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Reflective Practices in Community Development: a Grounded Analysis

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Abstract

Reflective practices (RPs) are recognized as fundamental for the conception, development, implementation and improvement of community-based development in international development. Despite acknowledgement that RPs are needed, the ways in which reflection can take place within Community Development (CD) contexts remains under-examined. In this study, the authors conduct a grounded thematic analysis of a values-based elicitation and articulation approach with three community organizations in order to: (i) identify specific elements in the processes of reflection; (ii) explore how identified themes relate to existing concepts within RPs literature, and any useful insights to CD contexts; (iii) explore the ways in which values-based elicitation approaches facilitate RPs. UK organisations are used for convenience, but the study is for transferable learning to international development. In their analysis, the authors identify four main themes: Reasoning (justification, articulation, recall), Active listening (nuanced expansion, replication), Collective articulation (semantic cooperation, semantic negotiations, semantic disagreements), and Tension (confusion, resistance). These highlight the multi-dimensional, non-linear nature of RPs, the importance of productive tensions, and the need for the facilitators enabling processes of RPs to develop skills such as active listening, working with tensions and deep semantic negotiations. Findings indicate this approach can open up new lines of investigation of mechanisms underlying RPs which could assist in planning reliably for them. Challenges and opportunities for further research are outlined.

Keywords Reflective practices · Processes · Values-based approaches · Facilitator · Community development · Community organisations

Abbreviations

CD	Community Development
CO	Community Organizations

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CO-A_Pt#1, etc.	Civil Society Organization A, participant number 1
ELC	Experiential Learning Cycle
ESDinds	Education for Sustainable Development indicators
ID	International Development
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer and Intersex community
PAR	Participatory Action Research
RPts	Research participants (within the WV project)
RPs	Reflective Practices
Stg1, 2, 3	Stage 1 (Elicitation), Stage2 (trigger-statements), Stage 3 (mapping and clustering); the stages of the WV workshop
UoB	University of Brighton
WB	World Bank
WV	WeValue project

Introduction

Recent changes in International Development (ID) policy have shown a trend towards more participatory approaches through community-driven projects and the decentralization of resources and authority to local governments and groups (Mansuri and Rao 2013b, pp. 283–284). Yet, while these changes signal positive efforts towards more relevant and inclusive development work, much of the development literature still emphasizes 'outcomes' over 'processes' (Moreno et al. 2017). Moreover, development scholars and practitioners often assume that in the context of community development (CD) projects any given 'groups of people' will de-facto share the same ethical values or always work together towards a common goal. In their World Bank (WB) review report of over 500 participation development projects, Mansuri and Rao conclude: "Rarely is much thought explicitly given to the possibility of civil society failure – the possibility that communities, however constituted, may also face significant problems of coordination, asymmetric information, and inequality, which may limit their ability to respond to and resolve market and government failures" (Mansuri and Rao 2013b, p. 285).

The 2013 WB report further highlights the lack of serious in-depth ethnographic studies, more localized, relevant and adaptable monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as the urgent need for good qualitative studies in ID that both examine the processes involved in CD efforts and provide clearer understandings of the context where CD projects take place (Ibid, pp. 283–307). By context it is meant not only the local histories, geographies and political factors but also, and above all, the nature of social interactions within groups that directly influence the processes and outcomes, or lack thereof, of any given CD project (Ibid).

Within the context of more participatory approaches to CD, reflective practices (RPs) are known to play a fundamental role; community projects and initiatives involve complex interactions between those involved, as well as processes of iterative reflection through which values, behaviors, perceptions and knowledges are formed, exchanged and negotiated in order to create emergent structures and spaces for action and social change (Moreno et al. 2017, p. 134).

However, the actual processes involved in RPs and their connection to CD have been seldom examined. An exception, perhaps, is the work of Moore (2002) which draws on Schön's (1983: 1991) seminal work on 'reflection-in-action'. Moore interviews development

practitioners from various countries in order to examine the motivations and drivers of their practices, concluding that underpinning their field experience, implicit practice-based theories and everyday practices there is a fundamental process of reflection whereby practitioners take the 'necessary time to stop, look around, think about, and reflect on activities, critical analysis, and inquiries of themselves and others in the community regarding community change' (Moore 2002, p. 31). Nevertheless, the link between RPs and community projects has not been sufficiently examined within the CD literature. There is still a need for research on the effectiveness of different approaches to reflection (Gardner 2014, p. 18): what kinds of community development practices facilitate reflective practices to take place? In what conditions? What interactions or processes should be facilitated or paid attention to?

This is in fact a serious gap in international and community development scholarship since much of the work carried out in community projects and initiatives involves the conception, development and implementation of community-based activities and engagements through which different actors come together to connect ideas, share knowledge, learn and develop a language of trust and mutual understanding, and work towards effecting positive social change (Facer and Pahl 2017, p. 1). These interactions form part of a 'collective process of learning in action for social change', in which learning is not merely about transferring knowledge but also a 'creative co-discovery and co-creation of knowledge through collective critical reflection' (Clarke and Oswald 2010, pp. 1, 10).

In this paper, the authors contribute to the understanding of RPs in the context of CD projects through an case-study that examines the processes of reflection taking place during values-based elicitation workshops with three community organizations. The values-based approaches workshop format used is an established process (Sethamo et al. 2019) to assist members of groups to articulate their shared values through interactive sharing and negotiating of the meaning of their group actions. In this way, within the boundaries of this exploratory case-study, the authors could:

(i) Identify specific elements in the processes of reflection;
(ii) Explore how themes and sub-themes identified relate to existing theories and concepts within the RP literature, and how these might provide useful insights to CD contexts;
(iii) Explore the ways in which values-based elicitation approaches might open spaces of reflection.

These questions are important to development scholars and practitioners for at least three main reasons. Firstly, understanding these processes is essential within CD contexts, where a lot of the work is carried out through collaborations and partnerships (Clarke and Oswald 2010; Visser 2010). The efficiency of projects and initiatives depends as much on understanding local contexts and realities, as on the development of mutual understanding and a language of trust between and within organizations, and amongst stakeholders at the different levels of the process.

Secondly, examining and understanding how processes of collaboration and mutual understandings are reached and how they are articulated is important to help develop more relevant and localized development practices, something that has been recognized as fundamental within the ID community (James 2010; Mansuri and Rao 2013b). In this sense, examining the processes of reflection that take place during these negotiations can help make CD projects and initiatives more relevant and meaningful to the contexts in which they take place. Equally important, it may shed some light on what happens when collaboration is

not achieved or entirely successful, and how this is dealt with by and amongst the actors involved.

Thirdly, and as it is explained in more detail below, the use of a values-based elicitation and articulation approach offers the possibility to open spaces of trust and mutual understanding. It is also an opportunity to capture those patterns of behavior and relationships present between the individual and group levels, and the factors that shape them.

