

Developing the ideas in *How does Living Educational Theory research enable individuals to research into their higher education to improve it and contribute to educational knowledge?* (Huxtable & Whitehead, 2015) presented by Marie Huxtable to the BERA HE SIG meeting on Researching into Higher Education: Innovative Research Methods, 8th May 2015. (accessible from <http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/1HESig8thMaymhjw150415.pdf>)

Introduction

The ideas on innovative research methods in researching the higher education of individuals in the above presentation focused on:

- i) The use of visual data
 - Experiencing living contradiction
 - Clarifying values
- ii) Empathetic resonance
- iii) Validation
- iv) Transforming writerly into readerly texts.

The Town Hall meeting at the 2015 Action Research Network of the Americas meeting was entitled *Come and join our live conversation with an international community of practitioner action researchers*. Both events took place on the same day, the paper being presented in London, UK and the Town Hall meeting at ARNA in Toronto.

The successful proposal for the Town Hall meeting included:

The intent of this Town Hall meeting is to engage practitioner-researchers across the globe as on site and virtual, through the internet, attendees in a living-culture-of-inquiry through values-based dialogue in creating living-theories (explanations of our influence).

Multi-screen SKYPE conversations are shown to be influencing our perceptions of the idea of Ubuntu that 'I am because we are/we are because I am' or i~we for shorthand and enabling us to 'pool' our life-affirming and life-enhancing energies, as well as sharing and evolving our relationally dynamic culture of inquiry and Living Theory research.

The following reflections might contribute to an emerging research method for Living Theory researchers who are contributing to local, regional, national and global movements to enhance the flow of values and understandings that carry hope for the future of humanity.

Context

I have been a paid member of four action research organisations, the Classroom Action Research Network (CARN - 1976), Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA - 1990), the Action Research Network of the Americas (ARNA - 2013) and the Action Research SIG of AERA (I joined AERA in 1990) Membership is not cheap. At the business meeting of ARNA in Toronto on the 9th May 2015, I raised the possibility of enabling practitioner researchers around the world to connect freely within events organised by CARN, ALARA, ARNA and the AERA Action Research SIG, through sharing their Living Theory research using living-posters and multi-screen SKYPE.

So, I'm developing my own living-theory as I enquire into enhancing my contribution to the flow of values and understandings that carry hope for the flourishing of humanity. My imagined possibility is to bring into this paper video extracts from SKYPE conversations and the meta living-poster below to see if my action plan makes sense to you as I include information on the kind of data I could collect to enable me to make a judgment on my influence and to evolve my ontological and relational values as explanatory principles in explanations of my educational influence and as living standards of judgment to evaluate the validity of claims to know what I am doing.

The following image represents the kind of experience that is contributing to a shift in my perceptions about relationships and the nature of the values that contribute to the flourishing of humanity. I am thinking of the ontological and relational values that I use to give meaning and purpose to my life. The still image below is from a weekly research support group meeting. The image is similar to the ones from the Educational Journal of Living Theories, editorial and developmental conversations, and the Breakfast Café Conversations on Friday mornings in Bath, UK.

The screen can hold up to 9 individual images, all live and in dialogue. My normal binocular vision cannot hold both the focal and the peripheral images of individuals at the same time. The multi-screen SKYPE images can all be held together. As an individual speaks the image enlarges and appears at the top of the screen, with the rest in a line at the bottom of the screen. I can scan all of the images and feel part of a group, community or network. On the screen below there is Per Jensen who is working in Sweden, Arianna Briganti who is working and researching in Albania, Marie Huxtable, Tammy Nichols and myself from the UK and Teri Young from the USA.



From the url
<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/arna/arnaposters270415.pdf>

You can access the living posters shared in the ARNA 2015 Town Hall meeting. This has enabled the living-theories of many researchers to have access to a space where they can meet freely without the economic boundaries of membership.



You can download all the living-posters and browse at your leisure. Here is the EJOLTS (Educational Journal of Living Theories) with the connections to the editorial and development teams and some of the contributors:

EJOLTS
Educational Journal of Living Theories

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Commitment and scope

The Educational Journal of Living Theories (EJOLTS) is committed to publishing living-educational-theory (often shortened to living-theory) accounts of practitioner-researchers from a wide range of global, social, cultural and professional contexts. We welcome submissions from all Living Educational Theory (often shortened to Living Theory) researchers who wish to contribute rigorous and valid accounts of their living-theories to improving educational knowledge.

