

# Writing as a Method Of and For Research

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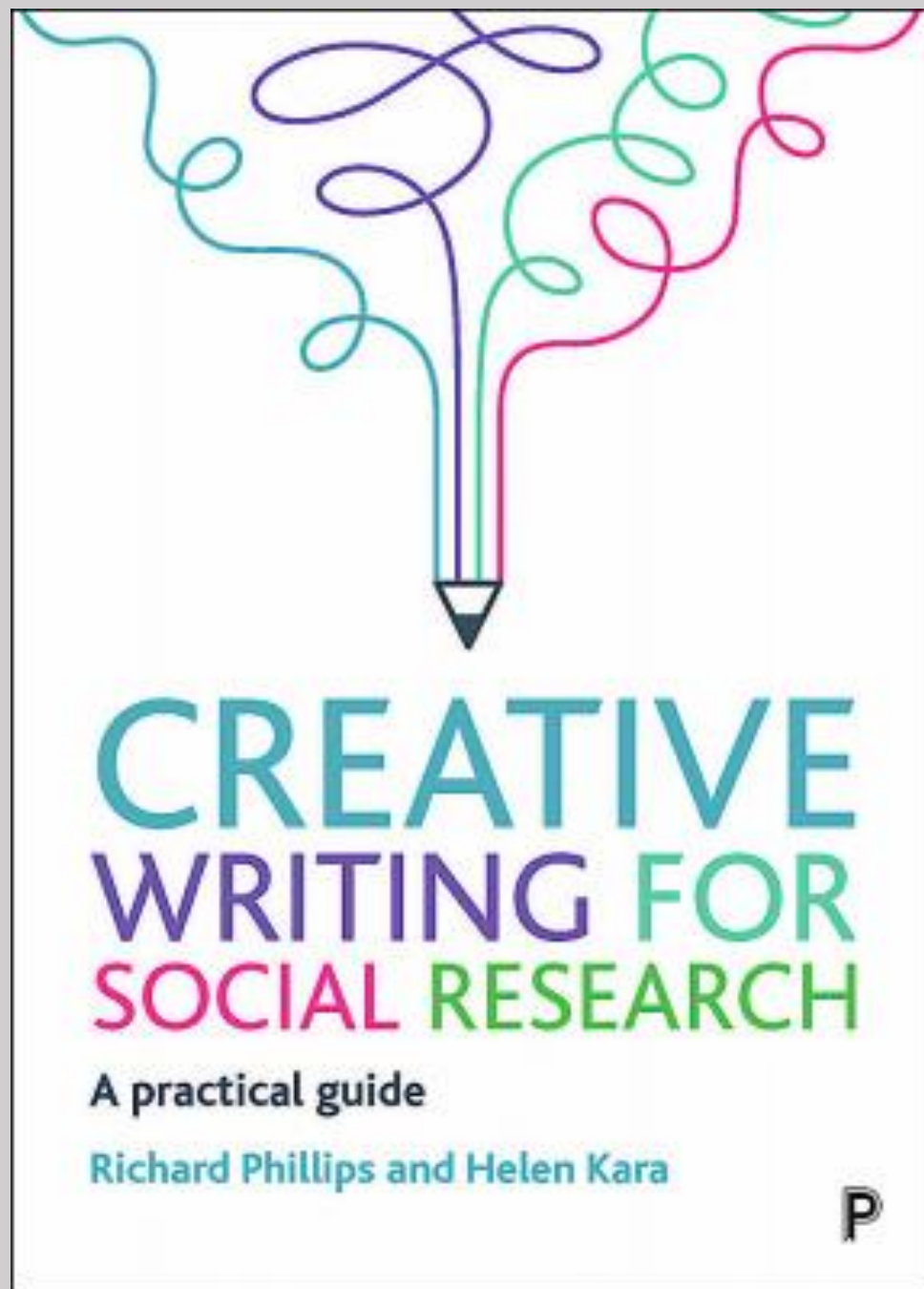
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# Setting the scene

What is writing?

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What does writing look like?

Where is the boundary between writing and drawing?



