

# STUDENTS WHO BOUNCE BACK

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This project is an in-depth exploration of BU student carers' lives, with special emphasis on the development of *resilience* among this group, and the degree to which it is scaffolded by institutional support.

The research is underpinned by the concept of *psychosocial scaffoldings*, actions and structures that support development at the individual and social levels, underscoring the supportive role that people and institutions play in the "healthy constitution of the human subject, in the origins of joint action and shared intentionality, as well as in making and sustaining community" (Jovchelovitch & Priego-Hernández, 2013: 185-6).

## AIMS

- ✓ To explore the **life experience** of student carers at BU and the impact of caring in their learning experiences.
- ✓ To determine, in co-production with students, the main **motivations and expectations** of their **university experience**, and their contact with the different support mechanisms in place at BU.
- ✓ To contribute with empirical data to the development of the concept of **psychosocial scaffoldings** as enablers of resilience (or the ability to 'bounce back').
- ✓ To contribute to wider debates and developments about the **learning experience** of student carers in the HE sector.

## METHODS

- ✓ **Photo diaries** over a month. Participants are taking "a picture a day" that best represents their daily experiences. These images will add a temporal and visual dimension to the research, and will serve as prompts for one-to-one interviews.
- ✓ **Visually-elicited in-depth interviews** to tap into students' motivations to come to university and the support they have received throughout.
- ✓ **2-hour workshop**. This activity will have a threefold aim: 1) exploring access to Bursary pilot and financial support at BU; 2) communicative validation; 3) selecting a photograph for an exhibition.
- ✓ **In-depth interviews** with members of **staff**.