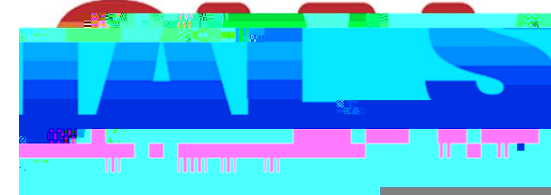
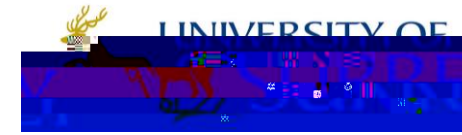


Marking time: Co-producing an approach to timeline interviews

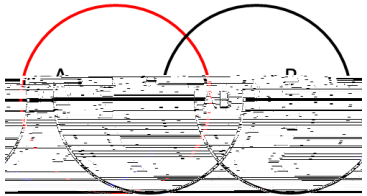
Dr Mike Thomas/Dr Amy Prescott
Department of Health Sciences
Brunel University London



Project background

3-year £1.1m ESRC-funded mixed-methods project on socially inclusive ageing

Intersectional, life-course perspective



populations focusing on 3 target groups in the UK:



Qualitative workstream: capturing lived experience and aspects of socially inclusive ageing through timeline interviews (Adriansen

Timeline Interviews: Method of life history research

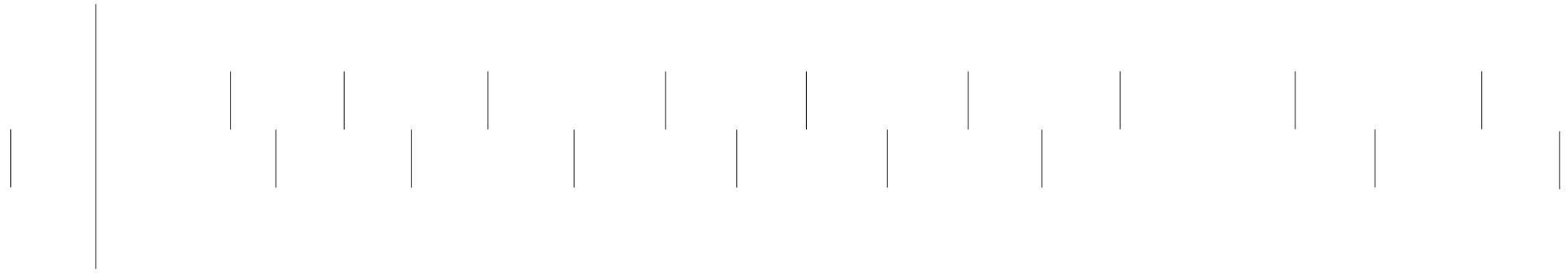
Timeline Interviews: Method of life history research

Use of a timeline as a focal point for an interview: as a visual representation of main events and milestones in an individual biography

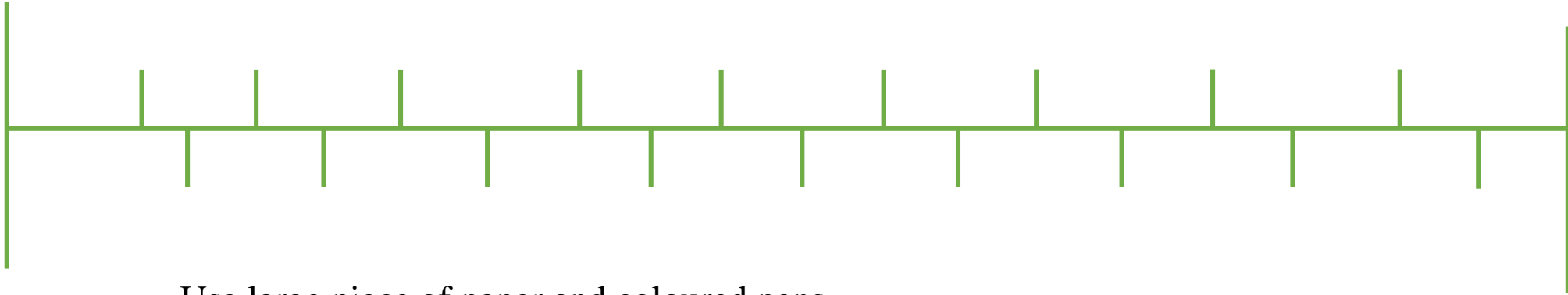
Timeline as an conversation, not as a rigid, linear tool

Collaborative effort between participant and researcher: potential for co-production

Potentially holistic- allows for life stories to be placed in context of wider historical, social, political context



Timeline Interviews: How to do it?



