

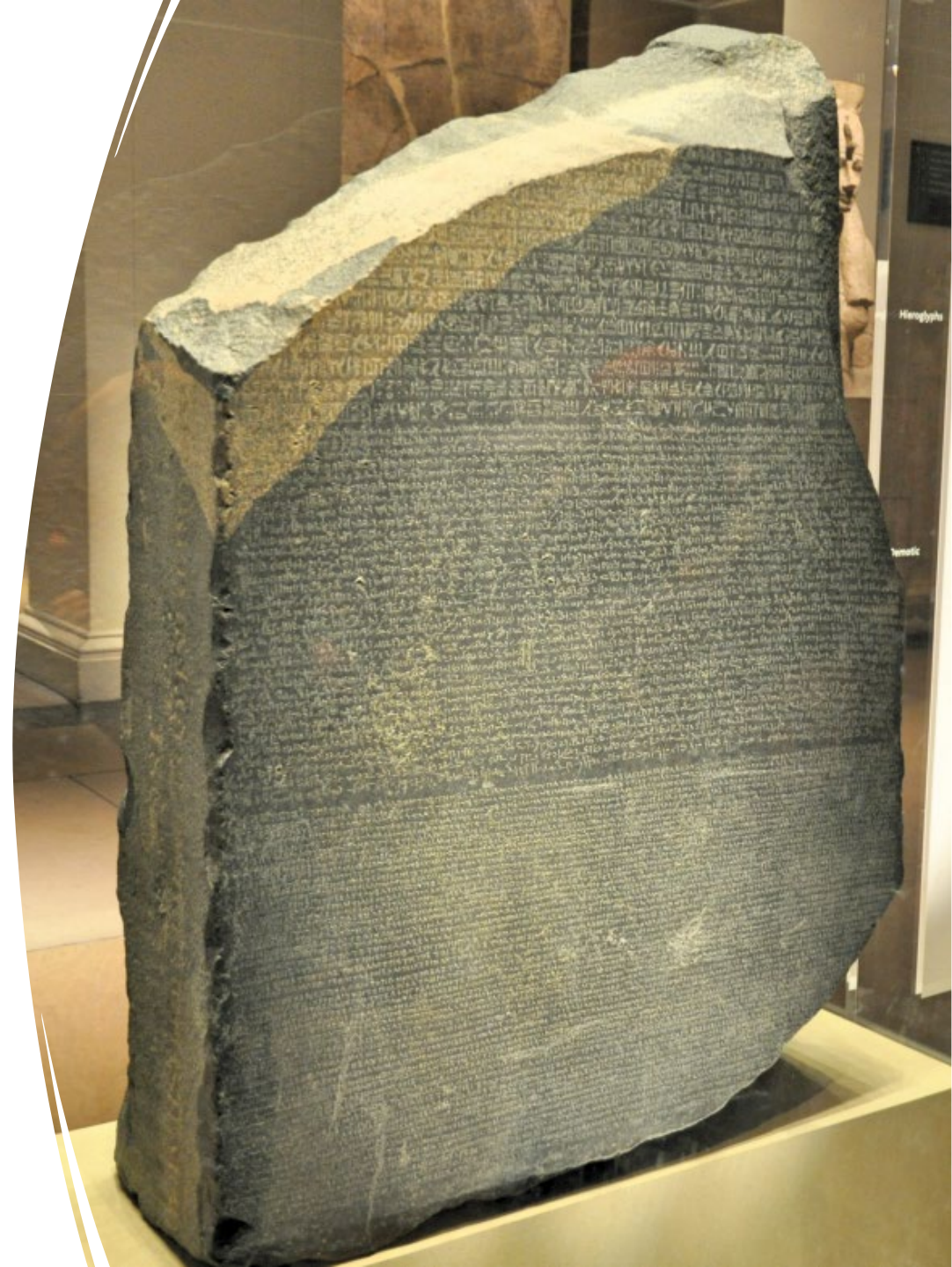
The Hidden Curriculum of creative practice in the doctorate:

