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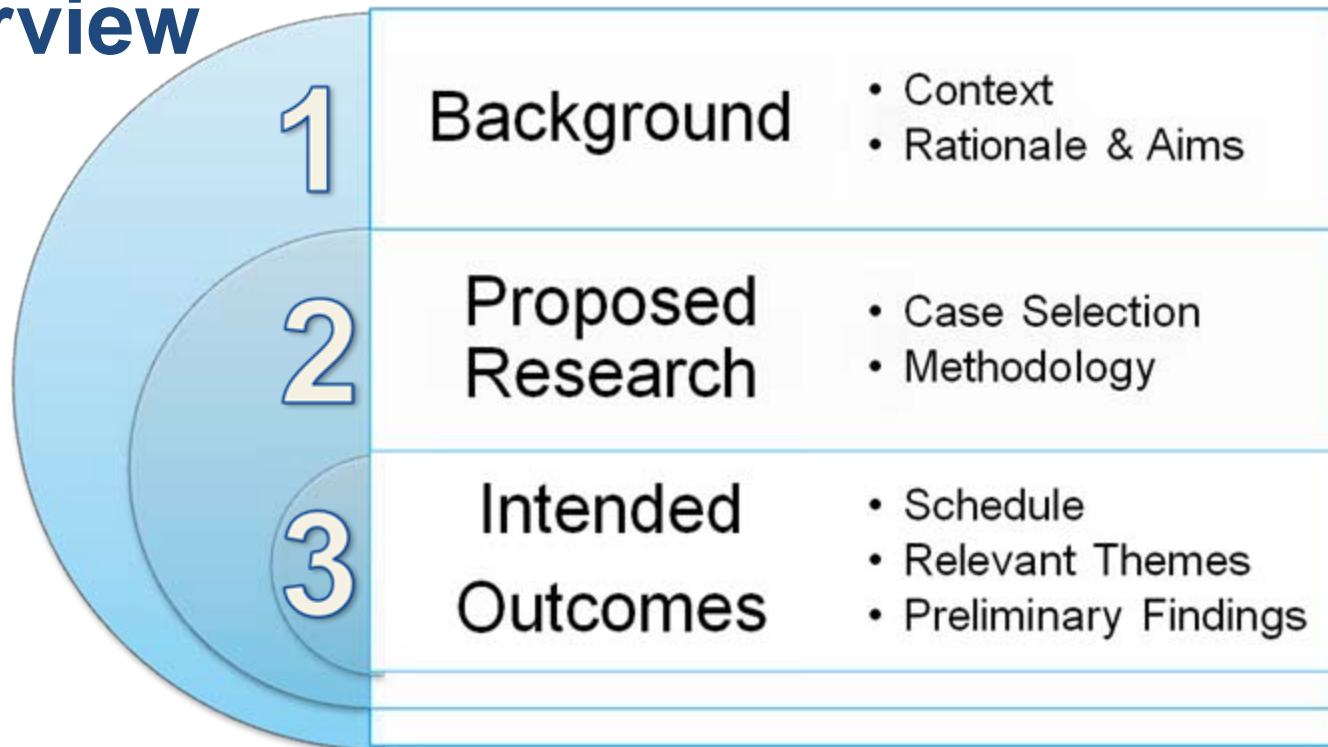
Centre for Charitable Giving  
and Philanthropy

# Supporting Volunteering:

*A Cross-Sectional  
Comparative Study of the  
Volunteer Centre and  
Timebanking in Edinburgh*