To answer these questions, in section 2 the authors, following a brief review of the literature and the importance of RPs within CD, introduce some of the main theories and approaches to RPs and how these might relate or contribute towards community projects. Section 2 ends with the authors setting out the known reasons for and opportunities expected for examining processes of RPs through a values-based elicitation approach. Section 3 presents the case-study community organizations and describes in detail the methodology used for the research. The findings of the research are presented in section 4 and their implication for current and future research discussed in section 5. The main points and contributions of the paper and opportunities for further research and collaboration are brought together in the conclusion.

A Brief Review of Reflective Practice

RPs and Development Studies

RPs have been studied and applied through by a wide range of disciplines and professions such as health, social care and communities of practice contexts (Garrison 2015, pp. 12, 14), organizational development (Cameron and Quinn 2011), education, service learning and youth development (Moely et al. 2009), political and social science circles (Cornwall and Coelho 2007; Gaventa 2006, 2011; Gaventa and Barrett 2010; Millner 2013), and linguistics and psycho-sociology(Chevalier and Buckles 2013).

While RPs have not been theorized as extensively within development studies as in some of the above disciplines, development scholars have acknowledged their importance within CD work consistently, though not always explicitly (Aragón and Giles Macedo 2010; Neely 2015; Ramalingam 2013; Visser 2010). Clarke and Oswald (2010), for example, highlight the central role of 'collective critical reflection' in processes of co-creation of knowledge and action present during community-based activities and interventions. Moore, on the other hand, uses RPs as a tool to examine the motivations and drives of development practitioners when engaging in community work (2002). Others have argued that enhancing critical reflection may help increase communities' ownership of projects by making them more sustainable, relevant and meaningful (Aragón and Giles Macedo 2010; Eade 2007; Kenny and Clarke 2010).

The important role of RPs and need for reflection within the development literature is neither a surprise nor a new phenomenon. On the one hand, the shift in ID programs and interventions in recent years highlight a trend from government-centered and donor-led interventions towards more localized and inclusive community-based programs and initiatives (Mansuri and Rao 2013a, b; Miller 2010). While this fundamental change has been, and still is, the subject of much criticism and skepticism from development scholars (Craig 2010; Ife 2010; James 2010), the main motivation behind it has been the desire to make CD projects more relevant, meaningful and sustainable to the communities they are addressed to by, first, improving local governance and institutional capacity (Mansuri and Rao 2013b), and, second,

encouraging and supporting communities' capacities to self-organize, participate and determine their own priorities and needs (Eade 2007).

On the other hand, the emergence and development of multiple and varied participatory and inclusive approaches to community projects and ID related studies has boosted opportunities for more inclusive and collaborative research. In community capacity-building projects, for example, the increasing role and application of participatory action research (PAR) approaches have allowed academics and practitioners to develop more inclusive, reflective and iterative processes of 'collaborative inquiry' and 'progressive problem-solving' (Burns 2014; Facer and Pahl 2017; McNiff 2013). Here, PAR approaches have become a fundamental platform for development scholars and workers to take into account local understandings and priorities, change preconceptions and adapt their actions accordingly, and apply RPs to gain greater understanding and awareness of their own actions (Chevalier and Buckles 2013). Scholars of complex adaptive systems and theorists in systems thinking have also emphasized how processes of iterative reflection and consultation can potentially increase the understanding of different perspectives and priorities of actors at the different levels of a community project and their interdependencies (Aragón and Giles Macedo 2010; Fowler and Ubels 2010; Kenny and Clarke 2010; Visser 2010). Finally, evaluation capacity-building studies have used RP and 'evaluative thinking' to help CD program coordinators and practitioners question and rethink their assumptions and adapt their approaches and actions regarding the community context where they work (Archibald et al. 2016).

Theories and Approaches to RP: Overview and Conceptualization

The wide range of academic disciplines and professions that engage with RPs, and the "varied experiences of being reflective in practice and research", make difficult to reach a consensus on the concepts and approaches to RPs (Gardner 2014, p. 18). Theories and approaches to RP are numerous and varied, including: reflective practice and reflexivity theories, postmodernist approaches, critical social theory, psychodynamic or narrative frameworks, and even spirituality and meaning literatures (Ibid, pp. 17–23). In addition, many scholars of RPs also draw from Schön's (1983: 1991) original work to make the distinction between 'reflection-on-action' and 'reflection-in-action'. Reflection-on-action refers to processes of retrospective analysis, interpretation and reconsideration of information, knowledge and recollections of past experiences and events that may lead to new perspectives and patterns of behavior and action (Jasper 2013, p. 7; Timmins 2015, p. 113). 'Reflection-in-action', on the other hand, involves a more pro-active process through which practitioners integrate existing and new knowledges and perspectives to modify or adapt their thoughts, actions and responses to situations as they take place (Oelofsen 2012, pp. 3–4; Timmins 2015, p. 114).

While examining each of these perspectives in detail is outside the scope and purpose of this paper, we note that most RP framings and approaches converge on the fundamental role of 'experiential learning' (in terms of the ongoing and active reflection of the process of learning, and subsequent meaningful reflection of experience), and the importance of 'generating awareness', in terms of what is meaningful to individuals, (both practitioners and community members) (Boud et al. 2006, p. 158; Gardner 2014, pp. 35–38; Timmins 2015, p. 12).

Regarding 'experiential learning', Kolb's (1984)4-stage experiential learning cycle (ELC) has been a seminal work within RP circles, consisting of the 'concrete experiences' (activities, events, challenges experienced by an individual or group), followed by the 'reflective observation' or reviewing of such experiences, its 'abstract conceptualization' (interpreting the

meanings of such experiences), and finally engaging in the 'active experimentation' or planning (where the interpretations, new knowledge and learned lessons from such experiences are applied and tested) (see Jasper 2013, pp. 3–4; Oelofsen 2012, pp. 6–10). Later studies in education, social care and nursing have developed further stages to Kolb's seminal ELC model to include fundamental processes such as 'detailed-planning' and 'debriefing' highlighting the need for an ongoing and active reflection of the process of learning (Timmins 2015, pp. 61–62).

The second of these, 'generating awareness' becomes possible through the presence of individual and group discussions of complex concepts and the articulation and sharing of tangible and intangible knowledge, experiences, emotions and values related to an individual or group's practice project (Jasper 2013; Oelofsen 2012). It is through these formal and informal, planned and unplanned discussions and 'recounting of significant experiences' that actors 'make sense of situations', enhance their self-awareness and develop and share practice-based wisdom and knowledge (Timmins 2015, p. 117). Here, the process of 'reflection' itself becomes a fundamental step-by-step and thoughtful process that can happen either 'during the experience or by thinking back and analyzing situations later' (Ibid, p. 115). RP also 'allows practitioners to develop a greater self-awareness about the nature and impact of their performance' (Ibid, p. 119).

Finally, through the combination of 'experiential learning' and 'generating awareness', RPs are considered a way to more deeply understand and engage with knowledge and experiences, making explicit the 'underlying connectedness' between the emotions, thoughts, assumptions and values related to such experiences, their context, and the expectation for change following the reflective process (Gardner 2014: 24). Whether exercised retrospectively ('reflection-on-action') or actively ('reflection-in-action'), reflection is also a means to elicit, re-examine and integrate those knowledges, less tangible 'tacit understandings', values and motivations that tend to accumulate from repeated experience, and which can help to improve practices, make sense of and adapt to uncertain and changing situations (Schön 1983: 61).

