

Art-based Methodologies & Inclusive Practices

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King's College London –

14th November 2022

The session today

- A bit of brainstorming
- Quantitative & Qualitative Research
- Narrative Methodologies
- Posthumanism & New Materialism
- Art-Based Research Methodologies
- Application to Practice
- Discussion



You & Research

- What does the word research mean to you
- Discuss for few minutes with the person next to you or/and fill in the following padlet:

https://kings.padlet.org/donata_puntil/tl7wmokuibkx0txo



RESEARCH

A complex network diagram with numerous blue and grey nodes of varying sizes connected by thin lines, set against a light grey background. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

You & Research

- What does it mean to you doing research in education?
- How you done any formal research?
- Can we do research differently?

Some considerations

- Research could be something personal;
- Research could be small and short;
- Research could focus on "small stories";
- Research as "warm data" rather than "big data";
- Research could be creative;
- Research could be collaborative;
- Research as a powerful democratic & subversive tool.



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

- **Key assumption: human behaviour is **predictable****, cause and subject to both internal pressures (for behaviourist psychologists) and external forces (for positivist sociologists). These aspects can be observed and measured;
- The concern to **measure and quantify** social behaviours in order to explain the **regularities** of such phenomena and the relationship that may be observed between them by matching the sophistication and rigour of the physical sciences in order **to develop general, universal law-like statements** is what the scientific method is all about.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

- **Key assumption: human behaviour is **situated and contextualised****. It can be observed, described and analysed using a variety of different methods;
- A qualitative research focuses upon **context, meaning, culture, history and biography** (not statistical data);
- Qualitative research, as a set of **interpretative practices**, privileges no single methodology over any other.

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

BIG DATA

BIG NUMBERS

OBJECTIVITY

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

DEEP & WARM DATA

SMALL STORIES

POSITIONALITY/VOICE

Qualitative Research

“For us qualitative research is about meaning and **meaning-making**, and viewing these as always context-bound, positioned and situated, and qualitative data analysis is about **‘telling stories’**, about interpreting and creating, not discovering and finding the ‘truth’ that is either ‘out there’ and findable from data. For us, the final analysis is the product of deep and prolonged data immersion, thoughtfulness and reflection, something that is **active and generative.**”

(Braun & Clarke, 2019, p. 591.)

Narrative Research & Auto/ethnography

- Auto/ethnography is an approach **to research and writing** that seeks to describe and systematically analyse (graphy) personal experience (auto) in order to understand cultural experience (ethno). Thus making autoethnography both **a process** and **a product**; (Ellis, Adams, & Bochner, 2011)
- Auto/ethnographers recognize and acknowledge **the myriad of ways a researcher influences research**, and thus this approach treats research as a political, socially-just, and socially-conscious act; (Adams and Holman Jones, 2008);
- Emerged around the 1970-1980s in the Social Sciences; **is concerned with people and their life contexts**, taking into consideration philosophical questions regarding the nature of knowledge, truth, values, and being;
- Since the arrival of **feminist & post-structuralist theories** around the 1970s researchers began to question hegemonic, colonialist assumptions embedded within social science research. This created a political crisis of representation, authority, and objectivity; which, ultimately provided opportunities for researchers to further develop stories, theories, and methodologies that opened up various perspectives and perceptions (e.g. critical cultural, feminist, aesthetic, ethical, etc.) in the social science research canon.

Narrative Research & Auto/ethnography

- The key concept is that **knowledge is situated, not universal and is a dialogical social construct;**
- Autoethnography is a form or method of research that involves **self-observation** and **reflexive investigation** in the context of ethnographic field work and writing;
- It is research, writing, story, and method that connect **the autobiographical and personal to the cultural, social, and political;**
- It uses **a researcher's personal experience** to describe and critique cultural beliefs, practices, and experiences. Acknowledges and values a researcher's relationships with others.... Shows 'people in the process of figuring out what to do, how to live, and the meaning of their struggles;
- "Social life is **messy, uncertain, and emotional**. If our desire to research social life, then we must embrace a research method that, to the best of its/our ability, acknowledges and accommodates "**mess and chaos, uncertainty and emotion** (Adams, 2015).

Posthumanism



**”The posthuman subject is materialist and vitalist, embodied and inter-related...
such a subject is polymorphous and relational”**

(R.Braidotti, *The Posthuman*, 2014, p.192)

Posthumanism



- **Decentering the human**
- **Relational enquiry**
- **Focus on intra-actions**
- **Multiple agents**
- **Vibrant matter**
- **Minor & marginal stories**
- **Not only language & discourse**
- **Embodied Narratives**
- **Feminist Studies**
- **Post-colonial Studies**
- **Post-structuralism**
- **Post-qualitative Methodologies**
- **Art-based Methodologies**
- **Auto-ethnography**
- **Writing as Inquiry**
- **Alternative Narratives**

Posthumanism



”to learn to think-for-yourself-through-thinking-with-others”

(K.Murris, *The Posthuman Child*, 2016, Xiii)

Posthumanism

The background of the slide is a complex network diagram. It consists of a large number of nodes, represented by circles of varying sizes and colors (light blue, dark blue, and white). These nodes are interconnected by a dense web of thin, light-colored lines, creating a complex, interconnected structure that resembles a neural network or a social network. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on connectivity and complexity.

Doing WITH....

Thinking WITH....

Becoming WITH.....

Researching WITH....