learning across disciplines



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Dr Sian Vaughan, 2025



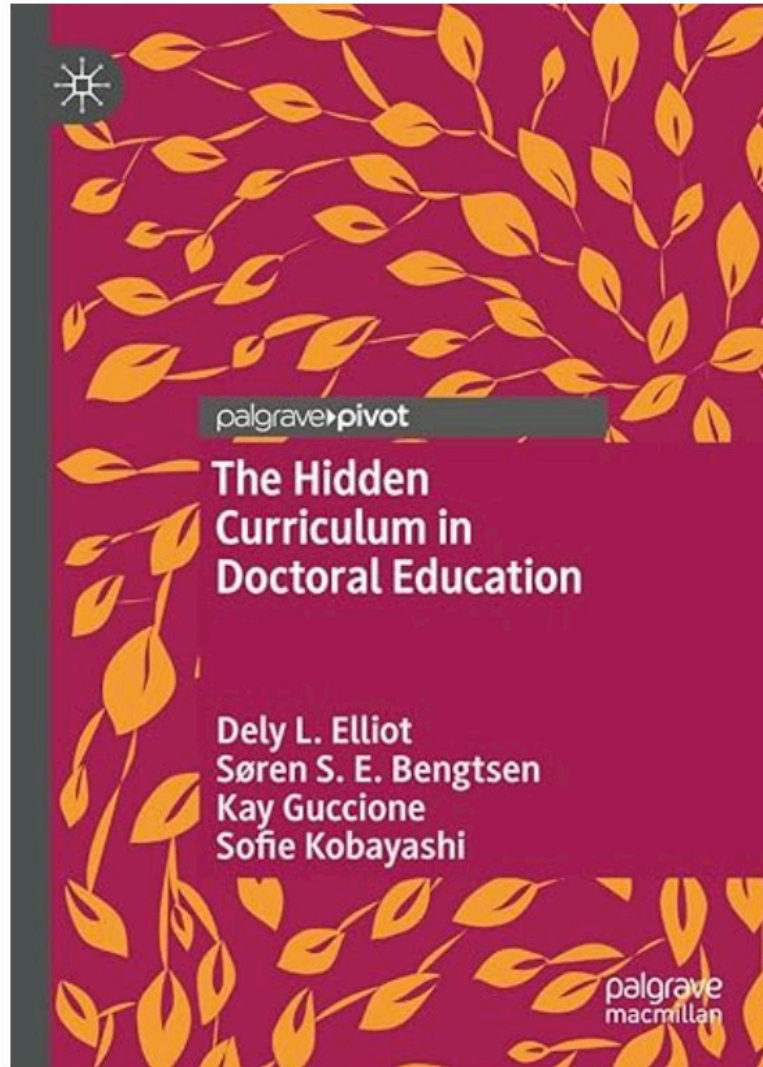


Hidden Curriculum

Philip W. Jackson (1968) *Life In Classrooms*

Paolo Friere (1970) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Ivan Ilch (1971) *Deschooling Society*



“the unofficial (and informal) channels of genuine learning typically acquired by doctoral students independent of the physical and metaphorical walls of academia.”

(Elliot *et al*, 2020, 4)

Hidden
Curriculum

Creative Practice and Doctoral
Education

Practice as research

Practice-based research

Practice-led research

Artistic research

Practice research

Practice through research

Research creation

Critical-creative research

Arts-based methods

Creative methods

Hidden
Curriculum

False binaries and nuances in
naming

“At an Arts-Based Educational Research conference, the question of quality was asked over and over again ... To observe heartfelt efforts by researchers with little or no background in the art being demonstrated was sometimes painful, especially to those who worked in, were trained in, knew, and loved the art being demonstrated.”

(Pirto, 2002, 443)

Hidden
Curriculum

Ethical practices and review

“For many creative practice research students, the process of securing ethics approval can feel opaque, frustrating and obstructive. Though few question the importance of sound ethical conduct in the pursuit of their research aims, they may perceive the process itself as a series of institutional hoops to jump through rather than an opportunity to engage more deeply with ethical practice.”