Use large piece of paper and coloured pens

Start by drawing a line across the sheet to represent the timeline

Initial Qs: ask about key events from individual life story; can begin from birth or key experience linked to the research topic

Can also extend into an imagined or anticipated future

Social, political, environmental, policy- possible identification of influences, causes and effects

This means that analysis is a feature of the timeline interview, can also be added to afterwards alongside interview transcript

Timeline as a resource for analysis alongside interview transcript

Member-checking becomes a possibility

Testing out this approach: Co-production events

Session with older LGBTQ+ community groups in London (Spring 2023).

Session with members of a stroke clinic who identified as belonging to an ethnic minority group in London (September 2023)

Time spent building relationships with community groups and service users.

Trust is **vital**

Time spent introducing the project by researchers who were open about our identifying as part of LGBTQ+ communities.

We shared examples of our own timelines.

Asked LGBTQ+ group to work on their own timelines, given loose instructions about drawing a timeline, scope of the timeline period, using whatever formatting or colours they wanted.

Timeline interviews with stroke patients were conducted individually rather than a group setting.

Sought feedback afterwards.

Images in presentation are shared with their permission.



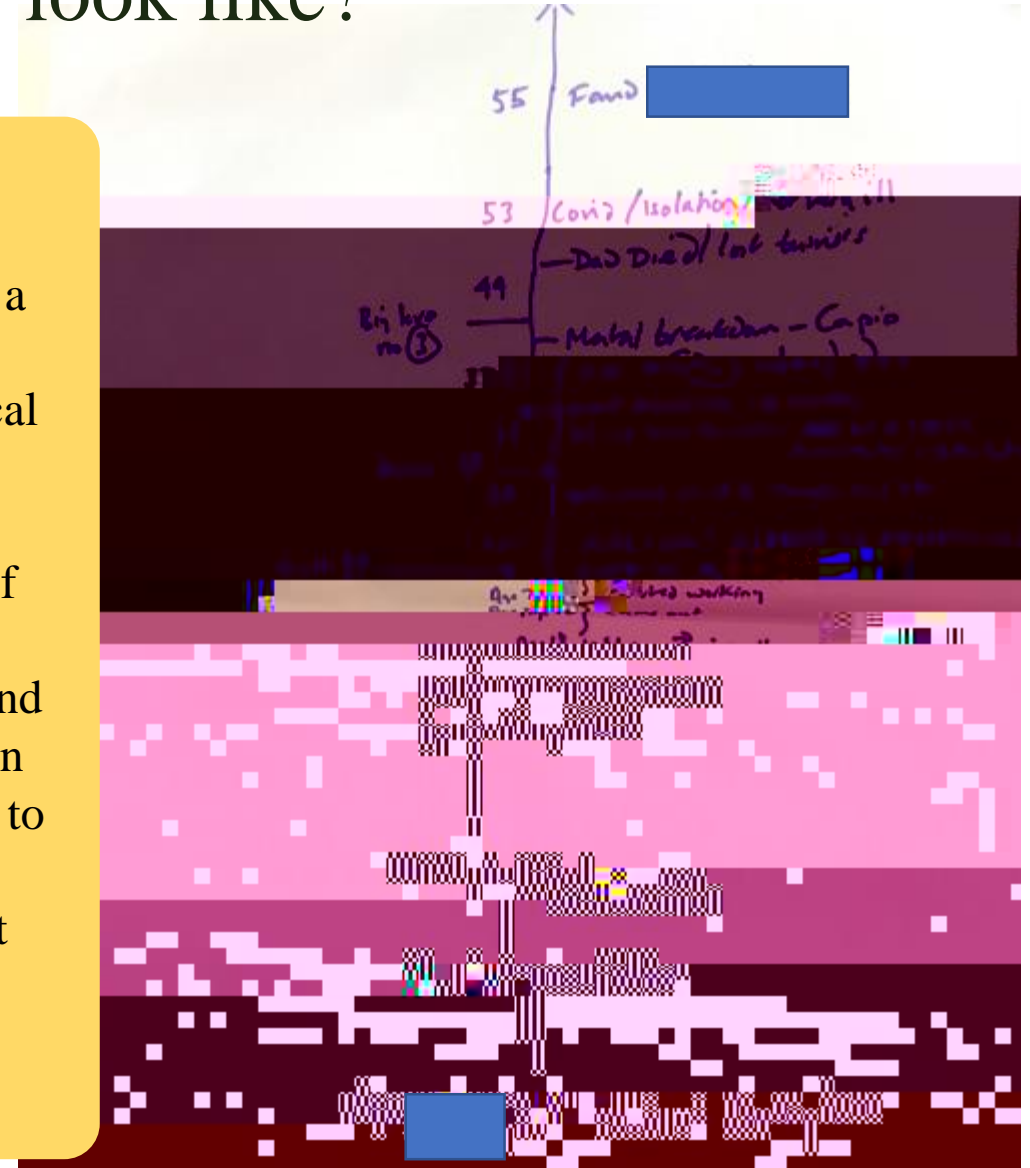
What did they look like?