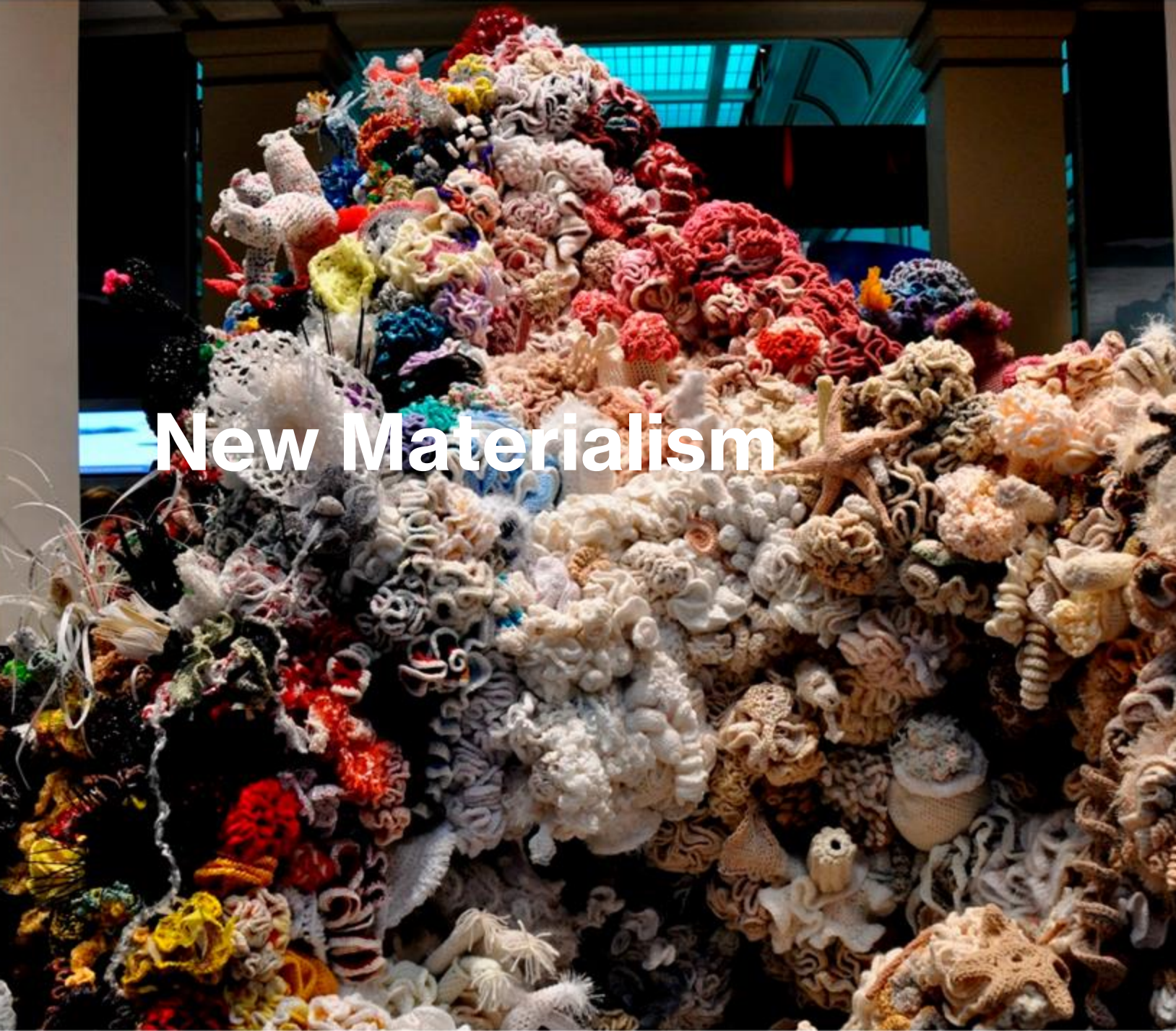
Writing WITH....

Research & Pedagogy



New Materialism

The vital materialism embodied in objects, stories, bodies and artefacts, as Bennett (2010:93) describes it, “*affirms a figure of matter as an active principle, as a universe of lively materiality that is always in various stages of congealment and diffusion, active and creative*” as a flow of continuous becoming.



New Materialism

According to New Materialism philosophy, it is '**matter**' as well as human beings that shape social and political modes of understanding;

Meaning is not only made by participating in a set of social practices but is also impacted by how the **body experiences** this;

New materialism places **the lived reality of the body** as a central concern when exploring the operation of social and political processes.

Art-Based Methodologies (ABR)

- Researchers use art as a tool to do/make research;
 - This involves **the research process** itself;
 - Active research with participants;
 - Research as practice;
 - Conducted by researcher or by creative artists.
- Researchers use art as **a product** to represent data;
 - Creative visualization of data;
 - The focus here is more on a final product rather than the process;
 - This could be done by the researcher or by an artist for example



Creative process

Art-Based Methodologies (ABR)

- Adapts practices and tenets of creative arts;
- Can be used during all phases of research process;
- Integrates critical and epistemological approaches;
- A mode of inquiry, discovery, and theory-building.

“...a set of methodological tools used by qualitative researchers across the disciplines during all phases of social research, including data collection, analysis, interpretation, and representation. These emerging tools adapt the tenets of the creative arts in order to address social research questions in holistic and engaged ways in which theory and practice are intertwined.” (Leavy, 2009)

What kind of art?

- Visual art
- Painting/drawings
- Sculpture
- Digital art
- Graphics
- Writing/poetry
- Film making
- Music/dance
- Etc....



What is its purpose?

