

Stream: Pedagogic Research

Submission title:

'Small stories' and 'micro dramas' – developing existing analytical frameworks and arriving at new visual methodologies

Presenter:

Connie Mcluckie

This session will detail some of the methodological challenges of working with visual data as part of my PhD research. It will appeal to those who might need reassurance that educational research is complex, messy and frustrating. It might also further your understanding of how to use visual methodologies, but that will depend on how coherent the presentation is.....

What am I doing? A question I often ask myself

My study is concerned with the ways in which student midwives construct and perform their professional identities and how these are implicated in professional learning and practice. It aims to explore the tensions between those identities of midwives imagined and represented in professional and educational policy and those 'real-life' midwives' identities; identities that are constructed and performed, emerging in and through the practices of professional learning. The purpose of which is to provide a new perspective from which to approach improvements to policy, education and practice.

Drawing from the theoretical perspectives of discourse, narrative and visual analysis, my questions ask:

1. How are student midwives represented in the discourses of policy, professionalism and learning?
2. How do student midwives position themselves, and how are they positioned, in relation to these discourses?
3. In what ways are these positions implicated in the construction and performance of identities?
4. How can visual methods contribute towards the development of small story analysis?

The presentation will provide a brief summary of the approaches used to address RQ's 1,2 & 3. When it came to RQ 4, I struggled to find an appropriate visual methodology. As a result I will detail the process of developing existing analytical frameworks in order to arrive at my own.

What will you learn?

- A little bit about discourse analysis using bits of Foucault that Stuart Hall (2013) put together. RQ 1
- A little bit about 'positioning' theory proposed by Davies & Harré (1990). RQ 2&3
- A bigger bit about what Bamberg and Georgakopoulou (2008) tell us a 'small-story' is. RQ 2&3
- Something Connie Mcluckie made up that will tell you what a 'micro-drama' is. RQ 4

Why will it be useful?

1. It might encourage you to think about using visual methodologies.
2. It might encourage you to think about 'tinkering' with bits of methodologies to explore your own research questions.
3. It will demonstrate ways in which hand-held technologies and applications can be used to enhance visual data collection and analysis.

References:

Bamberg, M., & Georgakopoulou, A. (2008). Small stories as a new perspective in narrative and identity analysis. *Text & Talk-an Interdisciplinary Journal of Language, Discourse Communication Studies*, 28(3), 377-396.

Davies, B. H., R. (1990). Positioning: The discursive production of selves. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 20(1), 43-63. doi:10.1111/j.1468-5914.1990.tb00174.x

Hall, S., Evans, J., & Nixon, S. (2013). *Representation* edited by Stuart Hall, Jessie Evans and Sean Nixon. London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Milton Keynes, U.K.: Sage Publications; Open University.