Borrowing from the above theories and approaches, and the review works by Timmins (2015: 113–122) and Oelofsen (2012: 3), in this paper the authors understand RPs as those processes involved in the thoughtful, iterative and critical analysis, reinterpretation and reframing of knowledge, values, motivations and perspectives of past situations and events taking place within practice settings. RPs and processes of reflection can be active or retrospective and can significantly help improve and/or change practices and actions of social change within ID contexts.

Examining RPs through a Values-Based Elicitation Approach

The authors will argue that the context of a facilitated workshop on ethical and moral values-elicitation can serve as a departure to examine RPs processes through the analysis of conversations and patterns of communication that take place during the workshops. The values-based elicitation workshops examined for this research form part of the ongoing WeValue (WV) project, which is described in more detail in the next section.

Values-based elicitation approaches, such as WV, have been used in different contexts and for a wide variety of purposes, ranging from environmental sustainable development education to identification of shared values in civil society organizations in continental

Europe, multi-actor settings engaged in international community development and humanitarian work in Mexico, Lebanon, and Hong Kong (Burford et al. 2013a, b, 2016; Podger et al. 2013), and more recently in the context of community-university collaborative research partnerships in the UK (Brigstocke et al. 2017). Work in process includes legacies of the Gross National Happiness program in Bhutan, and values congruence in Chinese multi-national corporations. Values-based elicitation workshops can be used as 'laboratories' to gain various insights, including into RPs involved in the development of a language of trust and deep mutual understanding, which are essential in the conception, development and implementation of community development activities (Facer and Pahl 2017).

A major benefit of using values-based elicitation approaches to examine processes of reflection within community projects lie in that values, beyond their abstract and philosophical principles, are in themselves 'embodied practices' through which people (e.g. community participants, the participant researchers), make use of their senses, emotions and reasoning to consider and reconsider their orientations, perspectives and approaches to the world (Brigstocke et al. 2017, p. 69). Thus, providing an established framework for reflection through a values-based elicitation workshop may present participants with a safe and adaptable space, and one where deep reflection is facilitated. In addition, by acknowledging both the performative (actively informing values, but not neutrally measuring them) and affective aspects of values elicitation processes, values-based elicitation approaches provide a useful space through which to examine the different ways individuals engage in reflection as well as how those RPs vary at different moments in terms of the varying patterns of thought articulations, reasoning, tensions and semantic negotiations that take place in the context of CD projects and activities.

Finally, the WV values-based approach can be transferable and replicable across different socio-cultural contexts through the localization of pooled value-statements from a shared 'fuzzy framework' previously elicited and collected from other groups (Podger et al. 2016).

Research Methodology and Analysis

Research Questions and Methodological Approach

In this paper, the authors examine the processes shaping RP in the context of CD projects through an exploratory case-study(Yin 2017) of three COs participating in a values-based elicitation workshop, the WeValue workshop.

While themes and processes to RP are well established (Kolb 1984; Schön 1983: 1991) and have been extensively conceptualized and analyzed in recent literatures and review works (Gardner 2014; Timmins 2015), the authors have chosen an exploratory approach based on a grounded, data-driven analysis of conversations and interactions amongst the case-study workshop participants to examine the sub-processes shaping RPs. By sub-processes, the authors mean those patterns of interaction and conversational structures where processes of reflection were observed and captured (i.e. the nuances, silences, collaborations, emphases, emotions, disagreements, and misunderstandings). Case-study methodology was deemed appropriate to adapt the research design and data collection to better answer the research questions (Meyer 2001), while at the same time allowing for

their examination and understanding of the processes of reflection within their own context (Baxter and Jack 2008). While the COs projects and services are introduced and the potential use of the WV approach for future analyses of RPs within CD contexts reflected upon, it is important to emphasize here that the unit of analysis in this study are the patterns of interaction and conversational structures amongst workshop participants.

Data Collection and Introduction to the WeValue project and Case-Study COs

Data for this research study was collected from three WV workshops carried out in collaboration with three community organizations (COs) based in Brighton, UK, during April 2017 (see Table 1 below). Brighton was chosen for convenience as it is near to the university of the researchers and there are many local COs involved in CD work. All workshops had a duration of approximately between two and four hours, and were audio-recorded and transcribed for later analysis with the consent of all participants.

Early in May 2017, the authors contacted several COs based in the Brighton and Hove area via the Community University Partnership Program network at the University of Brighton (UoB) with details about the WV project and how it might be of benefit. Those COs that were interested in taking part in the WV workshop got back in touch to arrange a suitable time, date and venue. Without exception, all three COs that took part in this study were in a transformative stage, either experiencing organizational structure changes, searching for new funding streams or reviewing their strategy plans. Prior to the workshops taking place, case-study participants were asked to reflect on 'who they are' and 'what they do' as their starting point for participating. They felt that the workshop was a good opportunity to talk about their values and how they were being put into action within their organizations. The people who acted as first point of contact for the COs also felt that the outcomes of the workshop could potential feed into strategic planning and developing their communications platforms such as their institutional websites.

Table 1 Data sources used in this study

Participant COs	Workshop location	Workshop length	Workshop participants	Workshop data available and used for this paper
CO-A	Brighton, City Centre, UK	Three hours and 40 min	14 participants, including: 10 CO-A-Pts, Three RPts, and the Facilitator.	-Audio-recording and transcriptions -Facilitator and RPts workshop observation notes
CO-B	Brighton, Moulsecoomb, UK	Two hours and 50 min	10 participants, including: Six CO-B-Pts, Four RPts, and the Facilitator.	-Audio-recording* and transcriptions -Facilitator and RPts workshop observation notes *audio-recording not available for Stg3
CO-C	Brighton, Moulsecoomb, UK	Two hours and 30 min	Six participants, including: Three CO-C-Pts, Two RPts, and the Facilitator.	-Audio-recording* and transcriptions -Facilitator and RPts workshop observation notes *audio-recording not available for Stg1

Before continuing with the description of the analysis of the data, we introduce the WeValue project and the three COs taking part of this study.

The WeValue project – A Brief Overview

The values-based elicitation approach used for this research is the WeValue approach developed and used by some of the authors and other colleagues since 2011 (WeValue project 2011). The WV approach is the fruition of a two-year EU-funded research and partnership project, the Education for Sustainable Development Indicators (ESDinds)EU-FP7 project in 2009–2011. The EDSinds project original purpose was to develop values-based indicators and assessment tools to evaluate achievements related to core ethical and spiritual values within COs working in education for sustainable development (ESD) projects (ESDins 2009–2011; Podger et al. 2010). Since then, researchers have further developed and enhanced the WV approach working in close collaboration with diverse partners ranging from COs and community volunteer groups to academia through small businesses and the public sector, contributing to research and work in organizational change (Burford et al. 2016), participatory design and strategic planning (Harder et al. 2013), exploring the contribution of values-based indicators for complex sustainable development goals (Burford et al. 2013a, b; Miguel et al. 2016), building evaluation capacity through the development of values-led monitoring and evaluation frameworks (Burford et al. 2013a, b; Podger et al. 2016), and also identifying and assessing legacies of asset-based community projects or partnership collaborations (Brigstocke et al. 2017).