- Unique insight into **new knowledge** that might not be accessible by more traditional research methodologies;
- **Embodied** learning/researching; beyond language;
- **Non-linear path** of doing research; work with the unknown and the unexpected;
- The ability of art to connect, **to establish relationships**; small-scale interactions;
- **More accessible, more egalitarian and democratic, more transferable, more political and disruptive** (Leavy, 2017)



**What is the relationship
between these
approaches?**

Some key ideas

Position of not knowing

Relational process

Researcher not as the expert

Dialogical process

Multiple representations

Co-construction of meaning

Narrative as “taking care of”

multidimensionality

**Validation
Recognition
Dignity**

**Ethical dimension:
doing & representing**

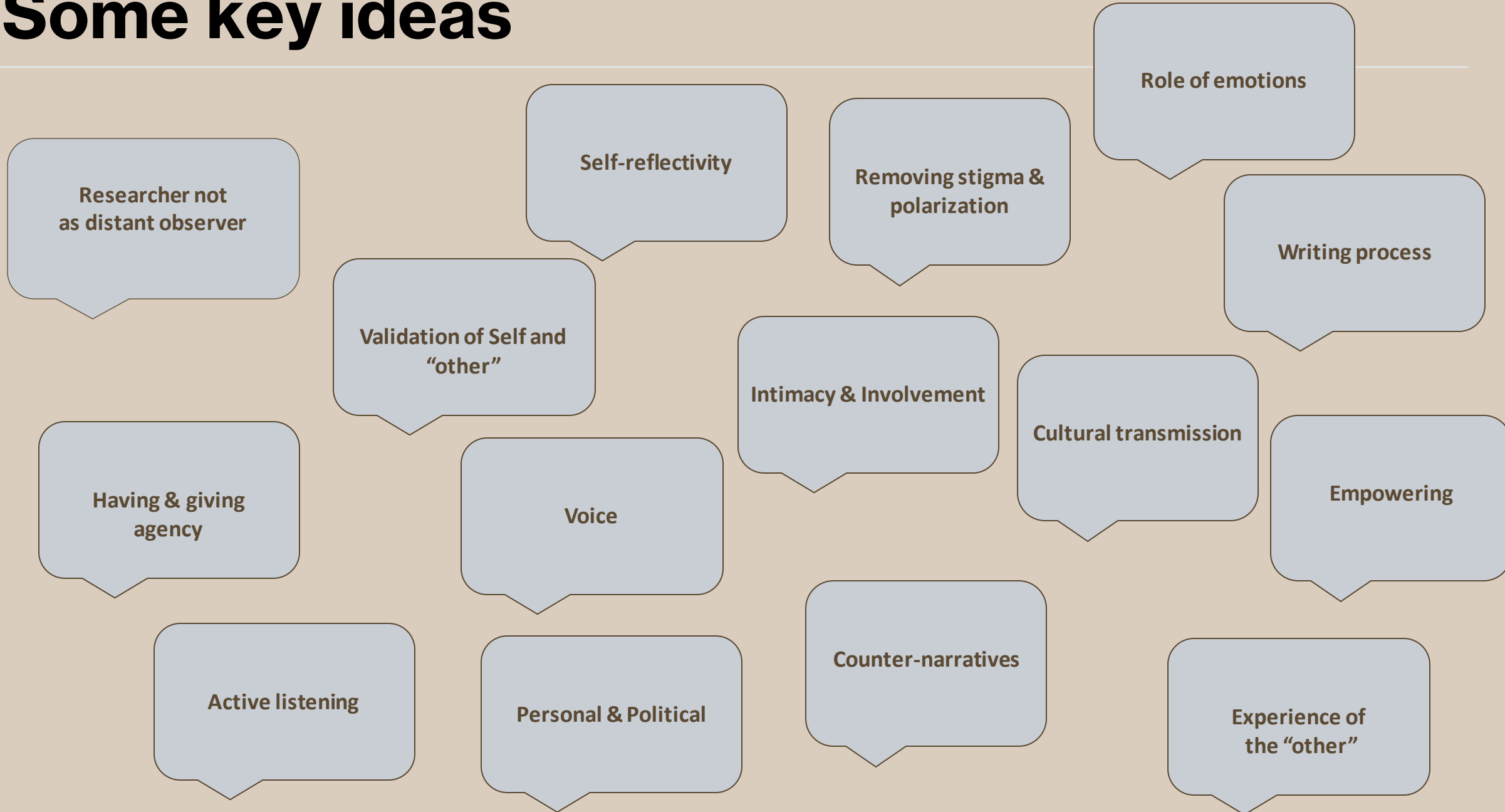
**Narrative as
transformational
“re-doing the past”**

