

Shari Sabeti, August 2017.

What does 'creative-relational' inquiry mean to me?

The creative and relational, for me, are both what I research (the subject matter or research questions), how I go about doing it (my methodologies) *and* a way to describe how I position myself within the research process (creatively, relationally). The latter means that I try my best to be open, responsive, alert, attentive, to others, and myself. Perhaps some examples best illustrate this:

1.

I am an ethnographer. I spend a lot of time with the people I do research with. I observe what they do; I take part in the activities they are involved in. I take notes; I interview them; I collect objects; sometimes I draw things; sometimes I take photographs. Sometimes they help me find things out. They collect things for me, or we come up with ideas together. I then write about them, what I've seen, how I have interpreted it. I try and answer the ethnographer's question: WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE?

2.

I like to ask questions that are hard to answer using traditional research methods.

- What happens between people and works of art?
- How do you write a poem? What happens? Where? When?
- What does it feel like to get older?

3.

I like to experiment with different ways of finding things out and to use modes and media that I am uncomfortable with myself e.g. drawing. What if I only drew things and did not write notes in my fieldwork journal? How would that change how/what I saw? (See Figure 1) What if my interview transcripts weren't processed by nVivo but through the frame of a comic book grid? (see Figure 2)

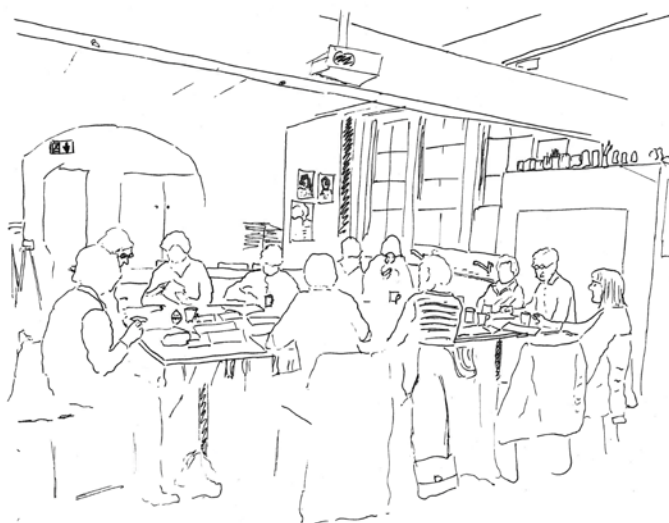


Figure 1

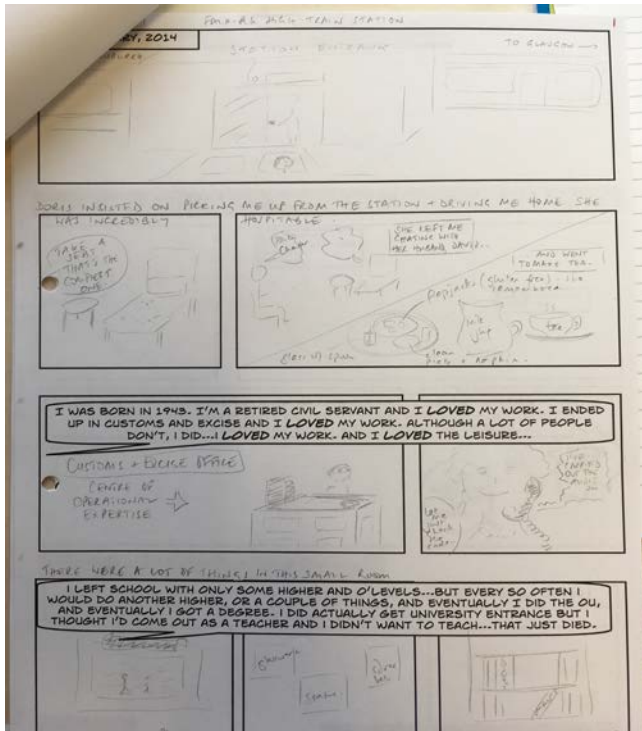


Figure 2

4.

I like to work alongside artists as co-researchers so that we can explore the boundaries of what research is, and what it looks like. This school mural is the outcome of a recent research project:



Figure 3