The WV workshop structure consists of three main stages through which human values - ethical, moral or spiritual - are elicited, shared, discussed and mapped to produce 'values statements': articulations of values-in-action of what those community groups consider 'meaningful, worthwhile and valuable' to them (Ibid, p. 70). In Stage 1, there is an elicitation process involving material and non-materials resources and techniques (e.g. photos, videos, sound, artefacts, stories, drawing) co-developed by the facilitators and the workshop participants themselves. These methods and resources are adapted according to the needs of the participants and the relevant socio-cultural context where the workshops are carried out. In Stage 2, participants are introduced to additional trigger statements previously articulated by other groups that have participated in the WV approach. Here the purpose is to generate further individual and group thinking and reflection amongst workshop participants on potential unarticulated values that might have escaped during the elicitation stage, rephrasing, discarding and prioritizing them (Ibid). In Stage 3, the workshop participants engage in a collaborative exercise to organize the resulting 'values-based statements' into a framework relating both shared and unshared values.

While the purpose and shape of each WV workshop varies depending on the needs and priorities of each group, the main objective is that by the end of the workshop a new, creative and flexible 'lens' or 'overall frame' is developed through which participants can view their work and identify previously 'intangible' or unspecified, yet fundamentally important concepts, values or motivations. For the case-study workshops of this research, in addition to the participant COs described below, the facilitator was joined and assisted by research participants (RPts) from the WV project. RPts engaged in the coordination, data collection and analysis, ethics consent, and the production of the final reports and values-based framework maps for the COs resulting from the workshops.

CO-A

CO-A was established in the late 1990s as an Advocacy, Group Work and Training project to support Brighton's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) communities. In 2011 it became an independent charity run by and for LGBTQI+ staff and volunteers offering free, confidential, independent and impartial services such as: advice and information, advocacy, a peer support group program, wellbeing activities and events, a peer mentoring service, an-out-of-hours online chat service and a food and allotment project, and counselling services.

CO-B

CO-B is a Christian faith-motivated charity working in Sussex for over a century in partnership with the Diocese of Chichester. It provides emotional and practical support to children and families in need through one-to-one sessions and home visits. CO-B services include: parenting advice, financial advice, encouragement and support to find work, referral to specialist services, accompaniment and attendance to appointments, advocacy, and providing food and clothing where needed. In addition, CO-B offer after school and holiday activities for children, daytime family drop-ins and support groups.

CO-C

Over the past five years, CO-C has been operating as a Brighton based Community Interest Company providing participatory opportunities for people of all abilities and backgrounds to connect through music. CO-C runs various music workshops and projects using stringed instruments: violin, viola & cello. They also deliver creative music sessions for people living with dementia and adults with learning difficulties, and carers, designed to help people connect, experience and have fun together. CO-C's open and inclusive approach aims is to promote wellbeing, confidence, self-expression, cognitive stimulation, and a real sense of community through playing and creating music. The various workshops and activities are also aimed at enabling interpersonal communication and musical skills development.

Data Analysis

The three workshops forming part of this exploratory case-study were analyzed through a rigorous thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006) using a grounded approach to coding and thematising of group discussions and conversations which involved three stages of analysis.

First, the authors carried out a preliminary analysis of all three workshops to identify those concepts, words and patterns of conversation that were most prevalent or recurrent. This consisted of listening to the audio-recordings once, taking notes and cross-checking them against the workshop reports and observations notes. The purpose of this preliminary exercise was to identify general patterns of interaction and conversational structures where processes of reflection could be observed.

Second, using these preliminary patterns as a departing point, a more detailed and in-depth analysis of the workshops was carried out. This involved the transcription of the audio-recordings and the systematic coding and time-stamping of nuances, clarifications, long silences, emphases and emotions, collaborations, disagreements, misunderstandings. These

patterns of interaction and conversational structures identified behind the RPs in the workshops were then made into themes and sub-themes.

Finally, the resulting themes and sub-themes from the second round of analysis were then discussed and reviewed amongst authors for their consolidation. The resulting final themes were subsequently arranged according to their recurrence (none, some, common, total) and the workshop stage at which they took place: elicitation (Stg1), trigger-statements (Stg2), and mapping-clustering (Stg3).

Findings

Emerging Themes and Sub-Themes of RPs

The thematic analysis of the three WV workshops derived four main grounded themes where processes of reflection were observed: Reasoning, Active listening, Tension, and Collective articulation. Within each of these, several sub-themes were also discerned, and their occurrence mapped (see Table 2 below). The themes and sub-themes emerging from the analysis are first described with examples from the data, and later summarized on a diagram to help visualize their interrelationships. The grounded themes and sub-themes described in this section represent patterns or structures of conversations and instances of interactions amongst workshop participants where processes of reflection were observed.

It is important to note that neither themes nor their respective sub-themes follow a prescribed sequential or linear order, but instead they were often reiterated or found overlapping each other. Furthermore, as the authors carried on with the various rounds of analysis and consolidation of themes and sub-themes, it became evident that themes under 'Reasoning' and 'Active listening' related to reflection processes happening at a personal level and preceding those associated to group reflection identified under 'Group discussions'. The final analysis, however, showed that processes at both personal and group level were feeding each other recurrently. Therefore, while this distinction is depicted in the diagram at the end of the Findings section (Fig. 1), the authors decided not to subdivide themes and sub-themes at personal or group levels.

(i) Reasoning

Reasoning was observed both at the elicitation (Stg1) and trigger-statement(Stg2) stages across all workshops, but not at the mapping-clustering(Stg3) stage. Reasoning took place through either one of three main processes: a) justification, b) articulation, and c) recall.

a) Justification

Processes of justification were most common during Stg2, and to a lesser degree in Stg1. Specific instances of justification were observed during CO-A and CO-C workshops. Here participants were observed presenting and explaining the reasons for their choices of photos in Stg1 or trigger-statements in Stg2. In all cases, when participants opened the presentation of their choices they felt the need to justify them even though this was not immediately required by the facilitator. Participants did so by either describing some very specific aspects of pictures

Table 2 Mapping of themes and sub-themes found per workshop and workshop stage

Stages	Stg1 – Elicitation			Stg2 – Trigger-statements			Stg3 – Mapping and clustering		
Themes	CO-A	CO-B	CO-C*	CO-A	CO-B	CO-C	CO-A	CO-B*	CO-C
(i) Reasoning									
a) Justification	✓✓			✓✓	✓	✓✓✓			
b) Articulation	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓	✓✓	✓
c) Recall			✓	✓	✓				
(ii) Active listening									
a) Expansion	✓	✓		✓✓	✓✓	✓✓			
b) Replication	✓✓					✓✓✓			
(iii) Collective articulation									
a) Semantic Cooperation				✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
b) Semantic Negotiation (further nuancing, compromises)				✓✓	✓✓	✓✓			
c) Semantic Disagreements (bridging, postponing)				✓✓	✓				
(iv) Tension									
a) Confusion	✓	✓✓		✓		✓✓✓	✓✓		✓✓✓
b) Resistance				✓		✓✓✓			