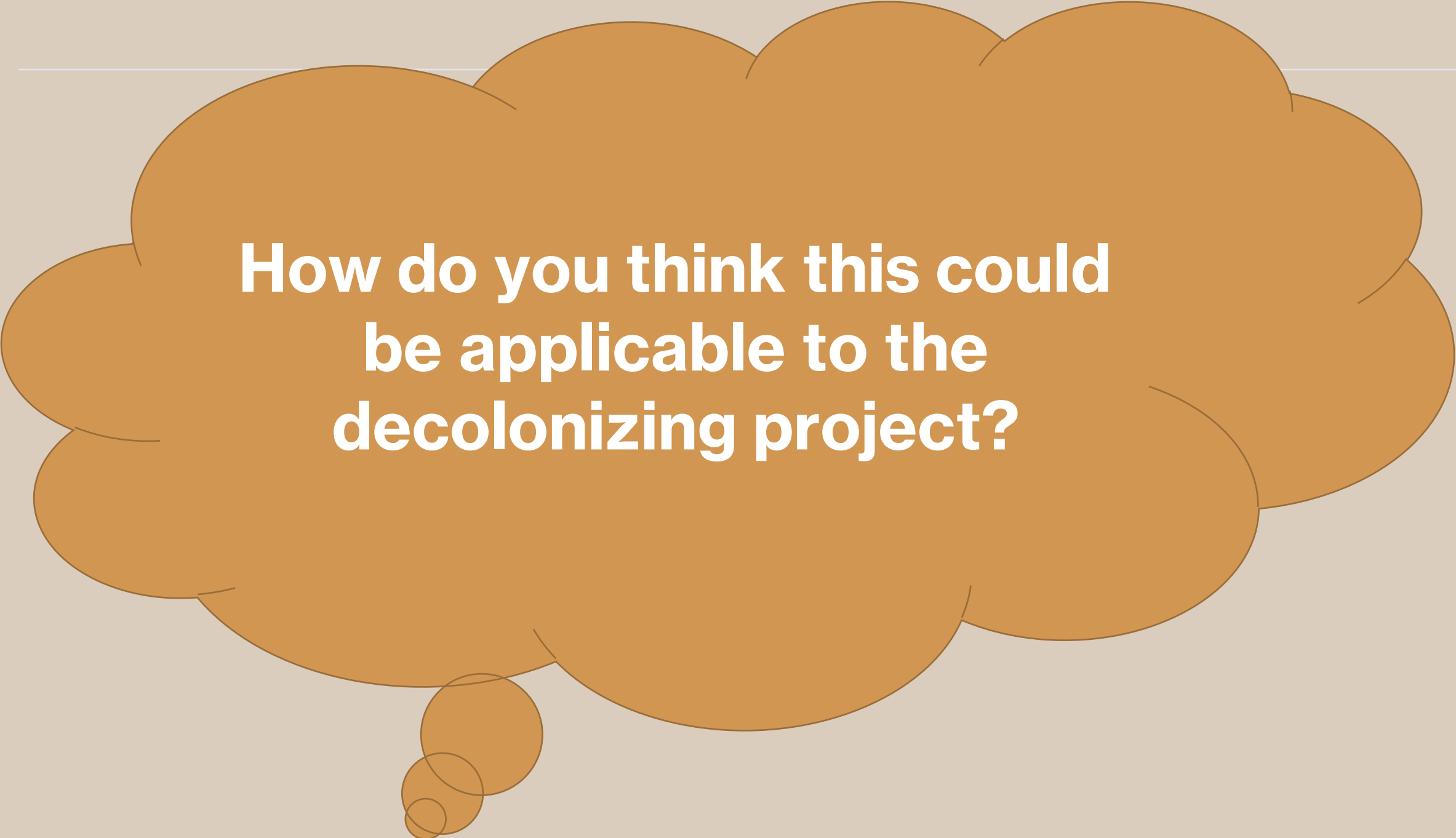
**Vulnerability &
Reciprocity**

Embodied memories

Partnership

Some key ideas





**How do you think this could
be applicable to the
decolonizing project?**



Activity 2

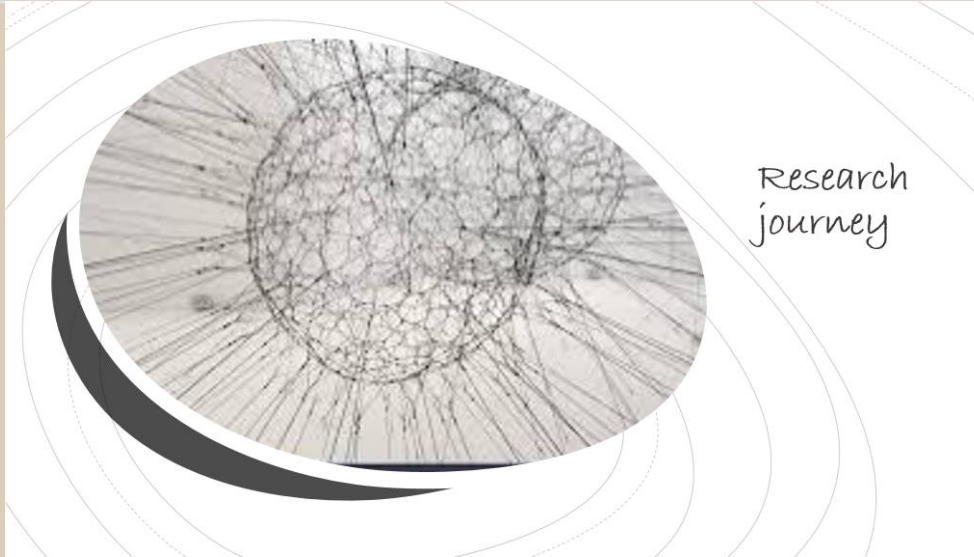
My dear object.....

- Think of **an object** that is very dear to you;
- **Write down** some thoughts about this object;
- **Imagine** having a conversation with the object;
- **Write down** a short dialogue with the object, or a letter, an e-mail with the object.....

