

Critical perspectives on creative and participatory research methods

29th and 30th September 2015

Venue: University of Bristol (rooms TBC)

This event is designed as a two-day workshop for doctoral researchers who are already using or have decided to use creative research methods drawn from visual, arts-based, performative, participatory and narrative forms. The focus will be on providing expert input from across the SWDTC institutions in order to:

1. Provide hands-on workshop experience of how to use particular methods and how to analyse data that emerge;
2. Develop networks across the SWDTC of doctoral researchers and academic staff who are experienced in creative methods in order to build confidence in researchers to better articulate and justify approaches and to share methodological expertise in an emergent community of practice;
3. Provide reflective spaces for doctoral researchers supported by academic staff to consider utility, efficacy and ways of judging rigour and value of creative methods in research;
4. Offer critical theoretical perspectives on creative methods that extend doctoral researchers' abilities to narrate and justify their choice of methods.

Academics from across the SWDTC will co-facilitate sessions with a practicing artist in order to explore real-life use of creative methods and offer juxtaposed experiences of their use and critiques. The 2-days are designed according to a mixed delivery approach combining theoretical lecture inputs, co-facilitated hands on workshops in methods and analysis and reflective learning groups to provide small group discussion at intervals across the two-days. The training will be located within shared values of social justice, participation and emancipation. These values will be explored through theoretical lenses focused on performativity, embodiment, multi-modality and voice. Pedagogically we will also be informed by concepts of risk (in terms of risks associated for researchers engaged in these methods), reflection and reflexivity and critical engagement.

Programme

Day 1 29th September

- 9.30-10 Arrive and registration
- 10-10.30 *Introduction: Why creative and participatory methods and what are the challenges? (Debbie Watson/ Jill Porter/ Sandy Allan)*
- 10.30-11.15 *An artist's story (Jill Carter)*
- 11.15-11.45 Coffee break
- 11.45-1.15 Parallel workshops:
Objects and memory in research (Jill Carter)

- Emotions in PAR (Helen Manchester)*
- 1.15-2 Lunch
- 2-3 Reflection groups (6 small groups each led by academic/ artist)
- 3-4.30 Parallel workshops:
- Artefacts in interviews (Helen Knowler)*
- Metaphor and making identity models (Debbie Watson and Nicola Ingram)*
- 4.30-5 Tea and final reflections

Day 2 30th September

- 9.30-10.30 Reflection groups
- 10.30-11.30 *Fictionalised representations (Sheila Trahar and Malcolm Reed)*
- 11.30-12 Coffee
- 12-1.30 Parallel workshops:
- Photo voice and methods (Helen Manchester and Sandy Allan)*
- Dolls in research (Jill Carter)*
- 1.30-2.15 Lunch
- 2.15-3.45 Parallel workshops:
- Creative and/or participatory approaches to representing research data (Sandy Allan and Martin Levinson)*
- Digital technologies for creative and emancipatory approaches (Sue Timmis)*
- 3.45-4 Tea break
- 4 -5 Reflection groups and then come together for final thoughts

Further information please contact: Dr Debbie Watson Debbie.watson@bristol.ac.uk

To book a place please email: Debbie.watson@bristol.ac.uk

This is an advanced level training opportunity so it is expected that you already have some background in this methodological area in order to participate. Please explain in your email what experience you already have in these approaches and how you are either already using these methods or plan to use them so that we can tailor the sessions accordingly. We also will prioritise participants who can attend BOTH days.