(None) = evidence was not found or was insufficient or inconsistent to substantiate as evidence; ✓(Some) = less than half the workshop participants involved; ✓✓(Common) = more than half the workshop participants involved; ✓✓✓ (Total) = all workshop participants involved. * = audio-recording of this section of the workshop is not available, here data is from RPts and Facilitator's observation notes, as well as workshop process documentation

or emphasizing certain words from trigger-statements and sharing the connection they made to their roles within the organization or their motivations to join the organization.

b) Articulation

Articulation was present throughout all workshops in various forms. It was particularly evident during Stg2 during CO-A and B workshops, and to a lesser degree in Stg3 with CO-B and CO-C. Processes of articulation were observed when participants sought to clarify concepts following questions by the Facilitator and the other participants, or tried to nuance or deepen thoughts or statements by either drawing from personal experiences and anecdotes at work, their understanding of what their organization does or their own recollection of what took place during an event at work.

Justification and articulation were often found directly connected and overlapping when participants sought to clarify or provide more depth to their explanation of choices by ascribing meaning to them. For instance, during Stg1 of the CO-A workshop one of the participants explains their choice of a picture where lights of different colors are reflected on a body of water with ripples, and then ascribes it meaning by describing their role within CO-A and sharing their interpretation of CO-A's services:

> 'So, this is my pick […] it's really beautiful, I was drawn to its beauty. Ahm, so, it's obviously a reflection of like- It's got the rainbow colors so that's fairly, an obvious thing for us. And, but for me, just to explain a little bit about my role, I've got a different role to everybody else. I don't directly deliver any services. I'm a Business Development Manager […] We've been restricted for many years on statutory funding […] so, I'm building up new ways. So, what's important to me is capturing the impact of the work that [CO-A] does. So, those ripples, there's lots and lots of ripples, and that's for me the impact. And there is something about it being seamless but distinct as well, which is a bit of a, I understand that is a contradiction, but that is what, what our services do. I've always been struck by how this sort of wrap around people of the services of [CO-A]' (CO-A_Pt#1, Stg1).

Here, for CO-A_Pt#1 is important to share their reason for picking up the photo with the rainbow colors, aesthetically 'beautiful' and association to CO-A's work an 'obvious thing for us', (justification), while at the same time clarify its meaning by connecting such photo to their role within CO-A, 'business manager', and their understanding of CO-A's services and their wider social impact; 'lots and lots of ripples', both 'seamless' and 'distinct', coming together to 'wrap up' the service user (articulation).

It was also observed that, in most cases, as the workshop exercises progressed, participants became used to the format of the exercises and became more pre-prepared to justify and articulate their picks in clearer and more concise sentences, sometimes even anticipating the next steps while presenting and communicating their ideas to others.

Finally, processes of justification and articulation were present at the individual and group levels. While articulation at group level is described as a separate theme below, what was a common pattern here was the facilitator's leadership skills in positively managing and encouraging these processes. In fact, when participants got stuck or confused during processes of Reasoning (see 4. Tensions below), the modelling - sharing of personal stories and recalling of past experiences by the facilitator - seemed to enable the processes of justification and articulation at individual and group levels.

c) Recall

The authors use the term ‘recall’ to refer to some retrospective thinking where participants, following the choice of a statement by another participant, suddenly remembered an aspect of their jobs or a concept that they had not previously considered. Furthermore, in some examples of the recall process, participants began making connections to other participants’ statements or ideas, even if they had not originally engaged in the conversation at all.

The example quote below is from CO-A_Stg2 and shows a moment where both CO-A_Pts#2 and #7 are finalizing a value-statement with the facilitator and Pt#4, who had not been participating in the conversation, decides to come in and share their story:

> Facilitator “How do you wanna phrase it? It’s, it’s important to me, or to us that … Everybody? Everybody? People feel? Members feel they are provided with opportunities or… are assisted where possible?”
>
> CO-A_Pt#7 “Yeah, that sounds better.”
>
> CO-A_Pt#2 “Or guided or assisted”
>
> CO-A_Pt#4 “Offered!”
>
> Facilitator “Opportunities-“
>
> CO-A_Pt#4 “If I hadn’t been asked to do the living library…. Because I’ve done it twice now, and they cannot go ahead without me being there” [Laughter]. Because, I love it so much. It’s just so amazing And I exhaust [sic], because they knew me as a volunteer and …, you know what I mean,”

(ii) Active listening

Active listening (AL) refers to those moments during which participants were observed to build upon or draw from each other’s statements to engage in discussions, express opinions and clarify thoughts, or even help others. Processes of AL were identified in terms of (a) expansion, and (b) replication.

a) Expansion

Expansion was clearly observed in all three workshops during Stg2, and at CO-A and CO-B workshops during Stg1. The example quoted below is from CO-A_Pt#2 during Stg1:

> ‘[…] I chose the colorful jigsaw picture. And that stood out at me immediately. Even from sat out here, I definitely wanted to go to that one. I’m gonna steal a couple of things you said, [CO-A_Pt#1], actually. About, firstly about boundaries […] [It] inspired me what you said there, that ‘as an organization we, we are really bounded to our separate [work], but we, we work together as well. So, as a service we can, … I do feel that the word ‘family’ comes a lot when I describe [CO-A]. And the idea of the people that visit

us being quite isolated, quite often. And fitting everybody sort of fitting together and, and, fitting in, so finding a community of people that are just like you in different kinds of ways. I think that's really important at [CO-A].' (CO-A_Pt#2, Stg1)

In the above example, while CO-A_Pt#2 presents their photo, a 'color jigsaw', they draw from CO-A_Pt#1's concept of 'boundaries' with regard to the different services and roles within the organization, in order to connect it to their understanding of CO-A as a 'family', 'a community of people that are just like you in different kinds of ways'.

b) Replication

Replication, observed in terms of similarities in response format, did not occur very often but it was very evident when observed during CO-A_Stg1 and CO-C_Stg2. In the latter, all CO-C participants chose to present their chosen trigger-statements by reading them in full and out loud. In CO-A, CO-A_Pts#4–8 were observed using the exact same patterns of presentation: first, explaining their choice of picture by using a metaphor or anecdote from work, and second describing their general understanding of the organization's work regarding such metaphor or anecdote.

(iii) Collective articulation

Collective articulation takes place when members interact, negotiate and/or expand on what they meant until they formulated value-statements. Whether or not these values-statements were consensually agreed or the result of compromises, they were observed as part of a process of collective articulation. This was observed through three main patterns of interaction: (i) semantic cooperation, (ii) semantic negotiation, and (iii) semantic disagreement.

a) Semantic cooperation

Semantic cooperation was present in all workshops during Stg2, and at CO-A and CO-C workshops during Stg3. During Stg2, semantic cooperation was identified as those processes where participants concurred and supported each other by suggesting words or sharing ideas to aid others articulate, simplify, rephrase, reorder, and/or relate concepts and meanings when engaging with the values-statements. Semantic cooperation was very common for CO-A and B, and total for CO-C during Stg2. During Stg3, the process was total in CO-B and C with all participants engaged together in the clustering of values-statements. However, it was partial during CO-A with participants splitting two small groups of two and three people and not necessarily engaging between groups until the very end of the clustering exercise (several other CO-A participants were observed as either remaining silent or while others had to leave the workshop without contributing).

