



# Welfare Conditionality

SANCTIONS, SUPPORT AND  
BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

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# 'Behaviour change' in action

From 'field' to desk and back again



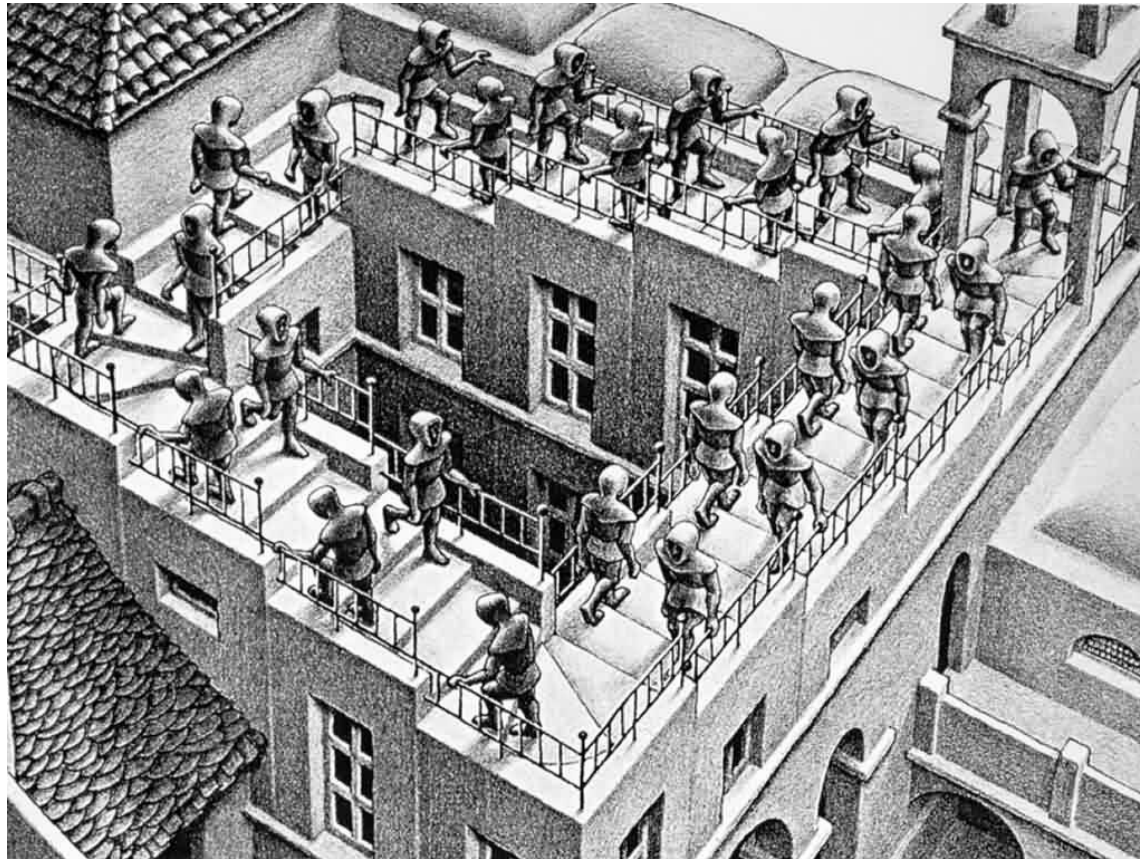
This list was a very simple thing, a checklist, something to be worked down with a highlighter and Biro, but it also seemed to refer to something unimaginably complex - a whole world of lives and troubles and situations about which I knew next to nothing.



Stills from 'Welfare' (Frederick Wiseman, 1975)



# 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 (through a glass, darkly)



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).

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