(Couzens *et al*, 2025 ,1)

“Applications this complex, which are often creative arts projects, then generate a larger amount of documentation. That ranges from more documents relating to the various dimensions of the project for the IRB to review, but also more information detailing the creative arts project itself. It seems as though students think, “Oh, you are not going to understand creative writing so I will provide you with four pages about creative writing and research.” They can be really large documents – 30, 40, 50 pages.”

(Couzens et al, 2025,7)

“missing some of the specific language used in the ethics application process that contributed to this problem, with questions often referring to specific aspects of medical research in ways that were not necessarily apparent to those lacking disciplinary knowledge.

(Couzens et al, 2025)

“ You end up in a catch-22 situation; trying to satisfy the ethics approval up front requirement while you are actually just second-guessing things because some knowledge can only be learned through embarking on a creative process.”

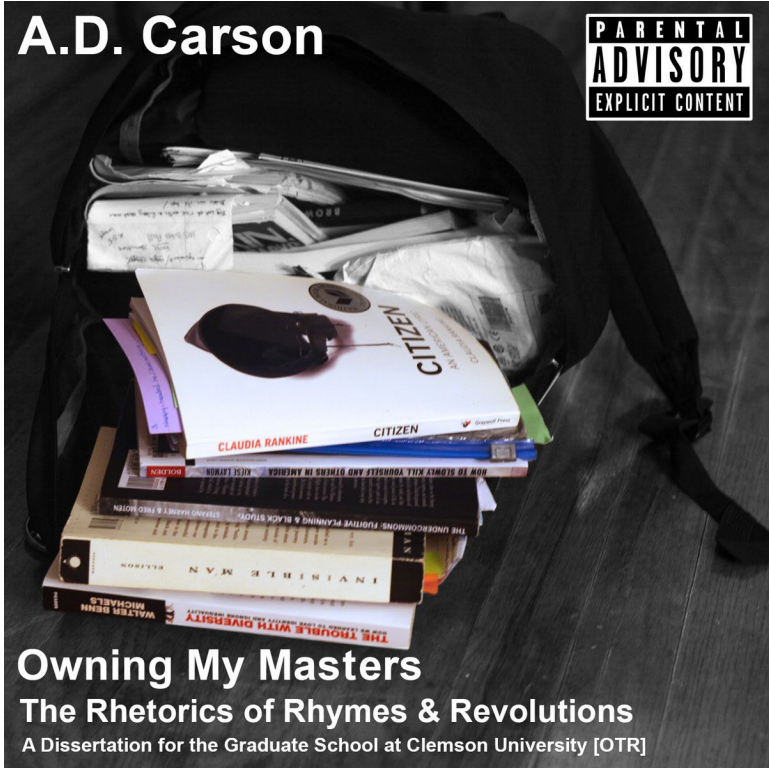
(Couzens et al, 2025)