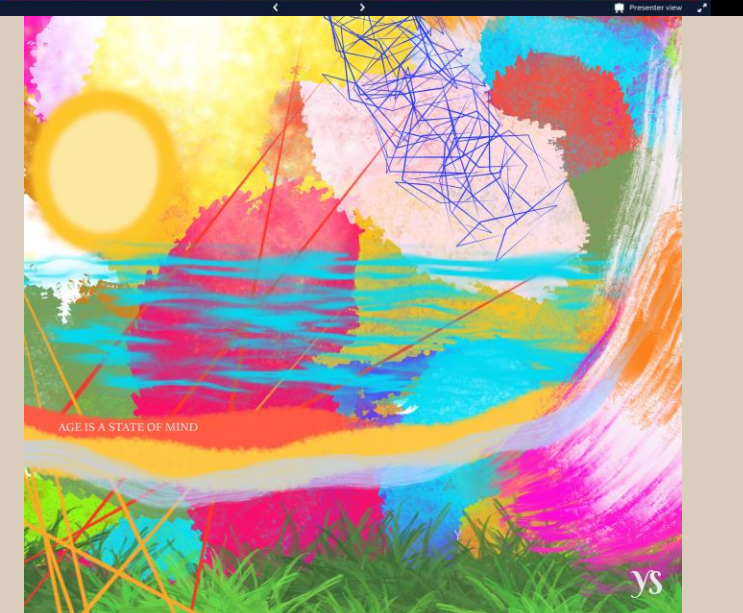
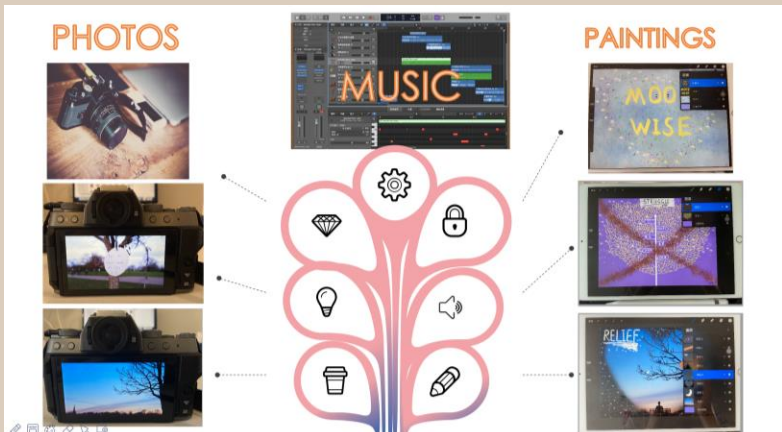
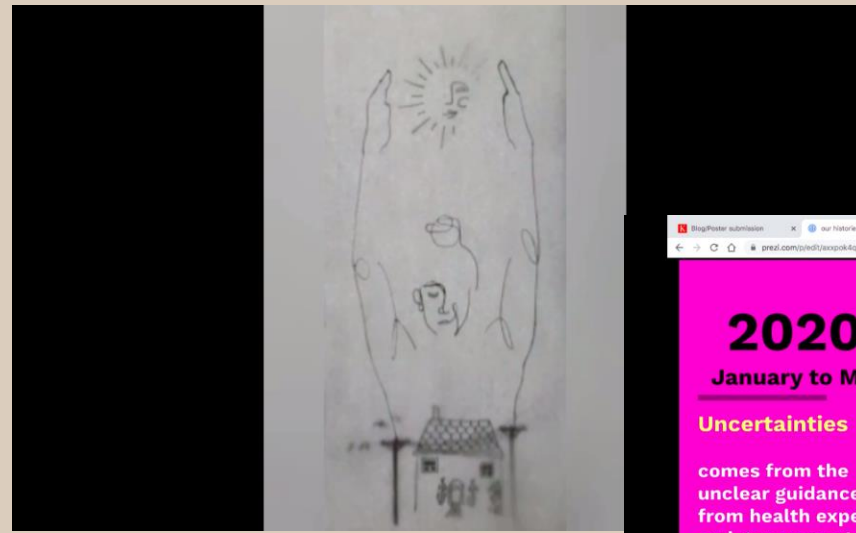
“Dear scarf, I am so happy I found you again while I was putting some order in my wardrobe, I thought I had lost you. You keep me warm, I travelled with you to some distant places, you came with me everywhere, you are part of me, I am so glad we found each other again. You have been given to me by a very special person who meant a lot to me.....we are now re-connected.....”

