



I am currently a Senior Lecturer in Teacher Education at Western Sydney University (WSU). Prior to joining WSU I taught Youth and Community and Education Studies at a number of universities in the UK. Equity and diversity issues in education have been central to my teaching and my research interests. I was drawn to Educational Living Theory because its principles are congruent with the values of social justice, democracy and freedom that guide my actions as a practitioner-researcher. I find the 'living 'I'' (McNiff with Whitehead, 2002) empowering as it places me at the centre of the research process and highlights the importance of critical subjective accounts to improving educational practice. This is particularly significant given that the 'I' is excluded from most forms of traditional research, as historically subjective knowledge has been viewed as lacking in objectivity.

I was initially drawn to Living Theory research thanks to my former colleague, Prof Jean McNiff. Jean joined St Mary's University, Twickenham, where she became instrumental in supporting colleagues at the School of Education to engage in developing their Educational Living Theories. Our regular conversations with Jean led to an invited Symposium to the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) in Nicosia, in August 2005. The title of the symposium was 'Demonstrating accountability through our self-study practices', for the Special Interest Group 'Teaching and Teacher Education Practices'. I presented a paper called: Theorising Educational Practice, which I subsequently developed into an article published in the Journal of Educational Action Research entitled From transmission to dialogue.

Jean later encouraged me, Jane Renowden and Colleen Johnson to organize a BERA SIG Conference, on the 13th and 14th July 2006, entitled Practitioner Research: Living theory or empty rhetoric? The speakers at the conference included Prof Jack Whitehead, Prof Jean McNiff as well as other living theorists from Ireland, South Africa, the UK and the USA.

I moved to Sydney in 2013 and recently worked with colleagues in the School of Education at WSU on a co-authored journal article for EJOLTS entitled Encounters of life and scholarship : opening to transformations, inquiries and vulnerabilities with my colleagues David Wright, Susanne Gannon and Dorian Stoleescu.