



Innovations in Creative Research Methods: Insights and Applications

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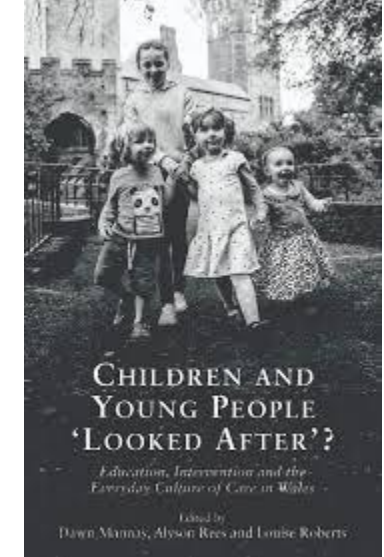
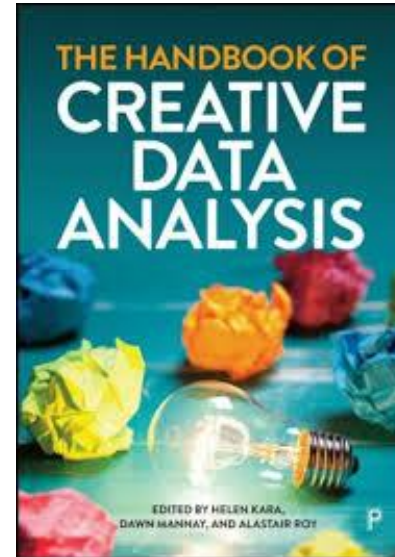
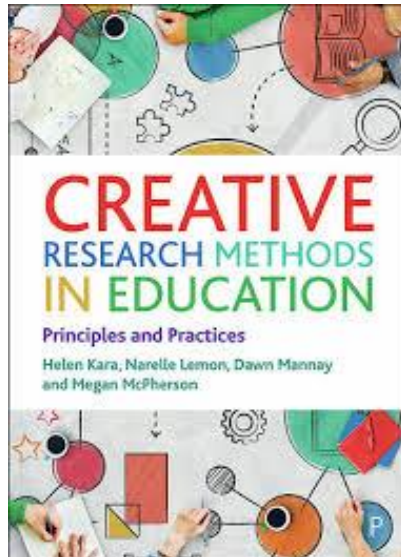
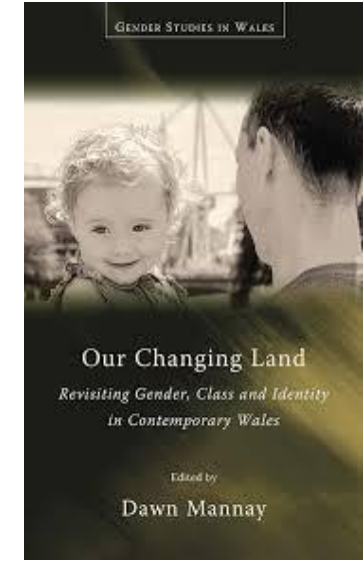
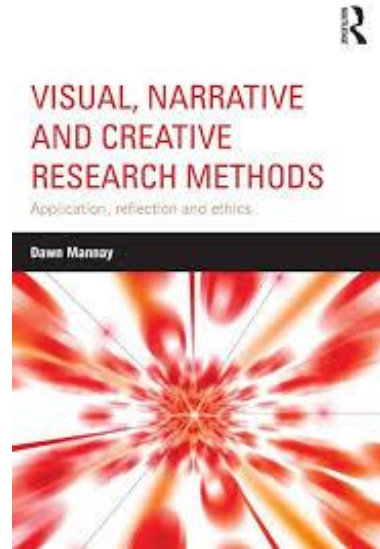
Collaborative Digital Transformation for Social
Inclusion: Innovation, Equity, and Global Lessons

Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia

Outline

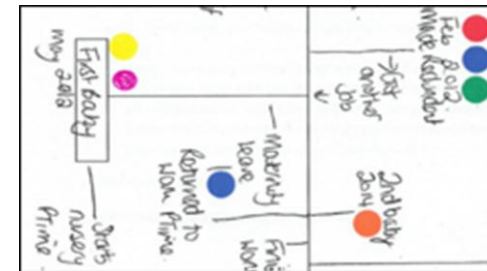
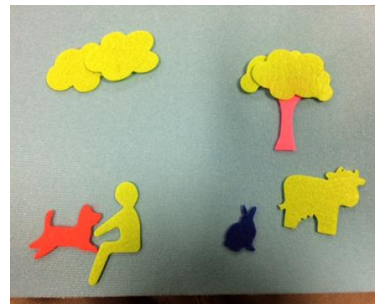
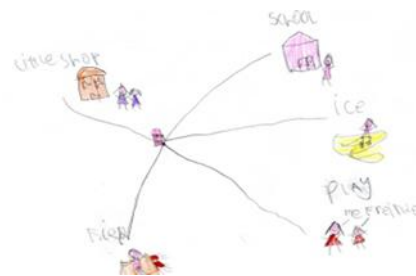
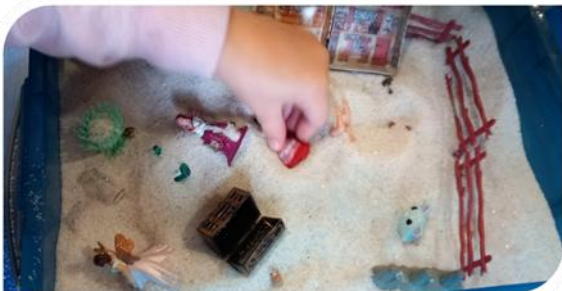
- Thank you
- Connections with creative methods
- Creative methods – without and with the technological
- COVID-19 and reconsidering creativity
- Affordances and inequalities
- Practice innovations and inclusivity
- Where next?