What did they look like?

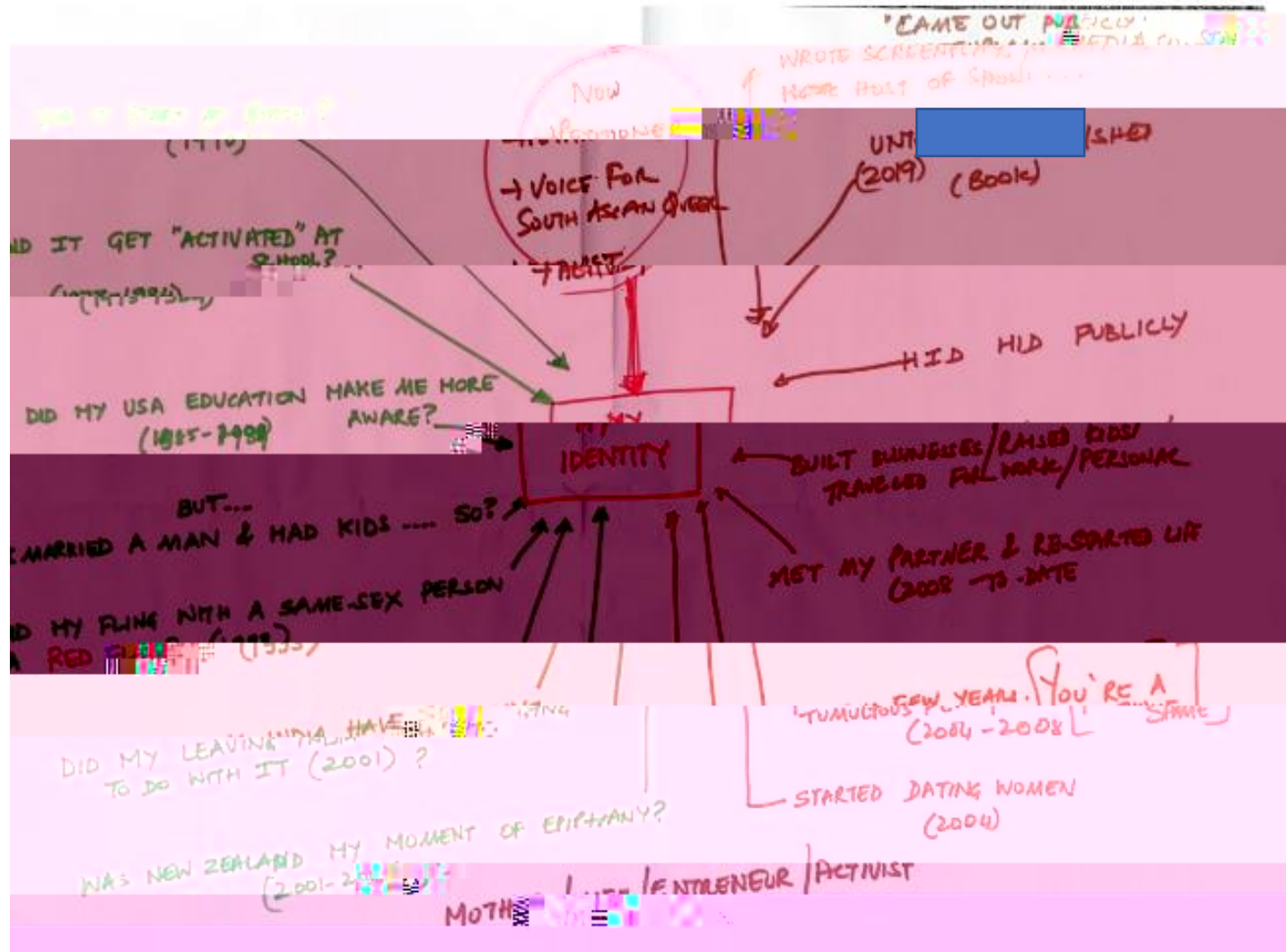


Some took a linear, chronological approach

Here use of emojis, uppercase and exclamation marks seem to signify significant events

