Creative and Innovative Methodologies in Education Research

Dr Helen Kara

The history of creative and innovative research methods may be older than the history of people. Their use has exploded in the last 50 years across all disciplines. This presentation will begin with a brief tracing of that history before focusing on the use of creative and innovative methods in education research. These methods include arts-based, embodied, digital and mixed methods, and transformative research frameworks. Education research covers informal and formal education across the life course. After a concise introduction to these topics, the presentation will focus on some examples of creative and innovative research methods in practice at different stages of the education research process, including some of their ethical dimensions. The aim will be to give an introduction to the existing breadth of application for creative and innovative methods in education research, and to inspire further exploration of their potential in this context.

Dr Helen Kara has been an independent researcher since 1999 and also teaches research methods and ethics. She is not, and never has been, an academic, though she has learned to speak the language. In 2015 Helen was the first fully independent researcher to be conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She is also an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Cathie Marsh Institute for Social Research, University of Manchester. She has written several books and journal articles on research methods and ethics, including Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences: A Practical Guide (2015, Policy Press).