

You can only know your own story: the precarious position of the action researcher

Session 1: What we know

Session 2: Creation of story

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ABSTRACT

‘The true essence of reconciliation is more than making friends’ - Jackie Huggins

‘What I feel is what I’ve got in front of me here’ - Charles Perkins

‘May as well be here we are as where we are’ - Aboriginal Anon

Each person has unique experiences and some of these are shared with other people, yet the same experience can elicit a different story from each person. Researchers, in our practice, need to make assumptions so that decisions can occur and the research can progress. Even if these decisions are made collaboratively as researchers we strongly influence these through the method, space and timeliness of decision making. We can be insiders, outsiders, momentarily lost and in between the research and participant worlds, sometimes all of these things in one research project. In these two workshops we create a safe environment and sensitively explore the precarious position of the researcher in action research. Indigenous researchers will guide you through a series of experiences that will explore who you are and how you see the world and how this can influence your research practice. The exercises are fun, illuminating and suitable for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. We use a variety of different mediums drawing, performance, sound and writing to immerse workshop participants in different experiences and provide space for reflection on research practice development. Participants can attend one or both workshops.