The journal focuses on the living-theories of practitioner-researchers. Researchers generate their living-theories as their values-based 'explanations for their educational influences in their own learning, the learning of others and the learning of social formations' (Whitehead, 1989) in the process of researching questions such as, 'How do I improve what I am doing', 'The values at the heart of Living Educational Theory research

EJOLTS

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Papers

- Submission
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- Submission Form
- Review Process

Teams

- Development Team
- Editorial Board
- Peer-Reviewers

Virtual space of cooperation

Contributors:

- Jack Whitehead**
Academic & practitioner educational research
- Branko Bognar**
Teacher education, creativity
- Je Kan Adler-Collins**
Nursing, caring
- Moira Laidlaw**
Emancipating learners
- Pip Bruce Ferguson**
Staff development
- Jackie Delong**
Practitioner research
- Jane Spiro**
Teacher education, creative writing
- Swaroop Rawal**
Teacher education, drama

Contributors:

- Mark Potts**
Living Global Citizenship
- Sigrud Gjotterud**
Teacher education, community development
- Liz Wolvaardt & Pieter du Toit**
Values-based supervision
- Peter Mellett**
Permaculture, regenerative development
- Joy Mounter**
Academic librarianship, pedagogy
- Sonia Hutchison**
Sustainable leadership
- Jacqui Scholes-Rhodes**
Facilitating learning journeys
- Marie Huxtable**
Passion-led learning

The EJOLTS community (some of who you can see above). Between us we circle the globe and share a common passion to contribute to the flourishing of humanity through our practice, making public valid accounts of our living-theories and spreading knowledge of the transformational and life-affirming and life-enhancing possibilities Living Theory research offers.

Educational Journal of Living Theories free access from <http://ejolts.net/>



Another example is the living-poster of Swaroop Rawal from India:



In the still below from the Town Hall meeting you can see Swaroop on the large screen:



below Swaroop, on the other screens, there are Bernie Sullivan from Ireland, Pip Ferguson from Ireland, Delysia Timms, Lee Scott and Linda Vargas from South Africa Liz Wolvaardt and Pieter du Toit from South Africa, Teri Young from the USA, Sonia Hutchison and Andy Henon from the UK.

In the following 12 minute video you can hear Avis Dalgano in the Town Hall meeting asking a question about the nature of Living Theory research. Sonia Hutchison from the UK, as a virtual presence, answers, and this is followed by Liz Campbell's response as a face-to-face participant.

<https://youtu.be/DVbXwolxuF0>

In the following 12 minute video clip you can see me introducing the living-posters in the Town Hall meeting.



<https://youtu.be/oA9vgEUbvlc>

What is exciting me about the Town Hall meeting is that it offered the opportunity to include practitioner researchers from all over the world, many who would not be able to afford to attend. As Delysia Timm wrote on the 9th May after participating as a virtual presence:

On 9 May 2015, at 14:57, Delysia Norelle Timm <TimmDN@dut.ac.za> wrote:

Thanks once again to Jack for his wonderful gifts and talents that he so freely offers... to be part of a conference in Canada and it did not cost a cent... truly amazing to be part of all that knowledge generation process. I was also blessed to be in the company of Linda and Lee and have some calm moments when the video was turned off from our side intermittently..

I was a bit disappointed that I could not hear the group discussion more clearly so I would love to see/hear the recorded presentation.

Cheers. Have a blessed week all.

Jack perhaps we could consider more of such connecting events.

I love your poster idea and I am going to use the idea for another project in which I am participating.

What I am thinking of doing is to write to the organisers of events of CARN, ALARA, ARNA and the AERA Action Research SIG and other SIG leaders, as well as other action research networks around the world, to suggest that Town Hall meetings with living posters are offered as a way of including many practitioner-researchers with their living-theories as their explanations of educational influence as they enquire into living as fully as possible the values and understandings that carry hope for the flourishing of humanity.

Jack – 12 May 2015