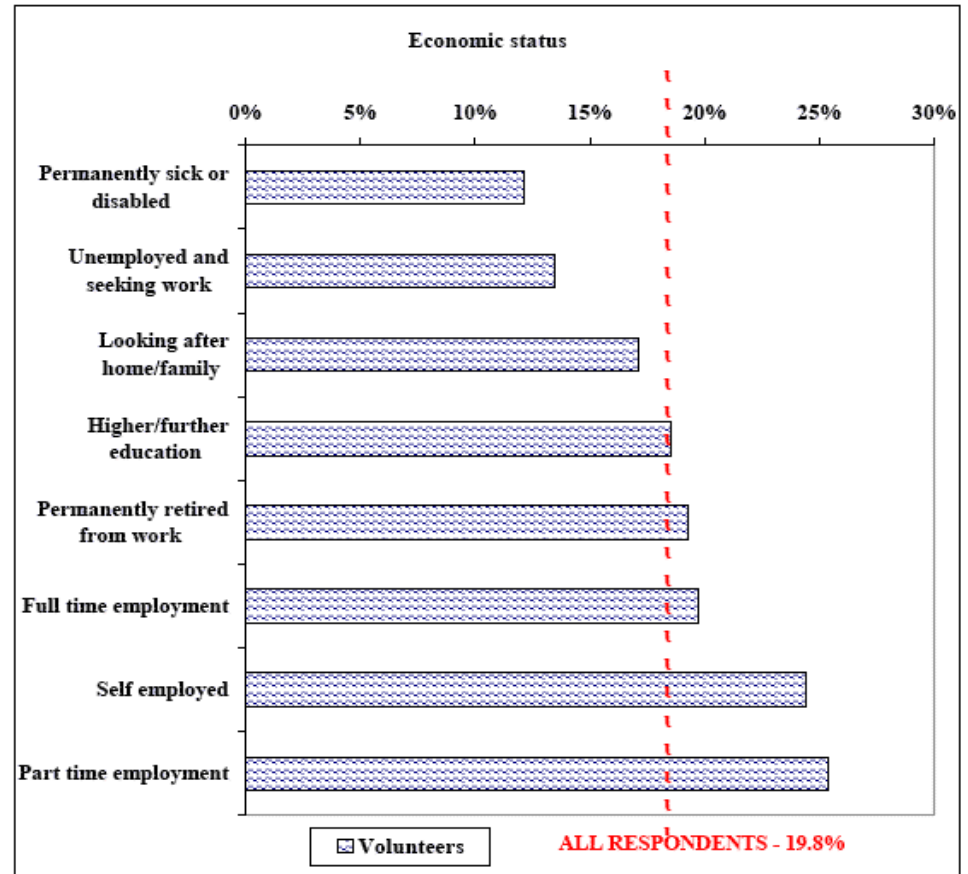
V. Elric Honoré

# Overview



# Volunteering...in context

- 1.2 million adults volunteer (Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, 2005)
- 86.5% of unemployed people do not volunteer, but however observe that they would do if they 'could afford it' (Scottish Government, 2008)
- Addressing 'Barriers to Volunteering' entering the employability agenda (Volunteering Development Scotland, 2008)



# Proposed Research

- The key aim is to understand how different models and cultures of volunteering operate and how they motivate participants – hence contributing to volunteer management theory
- Rationale:
  - Strategies developed so far are pragmatic but *cultural* dimension of volunteering underplayed
  - *Supporting Volunteering* will focus on how different volunteering environments operate and how their different *social worlds* (e.g. Becker, 1982) are attractive to different socio-economic groups

# Case Selection



## Volunteer Centre

- Historical, well-established
- Traditional, philanthropic
- Recognised as a pathway to employment



## Timebank

- Relatively new model
- Tit-for-tat, complementary 'currency'
- Recognised as contributing to community cohesion

# Methodology

Cultural dimension:

