buy a can of beer on the other side of the street. It's hard for me because I have to watch my step. [...] **It's really a wasted life.** It's quite, uh, stale. No life, no reaction, no, not a worry in the world. **In a sense that it's not supposed to be but like that.** »

A photo of Tony's series titled *If you don't need you don't know what you're missing*

Discussion

Disenfranchised tragedies?

- Successful adjustment or withdrawal?
 - Hidden distress
- The imperative of being grateful
 - LTC not necessarily better or only better than other situations of precarity

Implications

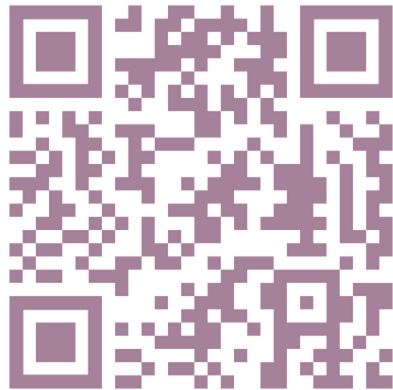
- Consider resistance as an expression of self and a lever for reaffiliation
- Rethink LTC for older persons with experiences of homelessness so it better aligns with their specific needs (younger, more mobile, marginal lifestyle, history with institutions)
- Be critical of how much we are willing to invest to provide person-centered care
- Strive toward opening more reflexive spaces for OPEH to have the opportunity to integrate this new chapter with their self-identity

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