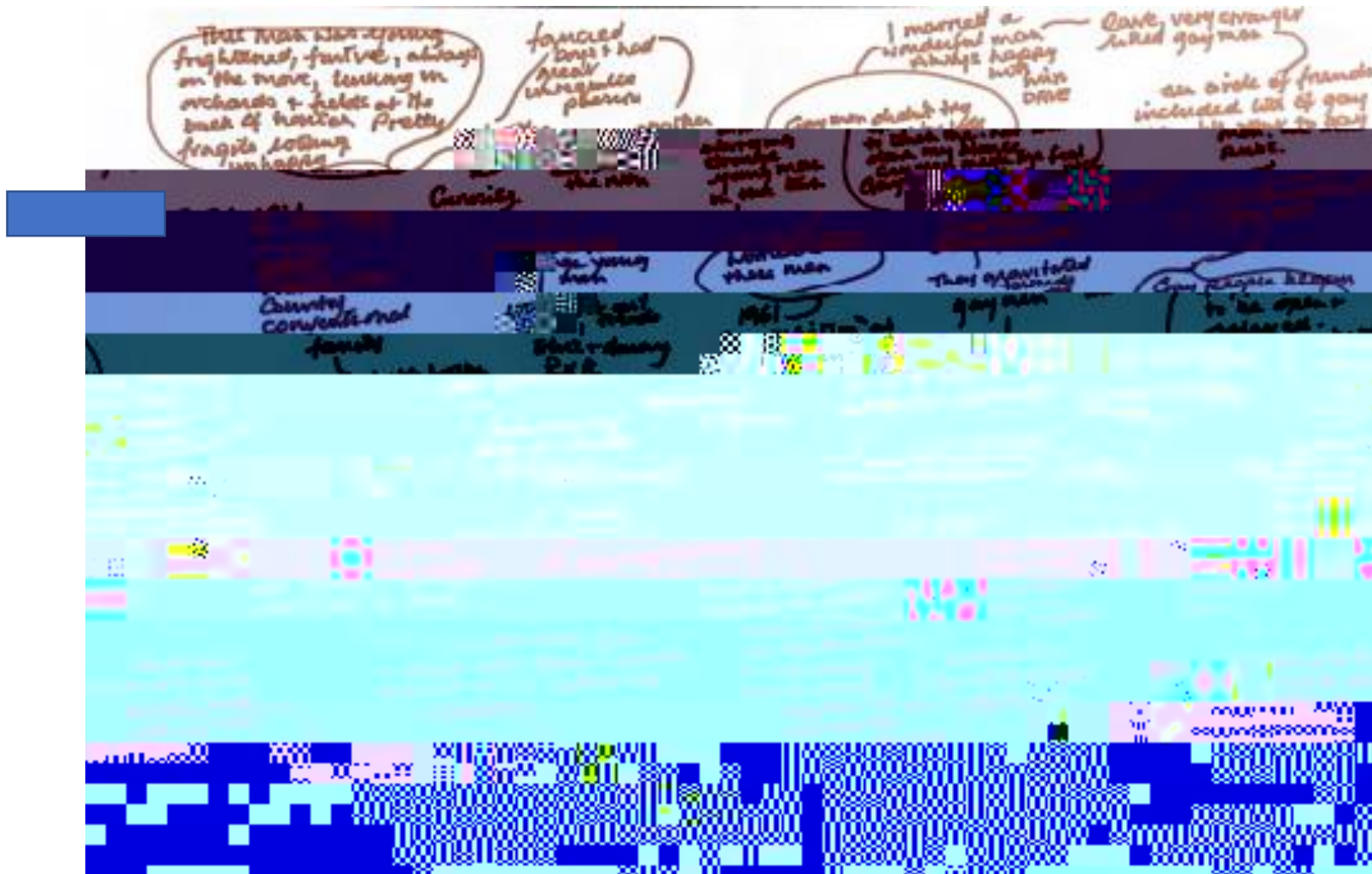


What did they look like?

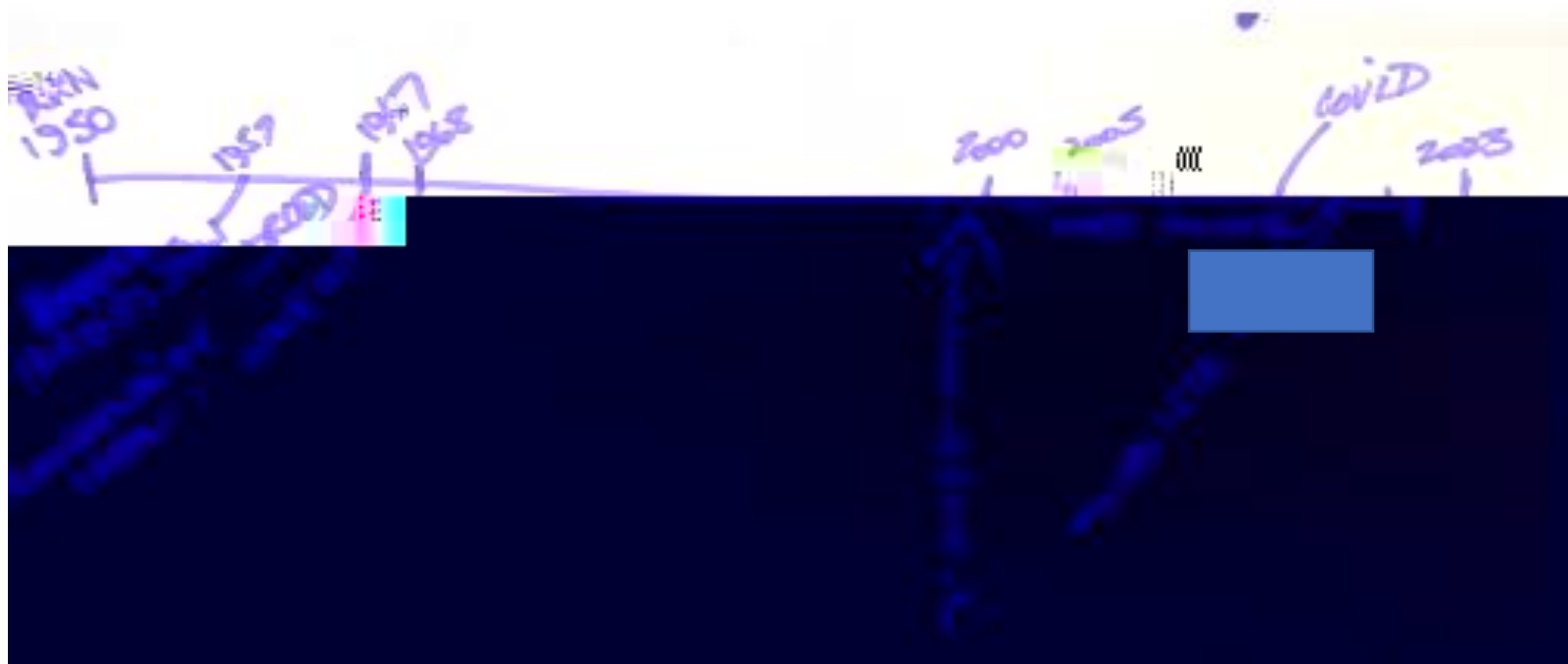


Is this a timeline?
We can see lots of reflection here in this example

What did they look like?



