Welfare Conditionality
SANCTIONS, SUPPORT AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

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‘Behaviour change’ in action

From ‘field’ to desk and back again
This list was a very simple thing, a checklist, something to be worked down with a highlighter and Biro, but it also seemed to refer to something unimaginably complex - a whole world of lives and troubles and situations about which I knew next to nothing.
Dilemmas and double binds

(impossible objects, impossible situations)

Detail from M.C. Escher, ‘Ascending and Descending’, Lithograph 1960
Symbolic, interpretive, relational

‘The Interview’ (Harun Farocki, 1996)
Research Design

• Relational ethnography (Desmond 2014) – observations and in-depth interviews

• Observations – dependent on access, but ideally one Jobcentre Plus office, and one Work Programme provider, 6 months

• Interviews – 10 advisers, 10 welfare recipients

• Focus on experience, interaction and intersubjective understanding. What occurs between advisers and claimants?

• BUT ..... need to be flexible with the design, follow all leads, and adapt to the field.
Access is structured by the field – it reflects its terrain and topography, which is to say, its relations of power, and the position of the researcher in relation to the researched (Duke 2002; Reeves 2010)

...from ‘field’ to desk and back again (almost).
References

- **Farocki, H. (1996).** *The Interview.* Germany.
- **Wiseman, F. (1975).** *Welfare.* Zipporah Films, USA.