

1. Abstract

There is a growing body of research evidence which indicate the importance of the relationship in successful therapeutic outcomes. This research tells the story of what happened when two male Person-Centred therapists, one an advocate of relational depth, and one sceptical of its importance met. Using reflexive conversations and a narrative inquiry methodology the reader obtains an 'insider view' into each mans own context, culture (including male socialisation) and how this influences the way they relate. It highlights the importance of Person-Centred principles of being non-directive, generating trust and use of empathic attunement in therapeutic relationships. The conversations demonstrate the potential for men to form satisfying relationships despite the tension between competing narratives in psychotherapy which value feelings and societal male narratives which do not. It is hoped that the research will assist male practitioners working in diverse settings and modalities of how to work with male socialisation and improve therapeutic outcomes for male service-users.