What did they look like?

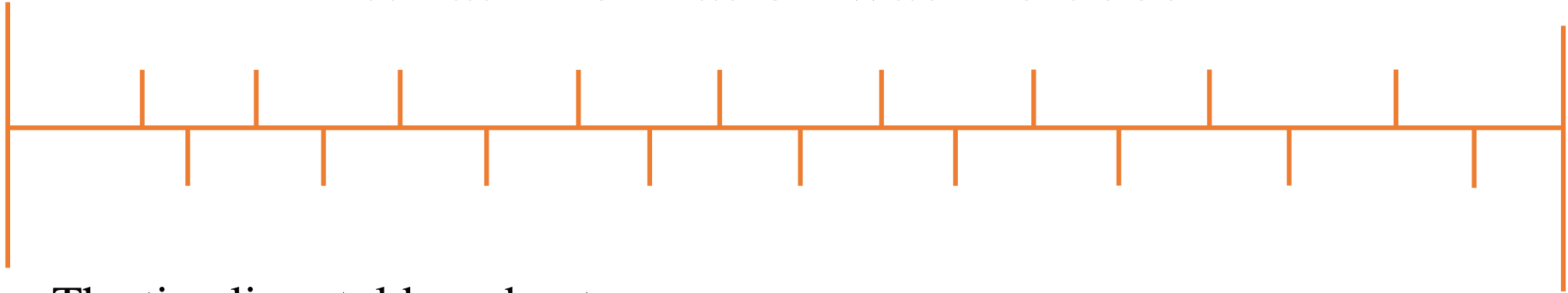


A minimalist approach



What information
was included?

What information was included?



The timelines told us about:

Life stages and key transitions

Locations

Key relationships (family/partners/friends)

Education and work

Physical and mental health (e.g. COVID, HIV diagnosis, cancer, stroke)

Wider context (e.g. decriminalisation)

These were not research interviews so not as detailed as a full timeline



What feedback did we get?

What feedback did we get?



it was almost freeing

gone through. Self-compassion and



in research before, so



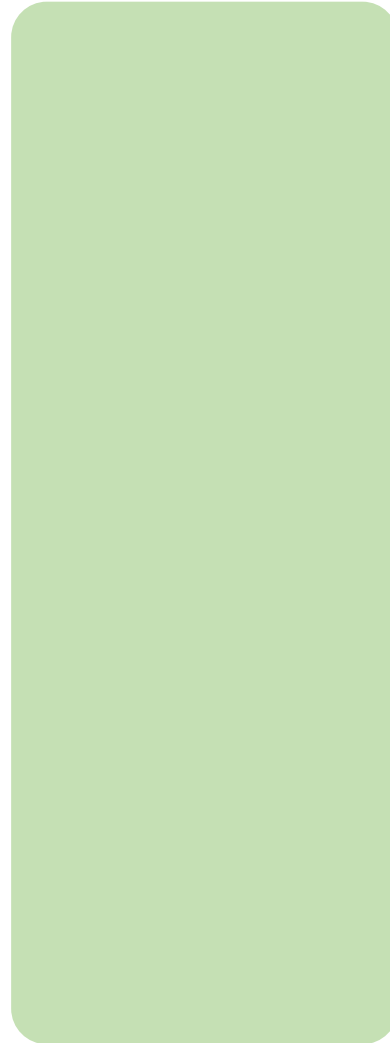
Advantages of this method



Areas of reflection

Lots of information to include- can be time-consuming and draining for participants

Potential barriers for people with cognitive impairments



Thank you for listening, please feel free to ask questions!