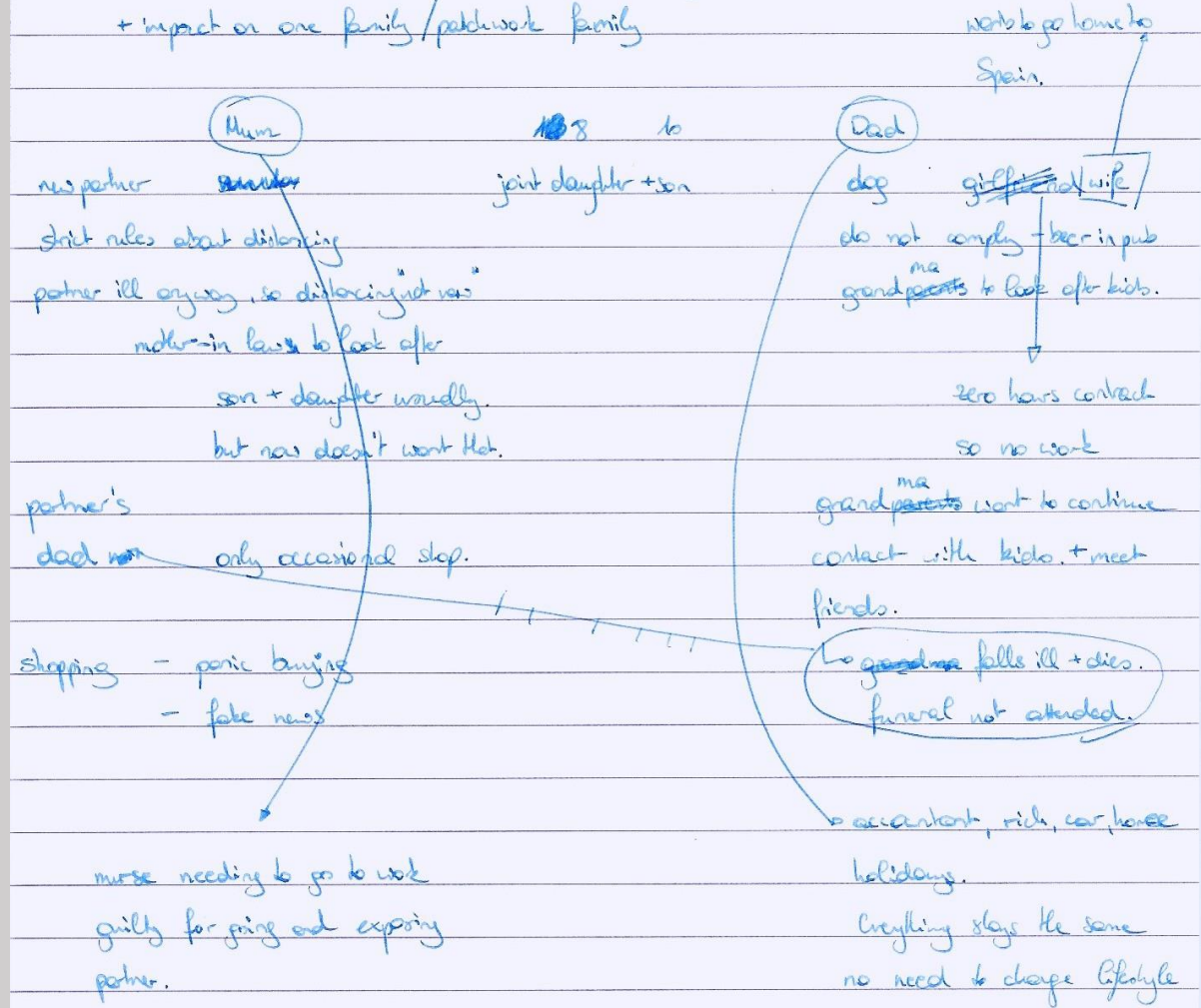
12.11.2017

CREATIVE  
INSTALLATION  
DRAW  
VIVA  
MAKE AND DO  
ART  
RESEARCH  
MAKING SENSE  
ANALYSIS  
NOTION  
LITERATURE  
POETRY  
PAINT  
MESSY  
BEAUTIFUL  
JOURNAL  
THESIS

Covid 19 Fiction

22.3.2020

Press conference/news item on social distancing + lockdown  
+ impact on one family/patchwork family



# Setting the scene

What is writing?

What does writing look like?

Where is the boundary between writing and drawing?

Why is writing so important in many cultures?

Why are some cultures fine without writing?