Some examples

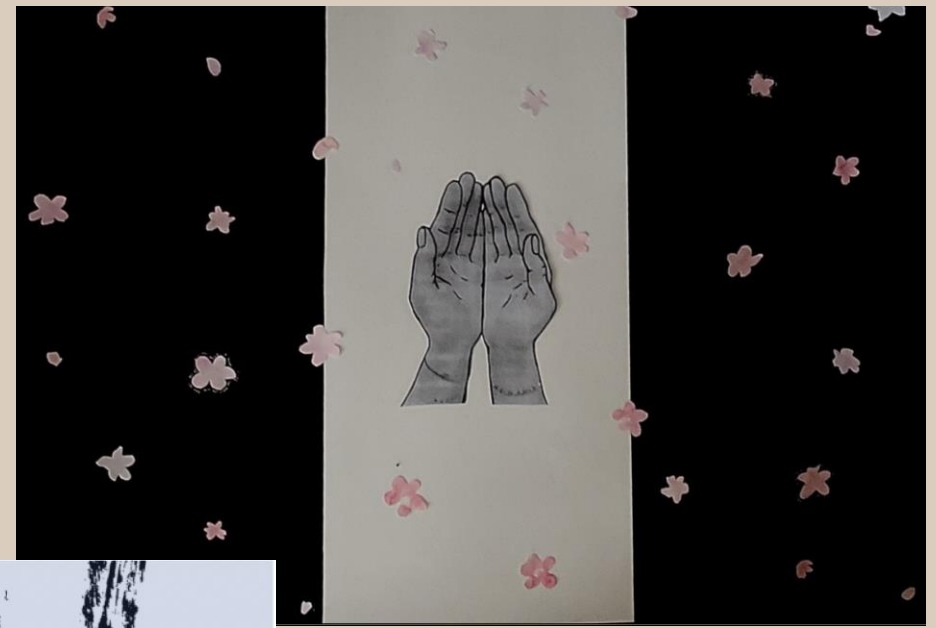
Where
methods
meet
art



Embodied learning

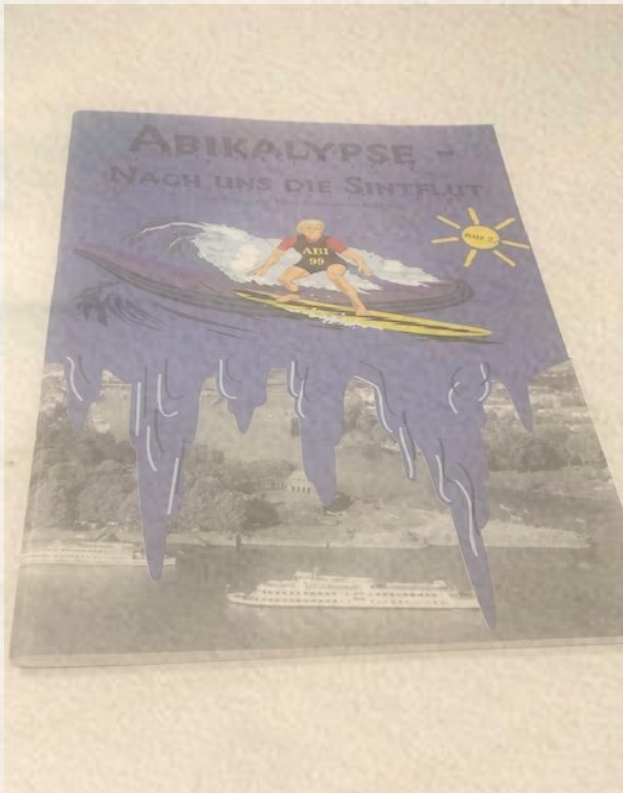
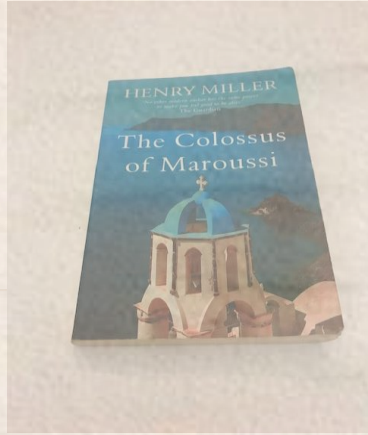


