



Building Interdisciplinary Bridges Across Cultures

Kylie J Stevenson

Abstract

This presentation shares the practice-led research of one participant, a music artist-researcher, to illustrate how a data-capture tool called a 'Creative River Journey' was applied as a way to 'map the practice' within a music higher degree by research context. The paper reveals some of the rich data concerning practice-led research that this mapping produced. For the purposes of this paper, the participant has been thoroughly de-identified. The case study introduces the 'Creative River Journey' qualitative research project, conducted at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, as part of a PhD program. The project investigates the creative practice of artist-researchers conducting practice-led research in higher degrees. In this one exemplar of the Creative River Journey data capture tool, the experience of the musician-researcher is made evident as she traverses the various bends and rapids of the journey to completing her PhD by research in her creative discipline, music. The tool is an adaptation of Pam Burnard's "Rivers of Musical Experience" developed in its original research context for "mapping the critical phases that mark times of change and choosing" for music learners and music education students. My overall methodological approach in this research is a/r/tography in which I explore the multiple concepts of arts, research and teaching both in my role as research initiator and in the subject matter of this study: arts practice, practice-led research and artist-researcher education. Within that methodological approach I utilise traditional qualitative data collection methods such as interviewing and focus groups, as well as creative methodologies such as poetic inquiry, alongside the development of the Creative River Journey data capture tool. In conducting the project, I am particularly driven by my deep interest in practice-led research and in finding meaningful methodologies for higher degree practice-led artist-researchers.

Bio

Kylie Stevenson is researcher at Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Western Australia where she is engaged in a number of research projects, including her own PhD research and three Australia Research Council funded projects: Parents and Peers, about teenagers and social media; Toddlers and Tablets, a partner project between ECU, London School of Economics and Dublin Institute of Technology, about how children age 0-5 use tablet technology; and industry partner research with St Vincent de Paul about intergenerational welfare dependency. In addition, Kylie is a doctoral candidate on a project of her own design, 'Creative River Journeys': case studies of creative arts researchers at ECU. Kylie has an MPhil in Arts, Creativities, Education and Culture (ACEC) from the University of Cambridge, a Masters of Education from the University of Melbourne, and a Masters of Creative

Writing from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Kylie remains a qualified and registered secondary teacher, though now lectures at ECU in Creative Thinking.