



This paper examines everyday cultures of care in hospital wards and the consequences for both people living with dementia and ward staff. It explores institutional and ward strategies in the care of this significant patient group at the bedside. Across these wards, the rehearsal and duplication of a remarkably stable interactional performance was observed during the routines of bedside care. Across these encounters, ward staff communicated and reinforced the 'rules' of the ward.

This hospital ethnography was funded by two National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) projects<sup>i</sup> examining specific features of everyday care for people living with dementia (the phenomenon of "resistance" to care and continence care) within acute wards in eight hospitals across England and Wales. The wider ethnography examines hospital cultures of care for people living with dementia.

This paper illustrates key findings within the monograph *Wandering the Wards*<sup>ii</sup>. Drawing on Goffman's examination of the "total institution" the paper explores institutional expectations and the interactional patterns of care at the bedside to provide ways of uncovering aspects of the social standing and understandings of people living with dementia, and the recognition, attribution and stigma of this diagnostic category during an acute admission.

**Katie Featherstone** is Reader in Sociology and Medicine, School of Healthcare Sciences, Cardiff University. Katie's current NIHR funded ethnographic programme of research examines institutional cultures of care. The goal is to improve the quality and humanity of care people living with dementia receive during a hospital admission. This builds on Katie's established body of research examining the social impacts of genetics and genomics. What unites her approach in both fields is the examination of the social contexts and consequences of biomedicine. Her work is recognized within public policy, NHS, national media, public discourse, and arts policy.

Her latest monograph