While during Stg2 sematic cooperation was observed through participants aiding each other to articulate and relate meaning to specific values-statements, during Stg3 it was observed specifically at those moments when participants listened to other's explanations and motivations for placing certain values-statements in one position or another on the table. Here, whether collaboration was total or partial, all participants were observed respecting each other's turns and allowing each placement and reordering of the values-statements to be observed. In Stg3, semantic cooperation was also seen when both shared, group values, and those not completely

shared by all, individual values, were recognized, included and related within the final overall frame of values-statements.

The long exchange below is an example of semantic cooperation from CO-B workshop during Stg2:

> CO-B_Pt#2 'I picked the one "everyone has their role in the team." I think that's important because whilst we talk about people working independently, working remotely, we are still a team and we can meet each other. … We wouldn't function without each other.'
>
> […]
>
> CO-B_Pt#4 'It's uhm, sorry, is, is the, what was the important part for you? Is it the fact that isn't the word "team" or is it "role"? Because…. Is it that "everyone is a team" and then shares...'
>
> […]
>
> CO-B_Pt#2 'I think that it is that, that everyone has a different role and we help each other. […] A lot of what we talked about would exclude [James]. He's not interested in policy and…But he has a very valuable part. So, lots of things we do will matter'
> CO-B_Pt#1 'What about 'everyone is a team member'? That sounds quite simple but it's saying that this team is being made up of all its members. Or that 'everybody is a member. Yeah, [James] is a member of the team, we're all-'
>
> CO-B_Pt#2 'Or, "we are all one team".'
>
> CO-B_Pt#1 'Yes.'

The above example is a section of a longer conversation which shows how the group is engaging with each and working together to figure out what is meant by terms such as 'team' or 'role', and the actual implications of using such terms.

b) Semantic negotiation

Semantic negotiations were only observed during Stg2 of the workshops and took place when there were differences about how to reword trigger-statements, and by extension the different understanding and connection participants made of those statements regarding the work of their organization. While initially the authors related instances of semantic negotiation to processes where Reasoning or Active listening had been low or difficult, more detailed analysis showed that the relationship was not always causal. Instead, negotiations developed as participants reflected more about their values and shared them with others, giving way to emerging differences in opinion and priorities or even understandings about their own same organization's mission and objectives, the recollection of past events or the purposes of current and past projects or services.

Depending on the nature of those negotiations, differences were often resolved through further nuancing of ideas and statements, drawing from Reasoning (articulation) or more

Active listening (nuanced expansion), to arrive at a consensus through outspoken affirmations or tacit agreements. In other instances, semantic negotiations were worked out through compromises where participants were seen to 'give up' a difference of opinion upon reflecting on what others had said, not necessarily agreeing but trying to find a common ground to move on with the workshop.

Semantic negotiation was observed, for example, during CO-B_Stg2 workshop where following a lengthy discussion on the meaning of 'independence' in the trigger-statements: "… the messages of the organization or project inspire people to start their own initiatives". Despite having agreed on the wording, when CO-B_Pt#4 reads it out loud once more, others seem to have thought more deeply about the wording. CO-B_Pt#2, for instance, was not sure about the word 'independence' in the sentence and its broad connotations but could not think of any other words. CO-B_Pt#3 was not sure whether 'independence' encompassed the idea of 'self-respect', something which seemed fundamental to them of CO-B's mission to their service users. CO-B_Pt#4 thought that 'self-respect' had already been captured in the previous value-statement but concurred with CO-B_Pt#3 in that 'independence sounded too big and impersonal, 'not reflective of the values of our organization.' At the same time, CO-B_Pt#5 is heard arguing that the word 'independence' should be included. CO-B_Pt#1 is then heard trying to reach a compromise by throwing in similar concepts like 'self-sufficiency,' 'success', and 'the future' to replace 'independence'. The negotiation is resolved when the group agrees to add the word 'self-respect' at the beginning while keeping the word 'independence' with its localized connotation to CO-B context: "… we inspire families to take control of their lives and move towards independence".

The process described above was also observed during CO-A, and to a lesser extent during CO-C, often leading to disagreements or tensions within the group (see next sections below). What was important during these exchanges was the facilitator's timely interventions to unstuck or redirect participants to facilitate the conversations. During those moments, the facilitator is recurrently heard drawing participants back to reflect on the values-statements in relation to their membership within the organization, identifying those most 'meaningful, valuable and worthwhile' and localizing them (rephrasing, prioritizing, reordering, discarding) not only for the purpose of the workshop exercise, but to also share them with others (colleagues, volunteers, service users) not present at the workshop.

c) Semantic disagreement

When agreement was not reached through either further nuancing or compromises, negotiations often turned into disagreements. Semantic disagreements were prevalent during the CO-A and CO-B workshops at Stg2, but not during CO-C. Furthermore, agreement or consensus through semantic negotiations did not always mean that differences of opinion and voice within the groups were erased when reaching consensus or agreement. Instead, differences were still much present and often resurfaced with certain words, tones of voice, body gestures or silences participants made when reflecting and engaging with others during the workshop exercises and discussions.

Sometimes differences were irreconcilable, stagnated in vague statements about general social issues or concepts associated to the organization's overall line of work and services, and required the facilitator to draw participants back to the main purpose of the exercise at hand,

asking them to make a note of those concepts and postponing them to be able to move on with the workshop, re-introducing them at potentially relevant points in later conversations.

Other times, participants tried bridging disagreements, seeking to reconcile opposite views by drawing back from their previous points and ideas and expanding them. This process differed from that of Active listening examined above in that, while the latter was clearly used to expand someone's point, the former was intended to reconcile a previous idea but not necessarily agree with it. It was observed that when bridging took place, it often diverted from the main conversation that was taking place and created a positive, motivational effect in the mood of some participants.

(iv) Tension

Processes of semantic negotiation and disagreement, and to a lesser degree Reasoning and Active listening, were characterized by moments where participants became either confused, embarrassed or defensive. Processes of tension were identified as moments of (a) confusion and/or(b) resistance, as outlined below.

a) Confusion

Confusion was observed when in Stg1 CO-A_Pt#3 struggled trying to relate a photograph to general social issues they understood CO-A to be fighting for, instead of reflecting on what was 'important, meaningful and valuable' to them. Other instances were observed in the transitions between each workshop stage, particularly between Stg1 and Stg2 when participants had to shift from an organic and open task, values elicitation from photographs, to a more reason-based and logical mind-set, reading and localizing trigger-statements.

