

Landscape of an Elderly with Dementia utilizing Existential Approaches by Nader Shabahangi, Ph.D -Pacific Institute and Patrick Fox, Ph.D -UCSF-

Thanks to the willingness of Ed Voris- recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, this experiential research employs existential approaches of interaction as a method in which to connect with a resident with dementia. As existential approaches do not rely primarily on the linear cognitive mind but more in narrative manifestations and interpersonal encounters inherent within this mode of communication is the possibility of accessing other channels of expression, perhaps to reveal messages from the unconscious and often denied aspects of one's experience.

This research studies include only Mr. Edward Voris for a longitudinal, narrative study.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is to find better ways to approach the population of elderly suffering from senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease. This calls for both greater awareness and sensitivity on the part of professionals, as well as increased effectiveness in the policies, services, treatment and care offered to address the special needs of these frail elders.