

Take inspiration

Review/Reflect

Collage and conversations - developing a creative methodology

Simon Abbott and Dr Clare Tyrer

Plan

cut, collate, combine

multi-media
analysis

read

identify

METHODS
for the soul

TROUBLES



Researcher

Simon Abbott
Work-based Learning Advisor



Creativity is important to me as a means of communication and collaboration in Higher Education

Supervisor

Dr Clare Tyrer
Senior Lecturer in Education Development



Creativity is important to me as it creates a space for self-expression, helping students to find their own voice within the learning process.

[the blank canvas]

Take inspiration

Careers and Employability Research

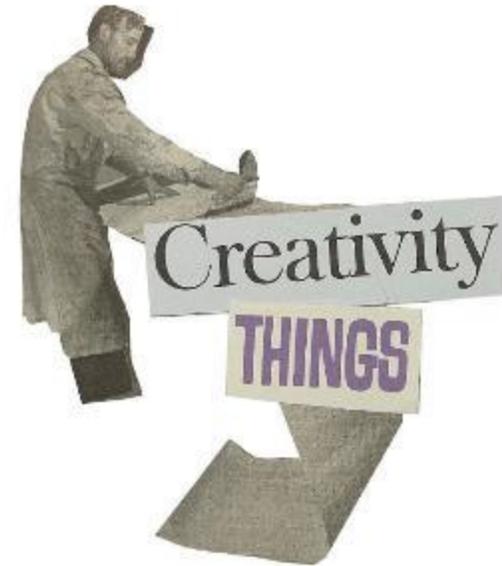
- Experiences/perceptions of teaching (for students and staff)
- Definitions of 'employability'

Creative methodologies/approaches

Abegglen & Sinfield, S (2021). *'Dialogic montage: Reflecting on playful practice in higher education'*

Roberts & Woods (2018) *'Theorising the value of collage in exploring educational leadership'*

Hunter & Woolham (2019) *'Seeing and Sticking, Being and Becoming: The Kaleidoscopic Impact of a Creative Intervention'*



Creativity

Collage

Freedom!

Community art

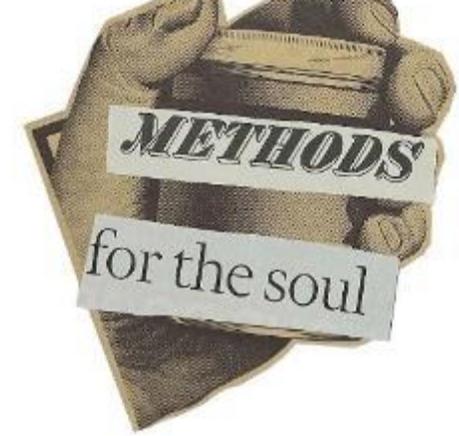
Workshops

Format

Small-scale
Qualitative study

Methodology

Arts Based Educational
Research (ABER)



Choose the materials

Topic

Experiences of teaching
employability in HE

Participants

5-10

City St George's Staff

Research questions

RQ1: What themes emerge in how staff experience the process of teaching employability within the curriculum?

RQ2: In what ways do staff perceive their role in teaching embedded employability and how does this relate to their overall role in the institution?