Confusion generally took place when there was less Active listening (AL) between participants or when some of them were distracted or not paying attention to the Facilitator, as it happened during Stg1 with CO-A_Pt#3 (see resistance below), or during Stg3 when participants repeatedly felt into extended silences or asked recurrently for explanation to the Facilitator and RPts, this was very common amongst CO-A participants and total with those in CO-C. During those instances, Confusion was initially associated to lack of engagement and low levels of AL.

However, this interrelation between confusion and processes of AL was not causal. During CO-B_Stg2, for example, CO-B_Pt#3 was unsure of how best to articulate the values that the photographs elicited to them following clear and articulate presentations from two previous participants, CO-B_pts#1 and #2. During their presentation, CO-B_Pt#3 was observed listening to attentively and focused. Confusion in this case did not seem to develop because of lack of AL or focus, but instead CO-B_Pt#3's pressure to present their thoughts in the same way and depth as the others did. Here, confusion was resolved by the facilitator who proposed to move on with the next participant and get back to CO-B_Pt#3 at a later stage when they were ready to share.

b) Resistance

Resistance was only prevalent during Stg2 at the CO-A and CO-C workshops. As shown in the example below during CO-A_Stg2, resistance originated after CO-A_Pt#3 became

confused and uneasy with the trigger-statements saying they felt 'like an audit'. The facilitator immediately addresses CO-A_Pt#3's concerns using a personal anecdote as example to clarify the meaning and purpose of the trigger-statements, explaining how they were developed in collaboration with former workshop participants from other organizations. RPt#1 also adds that the statements' purpose is to "provoke a thought" and further reflection amongst participants who can then change and localize the wording of the statements. Despite both facilitator's and RPt#1's reassurances, and the participant's own acknowledgment, for the remainder of the workshop CO-A_Pt#3 ceased to actively participate. Only at one other moment in the workshop is CO-A_Pt#3 heard talking again after being encouraged by CO-A_Pt#4 to engage in a group discussion.

The resistance seen in the CO-C workshop was of a different nature. It took place only during Stg2 of the workshop and it arose from the specific type of language and working culture of the organization, not used to work with pre-defined written statements but rather with more creative methods such as music, photographs or artefacts. Resistance in this case was resolved by the Facilitator who proposed participants to abandon the trigger-statements from Stg2 and use those created from scratch by CO-C participants during Stg1. This rapid adaptation was crucial for the workshop facilitation as, from the moment the facilitator switched back to the statements articulated during Stg1, CO-C participants became more relaxed, their tone in conversations more positive, with more moments of laughter, open discussions and reflections leading to constructive suggestions.

CO-C participants' ease to work from images (Stg1) rather than written statements (Stg2), seemed to suggest a strong sensitivity to nuances in language that made the content of the trigger statements inaccessible to them without incorporating local phrasing first. Something that was confirmed by the participants' comments and concerns during the resistance period and its resolution. Paradoxically, it was that same clarity and outspoken resistance to the trigger-statements that allowed the facilitator to identify the problem and rapidly adapt the exercise to suit CO-C participants needs, making the exercise relevant and effective.

When confusion led to a certain opposition from the participants to engage fully or at all in the workshop, the process became one of resistance. Resistance, therefore, was observed as moments during the workshops where major confusion or disruptions caused the disengagement, non-cooperation, or even unwillingness of participants to participate in discussions and carry on with the workshop exercises.

Summarizing the Findings

While processes usually associated to personal or individual reflection (Reasoning and Active listening) often precede those at a group level (Collective articulation), they often feedback and overlap each other. These overlaps and correlations were most frequently seen when processes of semantic cooperation, negotiations and/or disagreements led to further nuancing, compromises or bridging amongst the participants that trigger more Reasoning and/or AL. Processes identified within Tension (confusion and resistance), were happening throughout the workshops at both personal and group levels. The processes and sub-processes of reflection described above, and their interrelationships, are illustrated in Fig. 1 below.

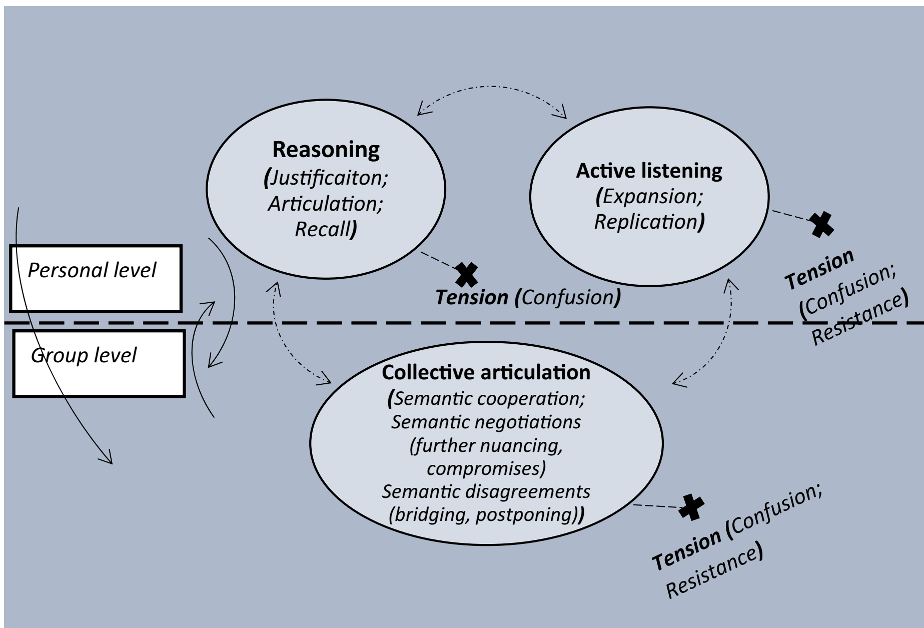

Fig. 1 The sub-processes behind RPs as identified and examined through the three case-study workshops, and an indication of their interrelation at the personal and group levels of the reflection process

Discussion

The analysis of case-study workshops with community organizations has allowed the authors to identify and describe in detail the processes shaping RPs in four grounded themes and related sub-themes(shown in Table 2): Reasoning (including sub-themes of justification articulation and recall); Active Listening (with sub-themes of expansion and replication); Collective Articulation (with sub-themes of semantic cooperation, negotiation, and disagreements); and Tensions (with sub-themes of confusion and resistance).

The way in which the processes interrelate confirms the multi-dimensional and non-linear nature of reflection; processes of reflection involve complex and emerging interactions that vary at different levels (individual, group, internal, external) and at the different moments in which those interactions take place (Gardner 2014, p.21). The analysis of patterns of conversation and how participants consider and rearticulate their perspectives and values also show the non-linearity of reflection sub-processes. While Kolb's ELC model (1984), and subsequent approaches, do engage on a process of reflection, mixing, backtracking, reconsidering the steps of the RPs process, they are less attentive to the sub-processes and practices shaping these steps. For theoretical approaches to reflective practice to be most useful to CD research, these should be developed from data and experiences within these contexts. This research is an initial step in this direction.