# Purposes of writing

As research method

For research (logs, diaries, journals, field notes)

To organise and plan (research and career)

Creative research writing

Not only task; also resource



# Writing as a research method

Hides in plain sight – rarely found in methods books

Only method used by quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods researchers

Primarily used in writing for others

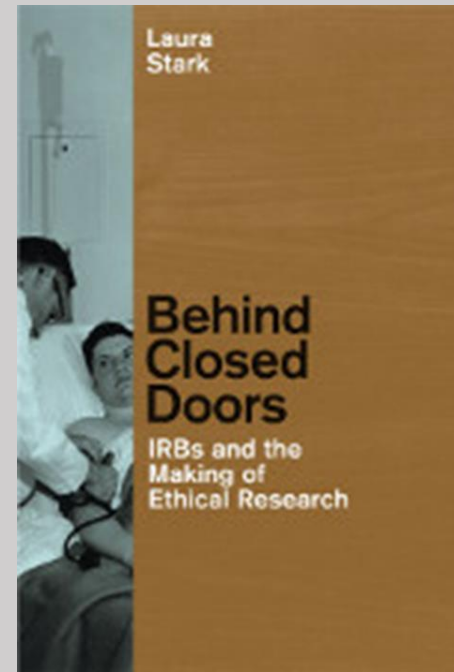
Always creative, though extent varies



# Example from Stark: *Behind Closed Doors*

2012: ethnography of IRBs. Documents, observation

“There is no dispute that the current research review system is flawed. On this everyone agrees: board members, administrators, and researchers. But the fact that IRBs provoke such heated debate is all the more reason to understand how these declarative bodies came into being and how they actually do their work. And so, on a dreary May afternoon, I stepped out of an elevator at Adams University Medical School, walked down a windowless corridor, and opened the conference room door where the IRB meeting was about to begin.” (p.8)



# Writing for research

Primarily used in writing for ourselves and co-workers

Memos, emails, field notes, journals etc

Dealing with field notes

- 3 levels of interpretations (describing, detailing, reflecting)

- Vignettes and critical incidents

# To organise and plan

## Trackers and to-do lists

- Expenses tracker

- Systematic reading notes

- Achievements (daily, long-term)

## A "full" CV

- mine is currently at 24 pages...

# Abelism spending

548642 - 100 - 156425

Date	Description	Total spent	Amount left	claimed back
	Wills Leg	75.-	3855.-	✓✓
		30.-	3825.-	✓✓
15.12.	Art materials Works	39.-	3786.-	✓✓
15.12.	Art materials Canterbury	11.98	3774.02	✓✓
	Art materials Hobblycraft	54.50	3719.52	✓✓
	Art materials Amazon	24.62	3694.90	✓✓
17.12.	Paperbanks online	58.99	3635.91	✓✓
14.1.	Line cutting + printing	31.04	3594.87	✓✓
1.2.22.	Food + Accessories	1326.96	2267.91	✓✓
7.4.2019.	Shapies	23.96	2243.95	✓✓
10.5.2019	Materials + have	75.43	2168.48	✓✓
14.5.2019	Reimbursement for travels	326.60	1841.88	✓✓
14.5.2019	Reimbursement for travels	105.00	1736.88	✓✓
25.2019	SEW costs	695.00	1041.88	✓✓
24.5.2019	Barcode recorder on amazon	428.58	613.30	✓ <input type="checkbox"/>
24.5.2019	Groko on Sub Hub	299.00	314.30	✓ <input type="checkbox"/>

## Tasks for Completion

## Priority Level

- ① Design Initial Interview Questions for pairs in Week 5 Completed 24/06
- ① Read Moon (2006) Learning Journals (when it arrives !!) Completed 18/06
- ① Read articles on Reflective Learning Logs : Completed 19/06
  - College of the Arts
- ① Reflecting: Journals and Learning (blogs) Completed 20/06
- Warwick Academic Dev E Centre
- ① Reflective Writing, Higher Education and Professional Practice McGorry (2011) Completed 20/06
- ① Using a learning log to support students' learning in biology lessons Winterbottom (2010) Completed 20/06
- ① Learning Logs: Assessment - a Research Method? Frisner and Mart. (2018) Completed 20/06

140

Saturday / Sunday June 17/14

## Tasks for Completion

## Priority Level

- Download all sections of the Ethical Approval Form + Update Consent Form v 2 Completed 17/06
- Information Sheet v 2 Submission to Guyatt 17/06
- Ethical Form v 2 Completed
- Survey Questions ???
- Table 1 Timetable v 2
- Read 'Sledge as a Tool for Qualitative Research Interviews' Completed 17/06
- Read BPS Ethics Guidelines for Internet-mediated Research Completed 17/06
- Read Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Internet Research Ethics Completed 17/06
- Read Notarhe Whiteman : Understanding Ethics : Rethinking Practice in Online Research Completed 14/06
- Chapter 1 - 3 Completed 15/06
- Chapter 4 Completed 17/06
- Chapter 5 Completed 17/06
- Chapter 6