- Qualitative Interview Approach

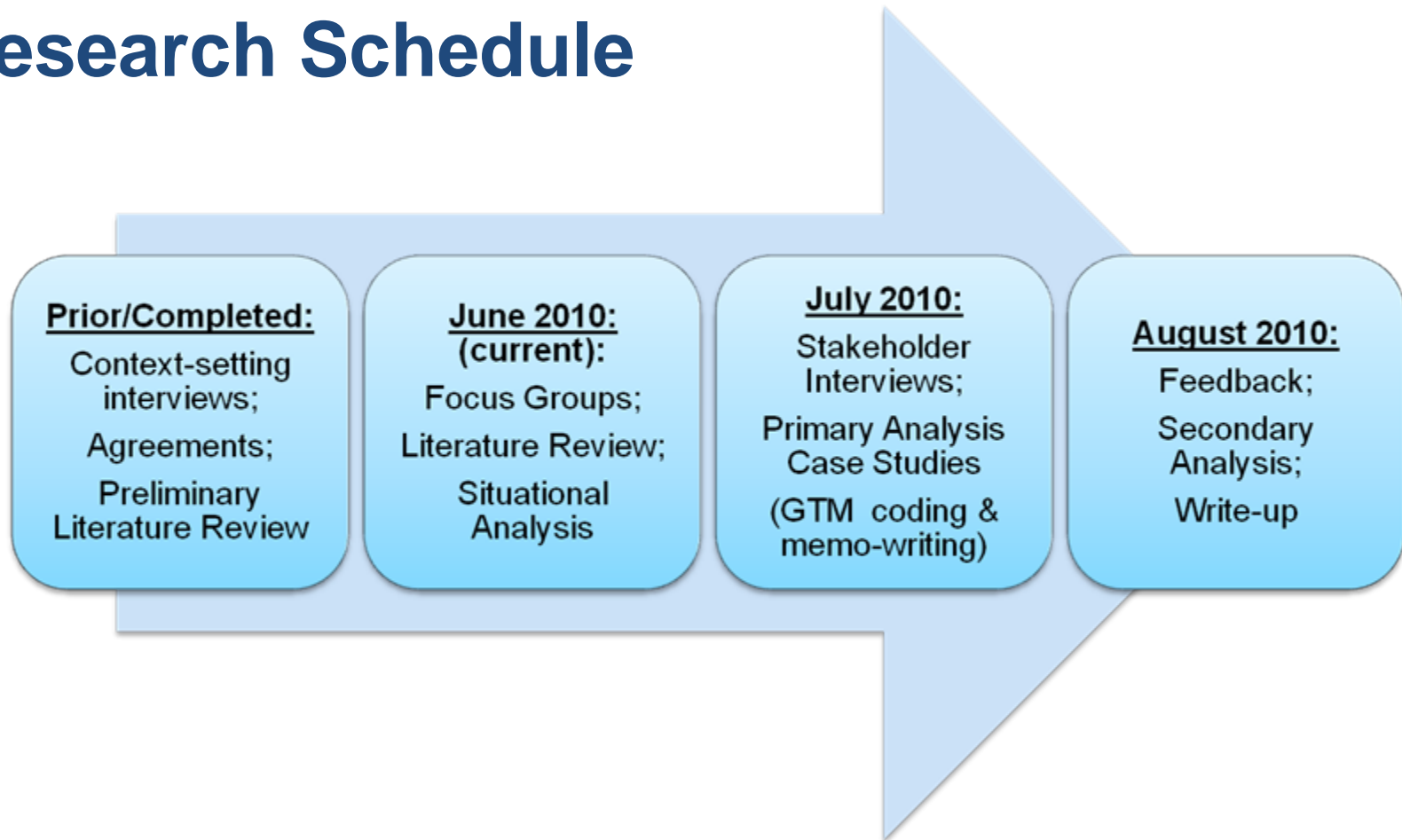
Understanding & Uncovering Processes:

- Grounded Theory Method (GTM)
- Situational Analysis

Research Questions:

- *‘What’s going on?’*
- *‘What is the main problem of the participants and how are they trying to solve it?’*

# Research Schedule



## Relevant Themes

Volunteer  
Management  
Theory

Timebanking  
& Community  
Development

Situational  
Analysis

Service  
Management

Grounded  
Theory  
Method



# Preliminary Findings

## Timebanking:

- Effective as a 'first step' towards employability
- Particularly suited to urban communities - builds community cohesion
- Better perceived as a 'good neighbour' scheme than volunteering *per se*

## 'Traditional' Volunteering

- Getting more and more recognised as a suitable pathway to employment as competition increases
- However, the main motivation might be accessing or participating in a culture rather than employability



# Questions ?

# Thank You