



Rashida Murphy and Kylie Stevenson

Abstract

This paper arises from the intersection of two research projects conducted at Edith Cowan University (ECU), firstly the practice-led PhD research by creative writer and researcher Dr Rashida Murphy, awarded her PhD in 2015, and the qualitative ECU PhD study of practice-led artist-researchers by Kylie Stevenson, due for completion in 2015 and in which Murphy was a participant. This paper takes two perspectives, an insider's view and an outsider's view, in order to construct a narrative of practice about Murphy's PhD research. This stance echoes Siobhan Murphy's (no relation) assertion that: Becoming a narrator of one's practice entails a productive tension between being inside and outside the practice at the same time. It encourages an oscillation between immersion in and reflection on practice that is useful when taking one's art-making into a research context. The insider view sees Rashida Murphy document her research investigating the experiences of women from India and Iran who migrated to Australia which resulted in her exegesis *Monsters and Memories* and her highly regarded, soon to be published creative component, the novel *The Historian's Daughter*. This insider view will discuss how Murphy exploited the potential of practice-led research to generate "personally situated knowledge" both about her migrant women subjects and her own writing practice. The outsider's view by Kylie Stevenson will illustrate how this knowledge can be conceptualised as a "narrative of practice" co-constructed through reflective practice with Murphy in Stevenson's project "Creative River Journeys" and how it can serve as a new way of modelling knowledge in practice-led research. However, both authors acknowledge that these terms – insider and outsider – are used as a way to delineate sections in the presentation.

Bio

Rashida Murphy is a writer and researcher with a PhD in Writing from Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Western Australia. Her socio-historical research into first generation immigrant women's identity in Australia has resulted in her securing a publisher for the creative work that underpinned this research. She was also shortlisted for the Dundee International Book Prize in 2015. Rashida has a Masters in English Literature as well as a Masters in Creative Writing from ECU. She is an ESL teacher by trade and currently co-edits two online university-based literary journals.

Kylie Stevenson is a 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 0-5 children 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 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.