Hidden
Curriculum

Possible submission formats

A.D. Carson

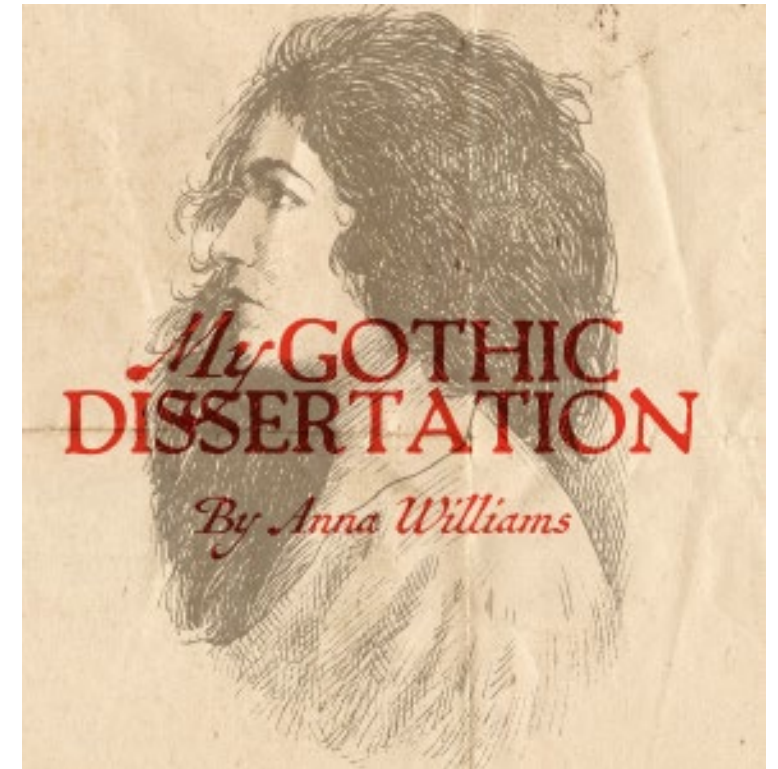
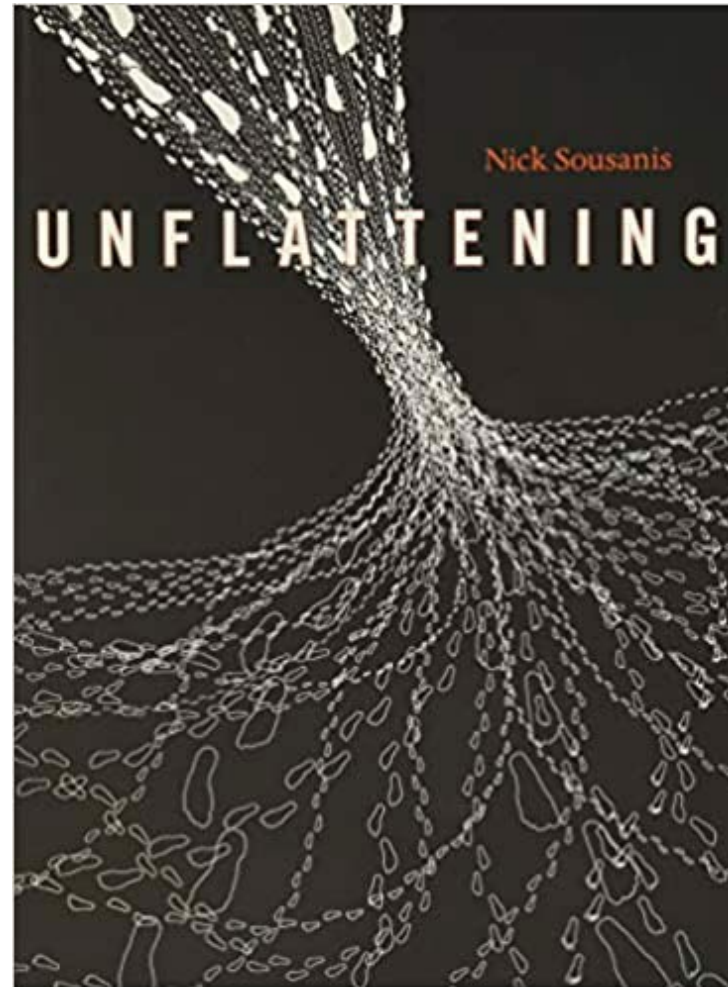
PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT



Owning My Masters

The Rhetorics of Rhymes & Revolutions

A Dissertation for the Graduate School at Clemson University [OTR]



“who is in a position to access the outcomes of research inquiries conducted in and through art in ways that are meaningful and generative?”

(O'Donoghue 2009, 365)

DISSERTATION

A theoretical appraisal and artistic response to Soviet monumental sculpture.

Gilhespy, Tom.; University of Central England in Birmingham.

