



# Southwest Regional Medical Sociology Group Event Summer 2024

## Developing Creative Research Practices

Thursday 13 – Friday 14 June 2024

### Programme

#### **Thursday 'Creative Research Practices' Panel, with cream tea (4 – 6 pm)**

The event begins with a round-table discussion on *Creative Research Practices* chaired by Tracey Collett. Speakers will include Geraldine Brown (Coventry), David Carless (West of Scotland), James Edwards (Plymouth) and Gayle Letherby (Plymouth, Greenwich, Bath).

#### **Friday Workshops (with approximate times)**

##### **CABINET OF CURIOSITIES (9am-10.55am)**

Cabinets of curiosities were traditionally used for housing objects from the physical (some would say natural) world. But what do these objects have in common? Some, such as selections of shells, tend to be ornate or beautiful, or unusual. Some, for example collections of shrunken heads, may be considered grotesque. Overall, the curiosities are objects that inspire awe and wonder and make us curious to find out more, to ask questions – where does it come from, what is it made from? What was it used for? Such objects, and musings, transport us to unseen worlds beyond our own, develop our awareness of other cultures and promote diversity and understanding. And so the themes we want to explore appear – beauty, grotesqueness, awe and wonder, curiosity, diversity, creative collaboration and more – both in our research and in our lives more generally.

Inspired by the cabinet of curiosities, in this workshop we will explore through significant artefacts, people, feelings, activities (and such like) our interests, passions and aspirations. With this in mind, please come prepared to talk (and show if appropriate/possible), the SIX things in your own current (for after all these things change) personal Cabinet of Curiosity.

##### **WORLD CAFÉ (11.15am-1.15pm)**

The World Café methodology is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group discussion. Modelled after a café (i.e., small round tables complete with paper and coloured pens) participants divide into smaller groups that they stay with throughout the activity. Each group spends 15/20 minutes at each table (complete with table host) discussing and writing responses to the questions posed. After this, each group is invited to share insights from their thinking. There is also time for reflection on the 'building' of responses/ideas.

For our World Café we will focus on substantive, methodological and political issues and concerns related to developing creative research practices when researching ill/health / care.

##### **COLLAGING THE SELF (2pm-4.30pm)**

With a focus on our self/ves – including researcher self, home self, online self, social self (and more) – in this session we will play with a variety of materials to create

individual collages that represent any aspect of our identity(ies) we feel happy to explore on the day. Given the focus on positionality, as well as substantive concerns and interests, throughout the event, and our overall concern with developing ourselves as creative research practitioners this workshop will bring together issues and themes that have arisen across the two days. We will provide the paper, glue, and a multitude of other materials but please bring additional resources (newspapers, magazines, images etc.) to share if you can. There will be plenty of time for creation and for discussion of each of our pieces.

**The Event will end at 5 pm**

For more information please contact Tracey Collett AND Gayle Letherby  
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