



Embodied experiences of young Syrian and Iraqi refugees with disabilities in Australia: Lessons from co-production

Never Stand Still

Medicine

School of Psychiatry

Ruth Wells^a, Mahmoud Murad^a, Katherine Boydell^b, Angela Dew^c, Maree Higgins^d,
Julia Lappin^e, Caroline Lenette^{d,f}, Louisa Smith^g, Shanti Raman^h and Karen Zwiⁱ

^aSchool of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, Australia;

^bBlack Dog Institute, University of New South Wales;

^cDisability and Inclusion, School of Health and Social Development, Faculty of Health, Deakin University, Australia; Australia;

^dSchool of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales, Australia;

^eNational Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia;

^fAustralian Human Rights Institute, UNSW;

^gAustralian Health Services Research Institute, University of Wollongong, Australia;

^hSouth Western Sydney Local Health District, Australia;

ⁱSchool of Women's and Children's Health UNSW and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.

Background

- 2015 Australia committed to settle 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees in addition to the regular intake of 14,000 humanitarian entrants.
- Change in visa processing
- Increase in presentations to services
- Challenges accessing NDIS

Co-production with Mahmoud Murad

- *“I am Mahmoud Murad from a Syrian refugee background. I have a peripheral neuropathy called Charcot-Marie-Tooth disorder which makes it difficult for me to do some things. In Syria, I lived with many cultural, social and economic challenges under a government system that does not consider the support of people with specific needs...When I was in school, some teachers did not understand the challenges I faced and were violent and abusive towards me. There was no system to support children with specific needs.”*

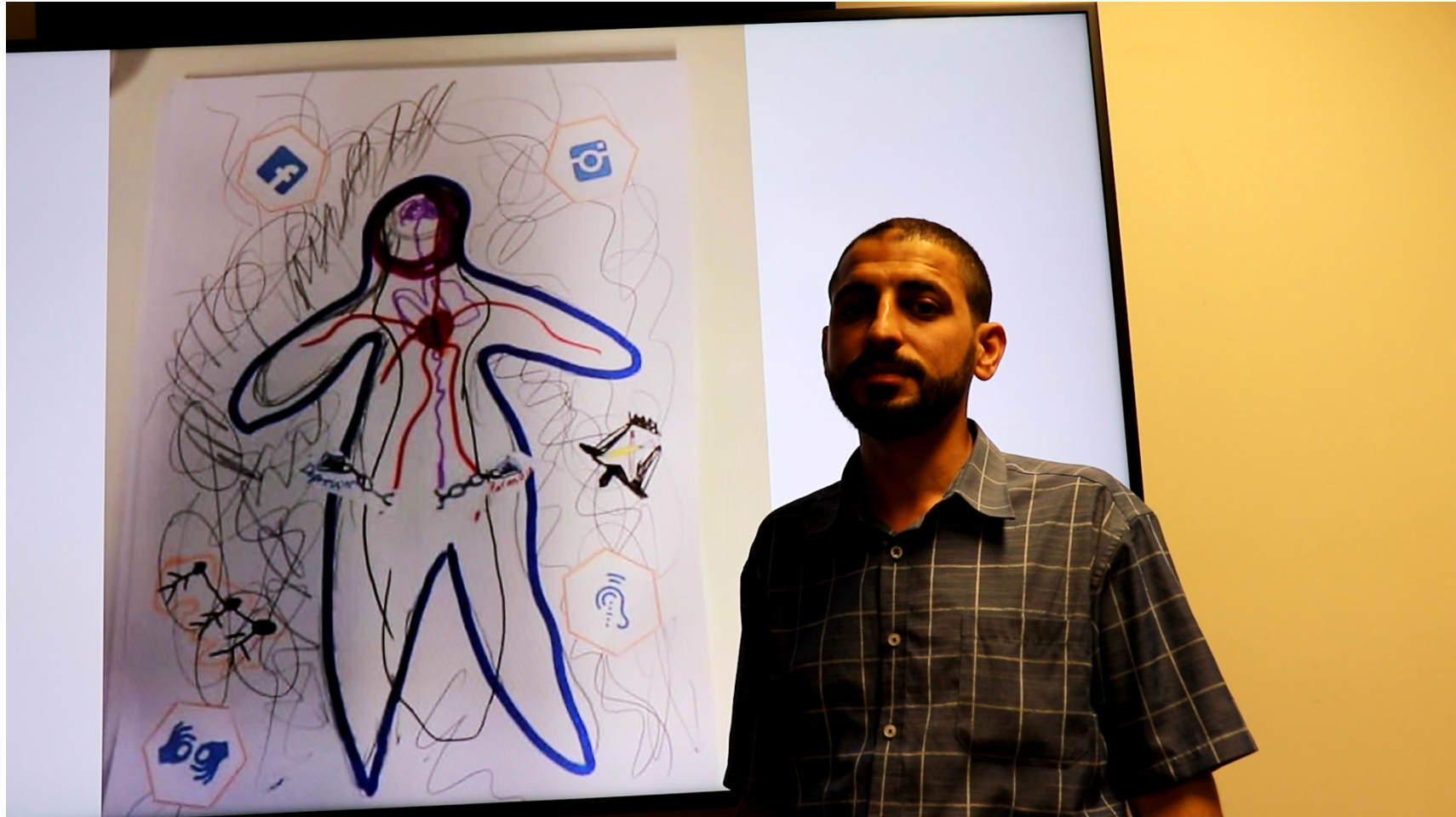


- *“Within Syrian society, access to social and political power is achieved through one’s multiple and nested memberships in various social groups. This may include family, tribe, ethnicity and religion. The state does not function to protect the rights of individuals. Rather, if you need to demand your rights, you do this through your family or tribe, and your worth is based on the standing of your group. The concept of individual rights is not compatible with this group-based system. It is important for Australian organisations to understand that it may be difficult for many Syrians to understand how to access their rights to disability support in Australia, because they are accustomed to meeting their needs through group affiliation and family support. However, meeting needs through social services, Medicare and the NDIS requires people to make claims on the basis of individual status.”*

Co-production

- Working with existing resources
 - → Community Migrant Resource Centre Digital Storytelling workshop
- Academic's role is to facilitate through methodology

Body Mapping



Tree of Life

- Focus on strengths and social resources
- Collective practice



A Forest of life in Gaza City

***Responding to Trauma that is not past. Treatment and Rehabilitation
Centre for Victims of Torture, Ramallah, Palestine.***

Co-production

- Co-production and arts-based methods create a situation where the people with lived experience get to set the agenda