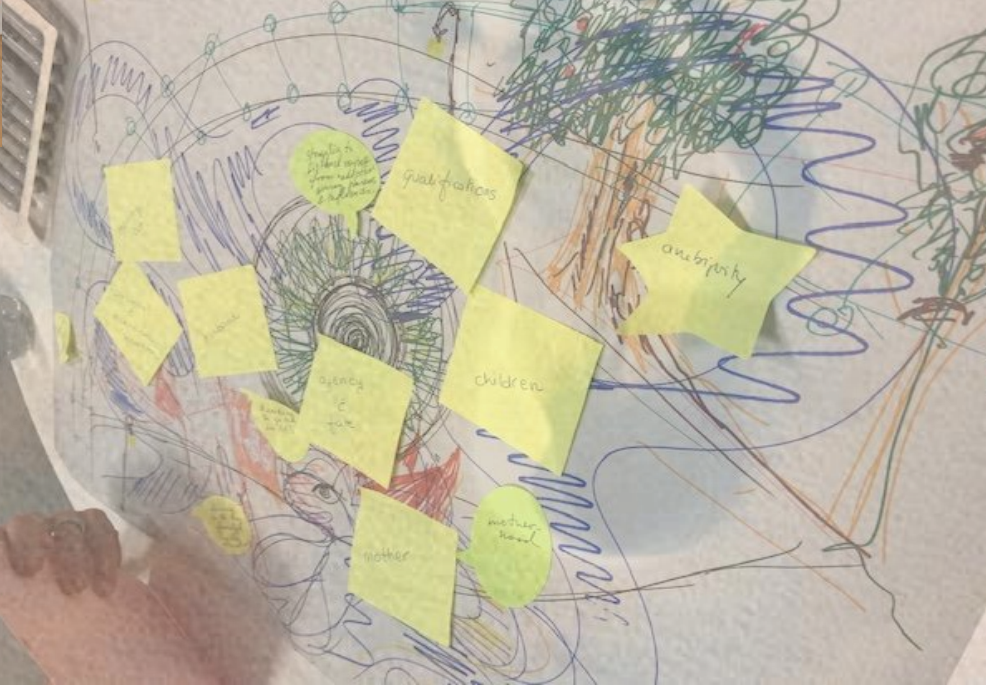
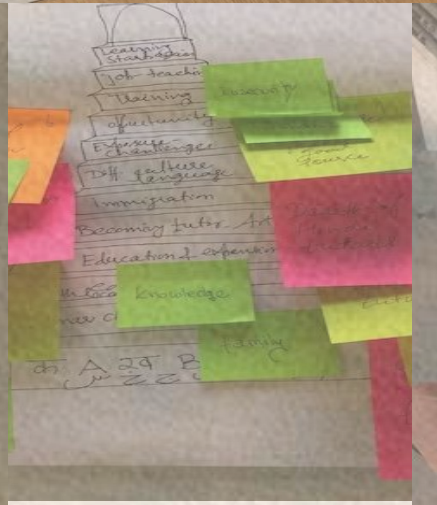
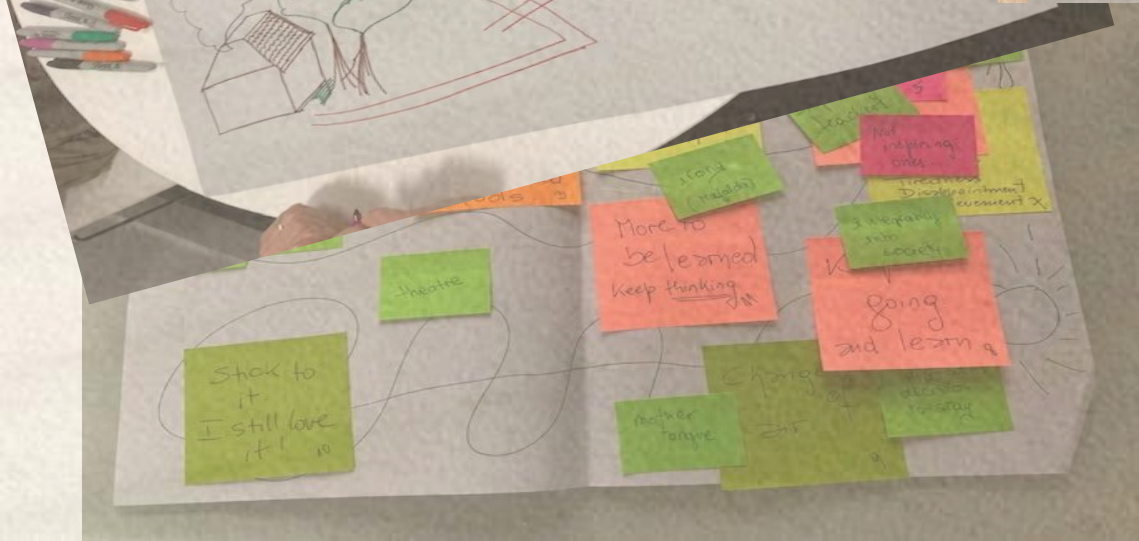
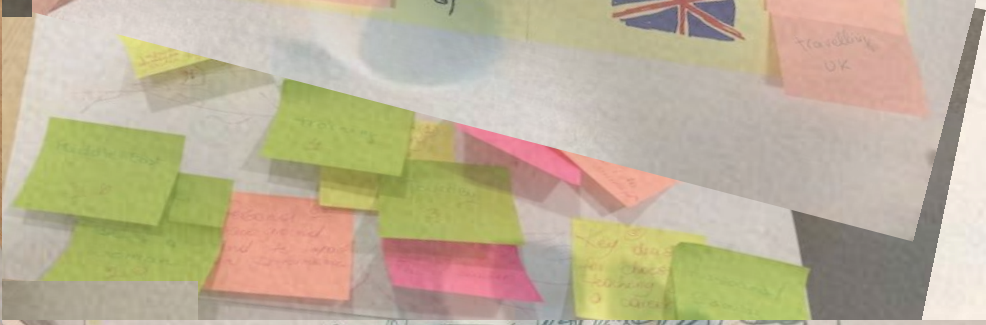
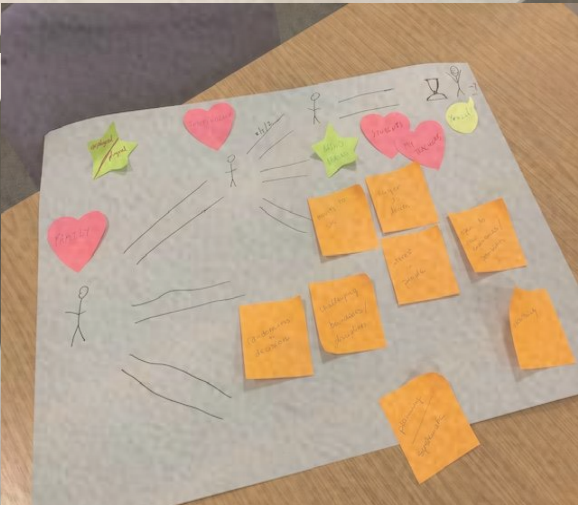
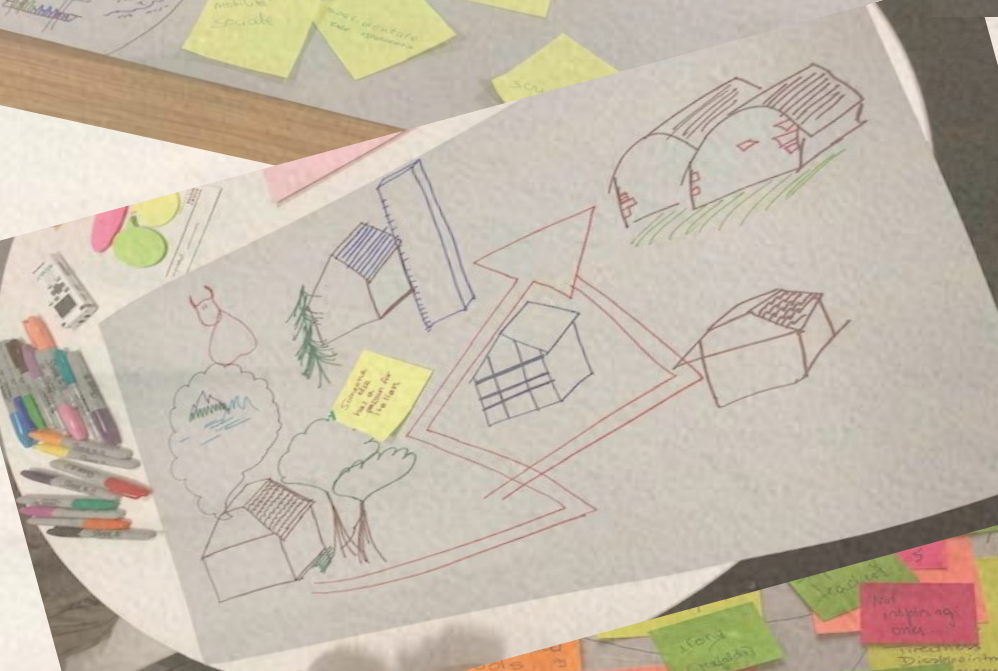
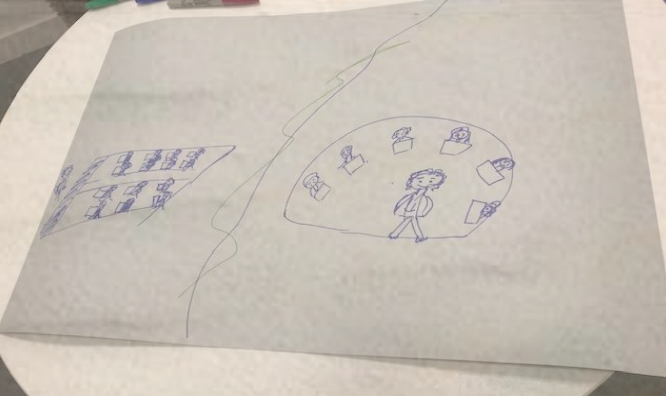
Embodied learning