Connections with creative methods and inequalities



Creative data generation – technological?

- Research ‘with’ not ‘on’ participants - participant led
- Mapping, collages, drawings, plasticine, sandboxing, [photo](#), [film](#)
- Engendering a space for empathy and understanding subjectivity
- Fighting familiarity and defamiliarization (Mannay 2010)
- Quietening the researcher voice (Mannay and Turney 2020)
- Avoiding ‘prepackaged questions that have little or no meaning to the person being interviewed’ (Harper 2023, p. 97)

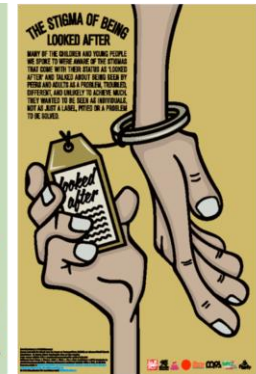


Creative data analysis (Kara et al 2024)

- There are no ‘data analysis fairies’ we can call on to organise our data into ‘a coherent new structure’ that will explain everything (Thorne 2000, p 69).
- Analogue journey -evidence wall (Karen Gray and Emma Lazenby) Collaborative creative analysis (Jess Mannion) Slow stitch hand-made hexagons each participant (Naomi Clarke) Survey data as a graphic novella (Kate Carruthers Thomas) A shared (shamanic) journey (Karen Hammond and Nick Fuller)
- Stuart Neilson and Neil Kenny - ‘Visually mapping the interplay between pandemic interest groups and “the vulnerable” in newspaper accounts, 2018–2022’ - worked with a data set of 29 million words in 34,249 news items. Despite the challenge of this scale of information they took an approach that was exploratory and playful, with the intent of fostering imaginative readings of the data. Word frequencies were examined to investigate variability across times and location, and word embeddings highlighted dominant themes, moving beyond textual and numerical representations, to expose the inner structures of word models and consider which messages were made mainstream and who remained silenced. [Big data, Python and R programs, word frequency, visualizations of word vectors – essential role of digital technologies](#)

Creative Dissemination

- Reports, books, journal articles
- How much impact do they have? Can they negotiate change?
- Much academic dissemination is positioned as passive and designed to accrue the most significant benefits to the researcher, rather than engendering wider value (Groundwater-Smith et al. 2015)
- Important to consider how researchers can mediate 'vigorous research through a creative format to increase impact' (Mannay 2013, p.134)
- Accessible outputs, film, music, websites, social media
- Luci Gorell Barnes, Susan McDonnell, Mannay 2019, Mannay et al 2019



COVID-19 - reconsidering creative data generation

- Walking Tall - (Mannay, Vaughan, Boffey and Wooders 2023)
- Positioned children as experts by experience - dedicated space for children to act as the designers for future projects - how children want to share their views
- Intention work with children - not involve foster carers – but Covid
- Posting activities to children, activity reviews, online interviews with children and foster carers in their own homes, remote children's advisory group and child product testing – serendipity of change



COVID-19 - Affordances and inequalities

- Young people leaving care, practitioners and the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic (Roberts et al 2020; 2021)
- Some new forms of connection
- Digital exclusion, digital divides, differential experiences



Mental Health Support - Digital Practice

- The strengths and challenges of online services and interventions to support the mental health (Mannay et al 2022; Stabler 2023)
- Online wellbeing Apps, online and remote delivery modes for practitioners to engage children and young people – *‘in the comfort of your own home’* - But...
- *‘If a young person decides to switch their camera off.. I can't see them. I can't tell if they're engaged, I can't tell if they're okay’*
- *‘It's a lot easier to hide something... I could lie and say I'm doing really well, when in fact I'm minutes away from hospitalisation’*
- *‘I probably wouldn't want to talk about anything too personal’*
- *‘Don't have internet ... or they don't have mobile devices or laptops... there's a lot of poverty’*

Digital Dangers

- ‘Social media companies employ algorithms... with the primary purpose of keeping users engaged with constant feeds of information for extended periods of time; such engagement results in massive profits for the companies paid by advertisers’ (Costello et al 2023)
- Amanda Taylor-Beswick - Postdigital Creative Research: Working Through The Prenup!
- Digital divides, digital privacy, Automisation, AI decision makers education, health, social work



Conclusion

- Opportunities for creative data generation, analysis and dissemination as well as for challenging inequalities but...
- Whilst digital innovations can be transformative, it is important to continually question their inclusivity, appropriateness and value rather than be caught up in chasing the novel and developing an over reliance on ever changing technological advances



Diolch yn fawr



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