Social atmosphere in inpatient care facilities

Initial situation

- Atmospheres are present in everyday life.They accompany every social situation.
- Atmospheres are considered to have great power, for example in terms of subjective well-being, communication or structuring situations.
- At the same time, they are a fluid phenomenon that has so far been little researched in sociology.

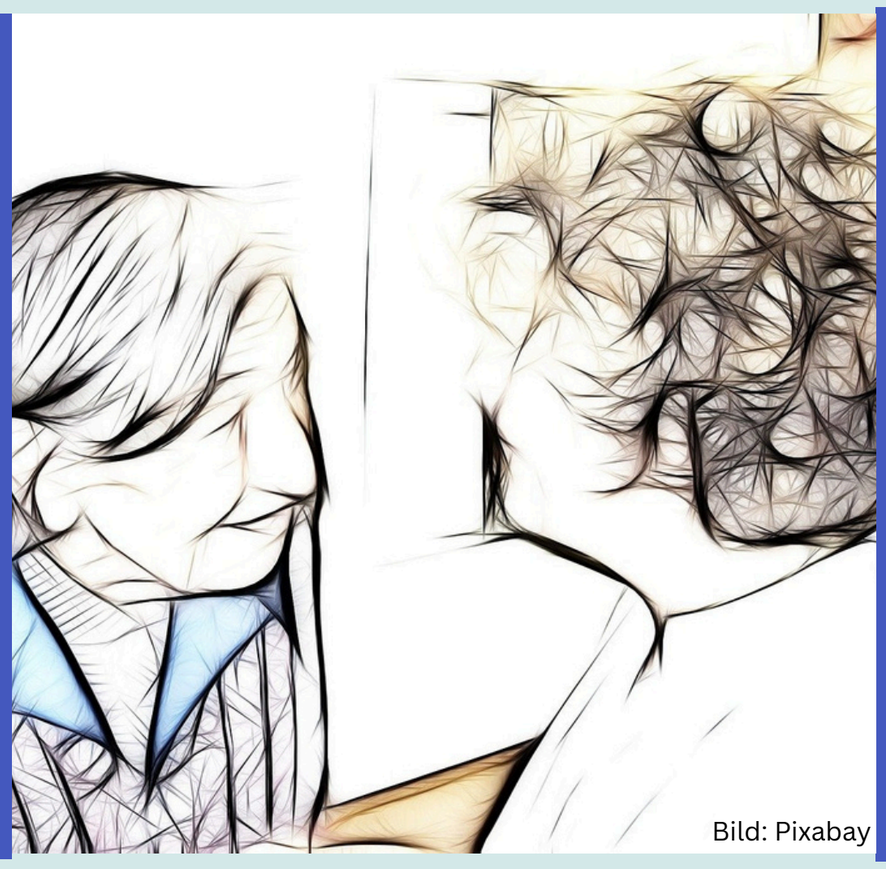


Bild: Pixabay

Key Questions

- How is atmosphere created interactively and how does it work?
- How do atmospheres affect communication with people with dementia?
- What is the correlation between institutional conditions and affective experience?

Ethnographic field research

he staff often speak to the residents in empty phrases. Overall, silence dominates.

The biographical stories of the residents reveal an eventful life. Painful losses, successes and journeys

... that the residents' rooms are somehow magical. It's almost always like entering another little world. The rooms feel completely different to the communal areas. There is nothing personal in the common rooms.

First stage of research
02.05-31.05.2024
Participant observation in an inpatient care facility

Shown here: contrastive observations and field notes

Situation in the dining room: A man is gasping heavily. The nurse calls a colleague over. He apatheticly sticks his head in the doorframe and says, "He just choked, it's normal." No one in the room seems affected by the situation, no one else reacts. It becomes quiet again

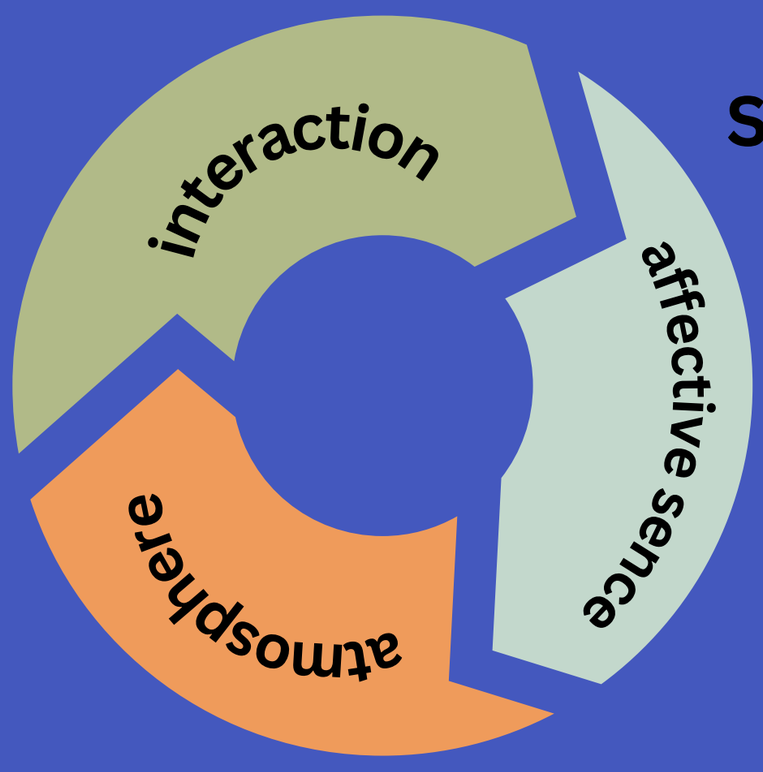
The food is brought to the residents' seats. They are served like in a restaurant

The leftovers are poured into the so-called „pig bucket“ while some people are still eating.

prozesshaft

prozesshaft

Point of view



Sociology of knowledge

Reconstruction of how a certain particular knowledge could become an established reality.

Following the 'emotional turn', affective experience is also a knowledge of something and a tangible part of shared reality

Affective interactions are movements that permeate both the field and the individual and relate them to each other."

When communicating with people with dementia, the noticable can be particularly important for understanding.

Atmospheres are not yet a fixed factor in social science research designs.

A selection of literature

ALBRECHT, Clemens (2017): Atmosphären statt Sinn – Offene Räume der interferenten Kultur. In: Geschlossene Gesellschaften – 38. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie.
BERGER, Peter L. / LUCKMANN, Thomas (2010): Die Gesellschaftliche Konstruktion der Wirklichkeit. Frankfurt am Main: Fischer.
SEYFERT, Robert (2011): Atmosphären – Transmissionen – Interaktionen. Zu einer Theorie sozialer Affekte. In: Soziale Systeme 17, Stuttgart: Lucius und Lucius. Heft 1, S. 73-96.
SCHÖN / ZIEGLER / et. All. (2023): Atmosphären im Krankenhaus – Einblicke in eine ethnographische Studie zum Einsatz eines audiovisuellen Projektionssystems in der Pflege. In: POFERL, Angelika / Et all. (Hrsg.) Leib- Körper – Ethnographie. Erkundungen zum Leib-Sein und Körper-Haben. Essen: Oldib.

PhD projects from:
Paulina Kornas
Büroadresse:
Alten- Bochumer-Bogen EvH R-W-L
Wittenerstr. 244, 44803 Bochum