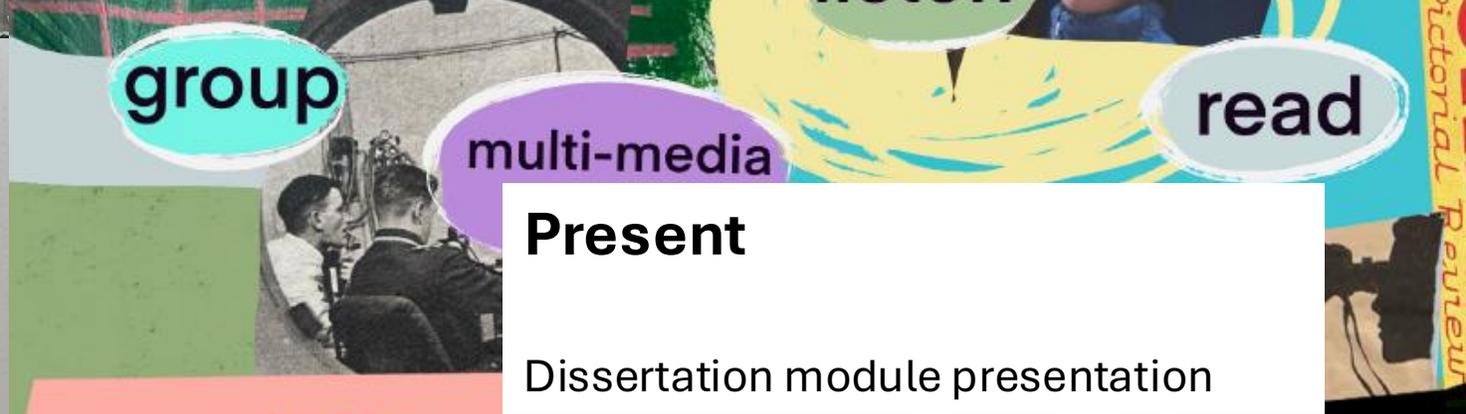
Plan



Visualise
Approach to research
Literature Review
Project plan



DATA ANALYSIS
Adapted from Roberts and Woods (2018)



Present
Dissertation module presentation

RQ1
What themes emerge in how staff

RQ2

Cut, build, collate

Build

A critical literature review

Conceptual Framework

Epistemological/ontological standpoint

- Creativity as a "way of knowing" and "way of being"



Cut out

Unnecessary research

Unethical approaches

Collate

Feedback

Approaches from previous workshops

Make

Something unique
Mistakes (happy accidents)

Ethical Approval

Things will likely change after this!

Participants

Assemble

What's missing?

Don't glue it down

Be prepared to change things

CITY ST GEORGE'S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR RESEARCH INTO EXPERIENCES OF TEACHING EMBEDDED EMPLOYABILITY

I am looking for volunteers to take part in a study exploring the experiences of Higher Education staff teaching employability within the curriculum. The study forms part of my final research project for an MA Academic Practice.

As a participant in this study, you would be asked to take part in a creative workshop, involving a collage-making activity and discussion.

Your participation would involve attending one in-person workshop session, lasting approximately 75 minutes.

For more information about this study, or to volunteer, please contact:

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Work Based Learning Advisor
Corporate Relations and Employability Unit
School of Science and Technology
Email: simon.abbott@citystgeorges.ac.uk

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through the I.FaD Ethics Committee, City St George's, University of London.

If you would like to complain about any aspect of the study, please contact Aina M. Whyton, Secretary to the Senate Research Ethics Committee at senate@city.ac.uk

City, University of London is the data controller for the personal data collected for this research project. If you have any data protection concerns about this research project, please contact City's Information Compliance Team at dmp@protection.city.ac.uk

Share and Collaborate

Once your creative methodology starts to grow, share it with others and **try it out**





WORKSHOP

Role of researcher

Facilitator

Ensure participants are comfortable

Curator

What is a workshop?

- Similar to focus group/group interview
- Space to share ideas and build knowledge
- 'Community-in-the-making' (Linds and Gee, 2023)
- Space for participants to think as they construct and reconstruct their answers

Data created:

Collaged 'artefacts'

Discussion (individual and group)



'it's a great way of actually encapsulating all those different preconceptions, hopes, aspirations, ideas about what was happening, what you want to achieve in life, who you want to achieve it for, and then actually what happens, you know, and then the ups and downs and how you're feeling at the end, positive and negative'

Workshop participant



Review/Reflect

Data analysis/discussion

- Holistic approach adapted from Roberts and Woods (2018):
Listen, Read, Group, Multi-media, Identify

Researcher reflexivity

- Creativity as a way of being
- Making and sharing

Feedback

- Supervisor
- Second marker
- Participants

Re-assemble

- What could I use in different projects?
- What are the next steps for the research?



References

- Abegglen, S. & Burns, T. & Sinfield, S., (2021). Dialogic montage: Reflecting on playful practice in higher education, *The Journal of Play in Adulthood* 3(2), 82-95. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5920/jpa.843>
- Hunter, A.C. & Woolham O'Brien, K. (2019) 'Seeing and Sticking, Being and Becoming: The Kaleidoscopic Impact of a Creative Intervention', *Student Engagement in Higher Education Journal*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 214–221.
- Linds, W. & Gee, T. (2023) *Workshop: The Art of Creative Inquiry*, 1st 2023. edn, Springer Nature Singapore, Singapore.
- Roberts, A. & Woods, P.A. (2018) 'Theorising the value of collage in exploring educational leadership', *British educational research journal*, vol. 44, no. 4, pp. 626–642.
- Stevens, C. & Abbott, S., (2025) "Cut, paste, connect: Making meaning through collage", *The Journal of Play in Adulthood* 7(1), 98-126. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5920/jpa.1795>