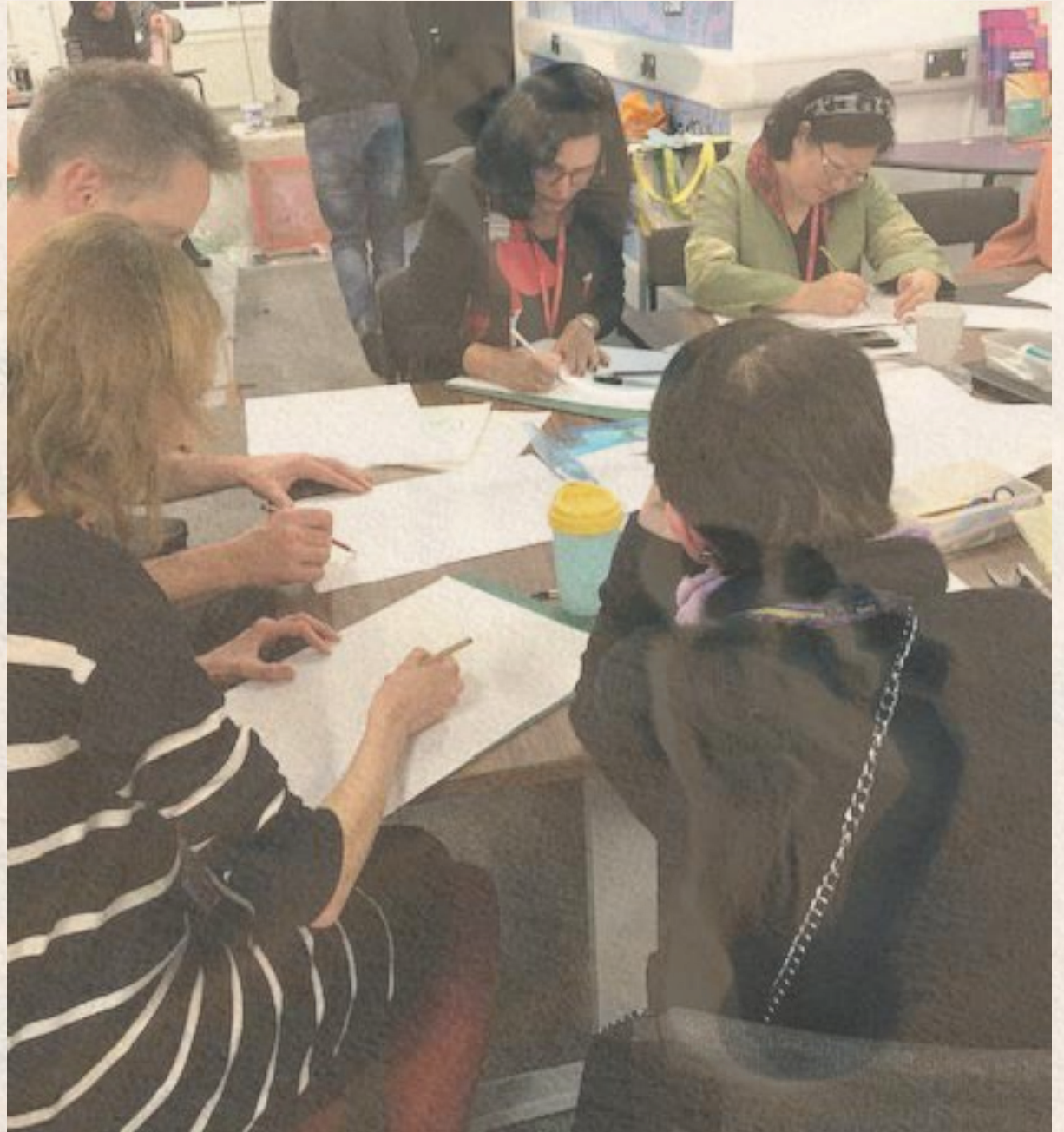


Being in touch with life

7PCPSIIL Digital Project
Word count: 1296









bell hooks

belonging

a culture of place



Belonging

- What does it mean to call a place home?
- How do we create community?
- How do we belong?
- Belonging a verb, it implies movement....
- Belonging in the body, in the senses through language/s

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