One of the objectives of the research was to develop an understanding of how RPs happen within CD contexts. Scholars in CD highlight the importance of reflective approaches as processes of CD require constant awareness, adaptation and reflection to varying social-cultural contexts (Ife 2010; Neely 2015). Furthermore, that all stakeholders need to devote time to critically and actively reflect on their practices, the contexts and factors that shape

them, and have the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances (Fowler and Ubels 2010, p. 22; Miller 2010, p. 23). This is not surprising given the organic, complex and unpredictable nature of community life and CD projects (Neely 2015; Ramalingam 2013; Visser 2010).

The findings provide some detail on how these processes might happen in a collective or group setting. During the workshop, although individual reflection often preceded those processes at the group level, these were always observed as overlapping and feeding back into one another. These interrelations were most frequently seen when processes of semantic cooperation, negotiation, and/or disagreement led to further nuancing, compromises, or bridging amongst the participants and thus triggered more Reasoning and/or Active Listening from individuals. The authors suggest that carefully creating spaces for individual and group reflection, and allowing iterations between these, might be helpful for developing reflective capacities of practitioners in CD. Another suggestion is to place equal importance to rational approaches to reflection as well as embodied and affective processes such as active listening. Another is to have a mechanism in place to introduce moderate dissonance, to stimulate deeper discussions.

The relevance of RPs has also been emphasized in relation to PAR and the need to focus on communities' organizational capacities and developing ownership in the design and implementation of projects (Eade 2007). Our findings support ideas that RPs might contribute to this by allowing values and understandings to become more internalized and embodied (Clarke and Oswald 2010, p. 10); and that understanding people's values and motivations for action, and learning from each other's experiences helps better understand situations and facilitates better adaptation to changing circumstances, therefore potentially developing and improving RPs (Gardner 2014, p. 41). This is connected to the joint effects of 'experiential learning' and 'generating awareness' from RP theories; the possibility to reflect more deeply and make explicit less tangible emotions, thoughts and values and interconnectedness between them (Ibid, p. 24).

In addition, the findings point to the importance of language and of listening to how people express their values and motivations. This is most evident in the theme of Collective Articulation, and related sub-themes of semantic negotiation, cooperation and disagreements, where participants engage in group interactions while actively listening to what each other are saying, helping each other make more and more explicit the experiences that shape certain ways of expressing or understanding their actions. In the context of increasingly professionalized and complex CD work, it is often easy to assume collective agreement of certain terms and ways of describing what is done. While CD scholars and practitioners recognize the importance of taking time to 'step back', these spaces for collective reflection and discussion would benefit from deep questioning of assumed concepts or implicit collective understandings. The findings show that tensions are important to consider in such discussions and are in fact present throughout the whole process of RP (see Fig. 1 above). In the workshops, tensions revealed misunderstandings between participants (confusion) or reactions to the workshop process (resistance), however these appeared to have identifiable origins, such as the different uses of language, discomfort with the activities, or the lack of understanding of the trigger statements. Furthermore, more cooperation did not necessarily mean there was less tension; in other words, tensions were present throughout the workshop stages, and thus can be considered as central to and not limiting or impeding reflective practices.

In this, the authors see a need to examine the role of the facilitator, something already highlighted by Mansuri & Rao in their World Bank report of over 500 participatory

development projects (Mansuri and Rao 2013a, b). In this research, the role of the facilitator was evident through their probing of participants, helping provoke deeper thinking and articulation of ideas. For instance, a facilitator's practice-based experience can be used to communicate or clarify concepts during semantic negotiations to connect ideas, enhance processes of recall or even clarify misunderstandings. A more detailed examination of the role of the facilitator within ID contexts could offer an opportunity to understand more clearly the conditions in which certain RPs tools and techniques and approaches to reflection work or are less useful.

Finally, while the findings of this research relate to and complement existing RP theories and approaches introduced at the beginning of this paper, the themes and sub-themes developed from the grounded thematic analysis provide a fresher and more detailed picture of the active skills, interpersonal approaches, techniques and resources used and needed by practitioners and facilitators to enhance processes of RPs in CD contexts. There is an opportunity for CD research to contribute to and expand the understanding of RPs drawing on bodies of knowledge on active listening and the role of conflict in group processes (e.g. Putnam 1993; Jagosh et al. 2015). The authors also suggest that formal or informal processes of reflection should include opportunities for group discussions where semantic cooperation, negotiations and tensions, are allowed a central role.

Here, the findings from the research confirm the usefulness of values-based elicitation and articulation approaches, for opening spaces and opportunities for such elements of reflection. Not only were the WV workshops adapted to the needs of each of the case-study COs, but at least in one occasion (CO-C workshop) they required active listening, ongoing awareness and rapid flexibility by the facilitator to make the process successful. In this sense, the findings, along with the extensive and varied literature of the WV project's diverse applications, certainly demonstrate the adaptability and replicability of values-based elicitation and articulation approaches and their potential to encourage RPs in ID contexts.

On the basis of the results in this study we now need to conduct a more detailed examination of how such adaptations and changes occur. Furthermore, it is important to note here that the case-studies examined here represent processes of RPs more likely to be to be used within community groups who have a history of shared experiences, rather than for a variety of shareholders together planning a future ID project. Thus, another item for a future research agenda would be the studies of such groups. There is also the need and opportunity for more longitudinal studies and research collaborations between RP and ID scholarships to identify the factors and circumstances that enhance and obstruct reflection processes in CD projects at different socio-cultural and space-temporal contexts.

Conclusions

This paper presents an analysis of three values-based elicitation and articulation workshops with COs based in Brighton, UK, to examine the sub-processes shaping RPs and explore how new insights into RPs might be useful in CD contexts. The use of values-based processes to investigate these questions was deemed particularly interesting given their potential to frame RPs around underlying and often implicit understandings rather than assuming shared understanding of practices or terminology.

The analysis of the workshops led the authors to identify four main themes and eleven sub-themes: Reasoning (justification, articulation, recall), Active listening (nuanced expansion,

replication), Collective articulation (semantic cooperation, semantic negotiations, semantic disagreements), and Tension (confusion, resistance).

These themes are consistent with those of established RP theories and approaches, however, the analysis offers a more detailed understanding of RPs, and one that is relevant to CD contexts, highlighting the multi-dimensional and non-linear nature of RPs, the importance of productive tensions at all stages of the reflection process, and the need for practitioners to develop certain approaches and skills (such as active listening, working with tensions and group discussions that involve deep semantic negotiations).

When RPs are facilitated, it is valuable to ensure that there is space for both individual and group reflections, and that these can feed into each other.

The authors recognize the limitations in scope and exploratory nature of the research and see potential for future research to expand on the connections between RPs and CD, through more longitudinal studies, including contexts that involve multiple stakeholder groups without previous shared working experiences. Future world could also further explore the role of tensions in advancing RPs, the role of facilitation, and carry out similar work in developing countries.

Finally, the authors suggest that values-based elicitation and reflection approaches are pertinent within the context of facilitating RP within CD contexts, as these can effectively open spaces for articulating and negotiating complex (and often assumed) meanings, as well as drawing together rational and affective (listening) ways of understanding shared work.

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