



**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG):
ANNUAL REPORT ON SIG ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018**

12 February 2019

NAME OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG): Self-Reflexive Methodologies
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Report

The focus of the SIG in 2018 was on preparing for the SAERA Conference SIG seminar. The aim was to facilitate inclusivity of as many interested presenters as possible, to allow maximum time for interaction and discussion, and to respond to the 2018 conference theme.

In March 2018, the SIG convenor invited SIG members to contribute ideas for the seminar. Through mostly email discussions, plans were made for the seminar, titled: *“Making education more relevant, responsive, and authentic through memory-work”*. All SIG members were then invited to participate in the session in the form of a short presentation responding to the following question: *“How can memories of school become part of our work as researchers seeking to make education more relevant, responsive and authentic?”* Each submission was accompanied by a visual image and a 150-200 word reflection.

Eleven SIG members made submissions and were accepted to present in the seminar (see the seminar programme attached). Those SIG members who were new to memory-work or less confident in memory-work received mentoring from the SIG convenor to help them in planning their presentations, creating or choosing their images, and writing their reflections.

The SIG Seminar was held on 22 October 8.30-10 am. 32 SAERA conference participants attended. Because there were 11 presenters and only 90 minutes for the whole symposium, a *“Memory-Work Circle”* format was designed. The presenters and audience were divided into 3 concurrent memory-work circles. Each circle met for 45 minutes. In each circle, each presenter had 5 minutes to talk about an interesting aspect of her/his memory-work and then there was time for discussion within the circle. After each circle had met, all attendees came

back to a plenary and then a facilitator from each circle offered some brief insights from the circle. This was followed by a brief response from the discussant, Thenjiwe Meyiwa, and some feedback from the audience.

The Self-Reflexive Methodologies SIG business meeting was held on Tuesday 23 October at 2:00-2:30 pm. 13 people attended. During the business meeting, SIG news and publication opportunities were discussed. Feedback was given on the inaugural SIG newsletter (edited by Anita Hiralaal, Eunice Nnyamupangedengu, and Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan), which was circulated in October 2018.

Presentations in the general conference programme given by members of the Self-Reflexive Methodologies SIG were well supported by other members of the SIG who gave useful feedback.

For 2019, there will again be a focus on preparing for the SAERA Conference SIG seminar, with the aim of making the seminar as inclusive, interactive, and educative as possible. The SIG is currently working on a special issue of the newsletter focusing on the 2018 SAERA conference. We are also in discussion about possible SIG research events that might be organised in addition to the SAERA Conference SIG seminar.

SIG Participation

87 academics / researchers from 19 higher education institutions have participated in SIG activities since 2014.

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