

Dancing with Nietzsche's Hammer

Creative Methodological Approaches in Higher Education Research

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The Methodological Crisis & Philosophical Response



The Crisis

Conventional approaches fail to capture complexity. Traditional methods miss rich human experience and subtle power dynamics.



Nietzschean Principles

Übermensch: Self-overcoming traditional research identity.

Amor fati: Embracing complexity.

Eternal recurrence: Understanding persistent institutional patterns.

Creative Vignettes as Methodological Innovation

The place where it's happening always centres on the stomach, growling and gurgling, they swell in, as if from nowhere. The clinking of china and cutlery disguises the chatter within the coffee shop.

Multiple Perspectives

Vignettes capture simultaneous viewpoints, enriching research understanding beyond singular narratives.

Environmental Context

Spatial and sensory elements become integral to research data, not peripheral factors.

Power Dynamics

Subtle relational forces emerge through creative storytelling in ways traditional methods miss.



Reimagining Validity and Representation



Redefined Validity

Worth, strength, and legitimacy emerge from multiple perspectives. Complexity becomes valuable, not problematic.



Productive Uncertainty

Uncertainty transforms from methodological flaw to generative force. Doubt becomes intellectually fruitful.



Positioned Accounts

All research narratives recognised as partial and positioned. Representation acknowledged as creative interpretation.

Protecting Creativity in Doctoral Research I



Methodological Boldness

Innovation doesn't mean abandoning rigour. Creative approaches can maintain scholarly integrity whilst expanding possibilities.

Balancing innovation with academic expectations requires institutional support and philosophical grounding.



Embodied, Reflexive Practice

Researcher's embodied presence becomes methodologically significant. Professional intuition gains legitimacy within research frameworks.

Reflexivity transforms from procedural requirement to epistemological resource.

Protecting Creativity in Doctoral Research II



Crossing disciplinary boundaries

Creative methodologies thrive at disciplinary intersections.

Practice-based research bridges theory-practice divisions.



Legitimizing multiple ways of knowing

Storytelling and metaphor expand knowledge creation.

Embodied knowledge challenges cognitive-only paradigms.

Reimagining Doctorates for a Complex World

Embracing Complexity

Navigating ambiguity and contradictions with confidence

Inclusive Approaches

Space for different ways of knowing



Creative Skills

Lateral thinking and imaginative problem-solving

Enhanced Impact

Research accessible to diverse audiences

Implications for Research, Supervision and Programmes



Programme Design

Integrating creative approaches into doctoral structures



Supervision

Expanded frameworks for evaluating innovative methodologies



Research Practice

Permission to experiment with methodological creativity

Interdisciplinary creativity requires institutional support. Models for maintaining rigour whilst embracing innovation should be developed.



The Invitation to Dance



Philosophising with a Hammer

Testing soundness while shattering ossified thinking. Nietzsche's approach reveals both fragility and resilience.



Discipline and Freedom

Creative methodologies require structured freedom. Innovation thrives within thoughtful boundaries.



Nurturing Spaces

Doctoral environments where creativity is protected. Safe spaces for methodological experimentation.



Thank You



Possibilities

For creative doctoral methodologies



Questions

And reflections welcome



Inspiration

For your research journey

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