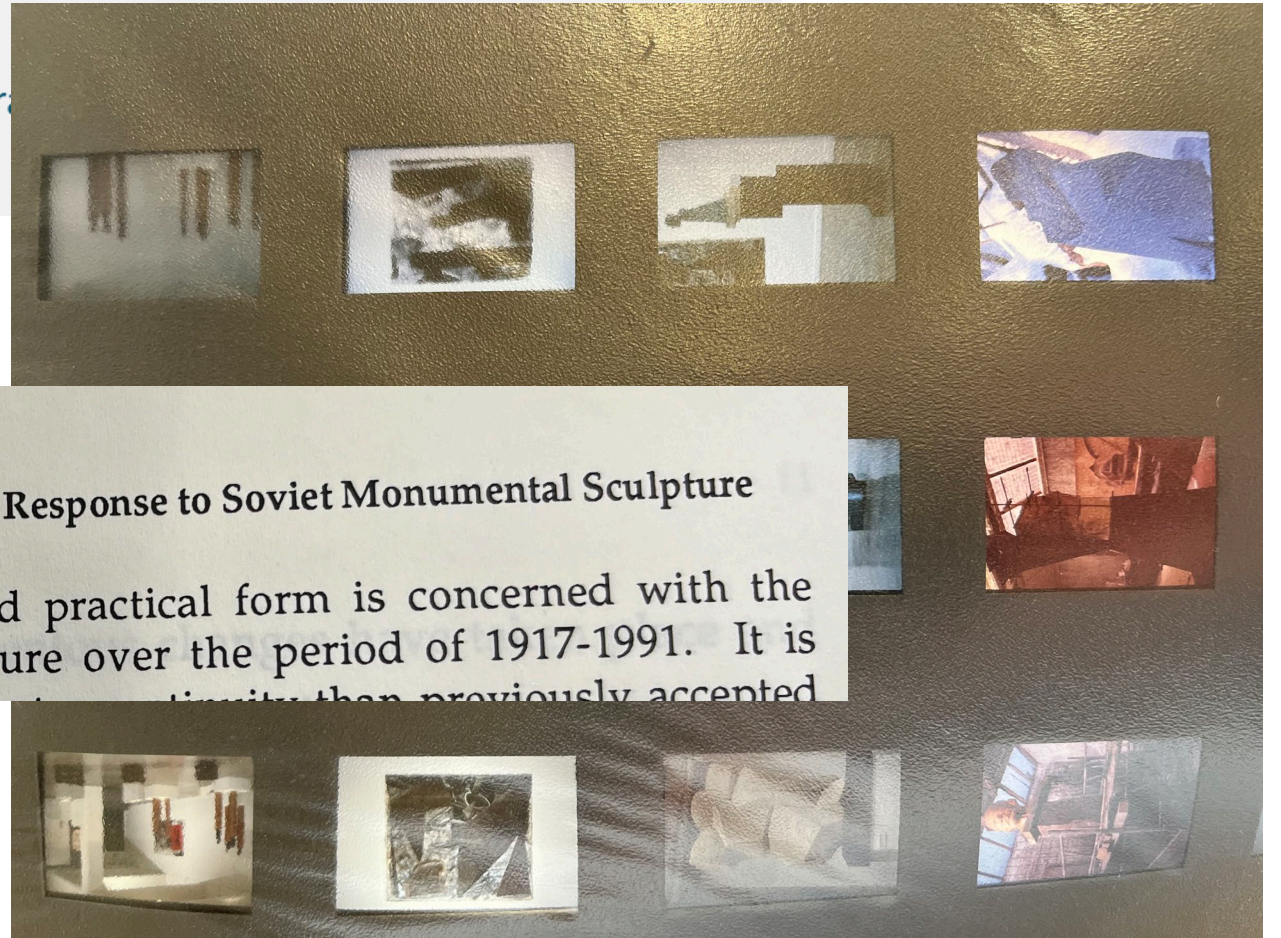
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ABSTRACT A Theoretical Appraisal and Artistic Response to Soviet Monumental Sculpture

Tom Gilhespy

This submission in both its theoretical and practical form is concerned with the development of Soviet Monumental sculpture over the period of 1917-1991. It is




“We have felt firsthand, however, the friction present when creativity rubs against established academic expectancy and the upholding of quality and standards.”

(Curtis and Husband, 2025)

Conclusions

- Assumed and/or hidden?
- Who are the learners?
- Informal and formal

Hidden Curriculum?



- Application
- Researcher identities
- Supervision
- Examination
- “Academic” writing
- Resourcing practice

Conclusions

- Assumed and/or hidden?
- “new to them”
- Sharing across disciplines
- Avoid re-inventing the wheel
- Reduce emotional labour

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