Arts-Informed Research Methods in the Social Sciences

1.00-5.00pm, 26 November, 2014
Location TBA

Course Organiser: Alette Willis, PhD
School of Health in Social Science
Doorway 6, Old Medical School, Teviot Place
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Course Outline

This interdisciplinary course will provide a critical introduction to the use of arts-informed methods in social science research. It will provide students with an introduction to some of the theoretical foundations for this type of work and to specific issues that may arise through the use of arts-informed methods, including ethical issues and questions around analyzing and presenting the resulting data. Students will have the opportunity to explore arts-informed methods in relation to their own research interests and dissertation plans.

About the Course Organiser

Alette Willis, PhD, is a Chancellor’s Fellow in the School of Health in Social Science. Her research focuses on the use of narrative in everyday decision making and in the use of creative narrative practices in knowledge exchange activities. Besides being an academic, she is also an award-winning children’s author and a storyteller.

Aims

- To introduce students to the use of research methods that are informed by creative, artistic practices
- To increase students' capacity to analyze how arts-informed methods relate to different ontological orientations
- To critically appraise the epistemological advantages and limitations of arts-informed methods
- To introduce students to the debates surrounding the use of arts-informed methods in social science
research

• To provide an opportunity for students to explore the possibility of using arts-informed methods in their own social scientific research

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

• Critically evaluate the use of arts-informed practices in social science research
• make an informed choice as to whether arts-informed methods are appropriate to their ontological orientation and research question
• understand the epistemological advantages and disadvantages offered by arts-informed methods
• anticipate and address some of the ethical and logistical issues that can arise in undertaking this kind of research

Required Readings

(please read before the course)


The following chapters from J Gary Knowles and Ardra L Cole, editors, Handbook of the Arts in Qualitative Research (2008):

• Knowles, J Gary and Promislow, Sara. (2008) "Using an Arts Methodology to Create a Thesis or Dissertation", pp. 511-525
• Eisner, Elliot, "Art and Knowledge", pp 3-12.
• Sinding, Christine; Gray, Ross; and Nisker, Jeff (2008) "Ethical Issues and Issues of Ethics" pp. 459-475
Optional Readings


Qualitative Inquiry Journal. This is one of the main social science journals that publishes creative academic work.

Denzin, Norman K and Yvonna S Lincoln (Eds) (2011) The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, 4th Edition. Sage Publications. This book covers a huge range of research methods, take a browse through and see where it leads you...

The following optional readings are arranged according to methodological approach:

Poetic Methods


Stenhouse R (2013) Hearing voices: re/presenting the findings of narrative research into patient experience as poems Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing DOI: 10.1111/jpm.12094


Quinlan, Kathleen M. "Writing the First Person Singular." Qualitative Inquiry 19.5 (2013): 405-405.


Film and Dance


Allegranti, Beatrice. "The Politics of Becoming Bodies: Sex, Gender and Intersubjectivity in Motion." The Arts in Psychotherapy (2013). http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aip.2013.05.017


Theatre Methods


Judith Hamera, "Performance Ethnography", pp 317-329 in


Narrative and Creative Writing


Visual Methods


Sound