# Creative research writing

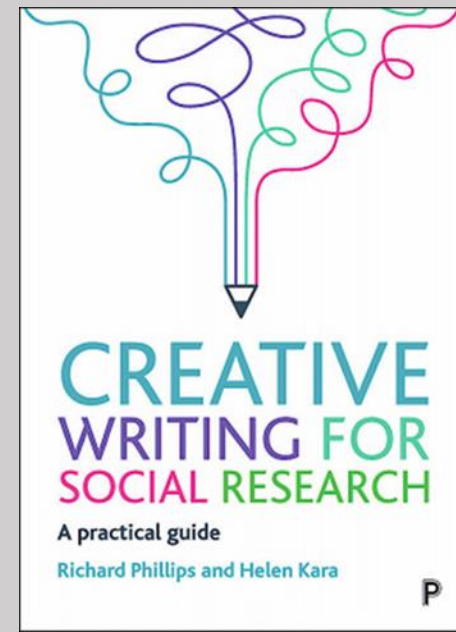
Techniques of fiction/poetry etc v useful in research

Micro or macro – can be very subtle, or overt

Even the most factual writing is often multi-vocal

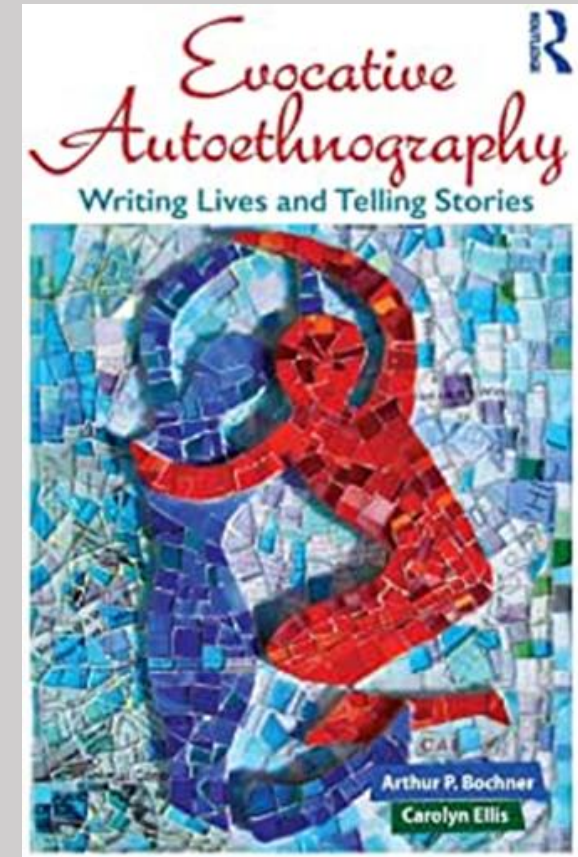
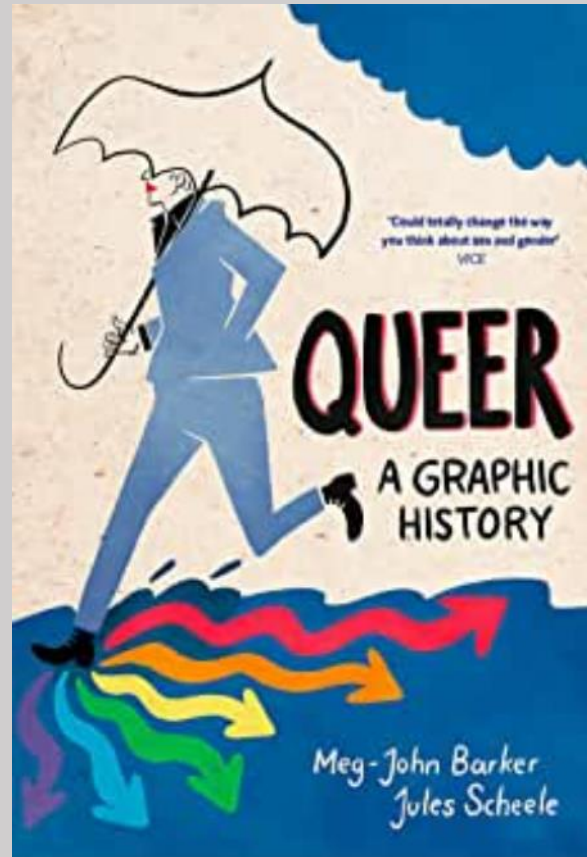
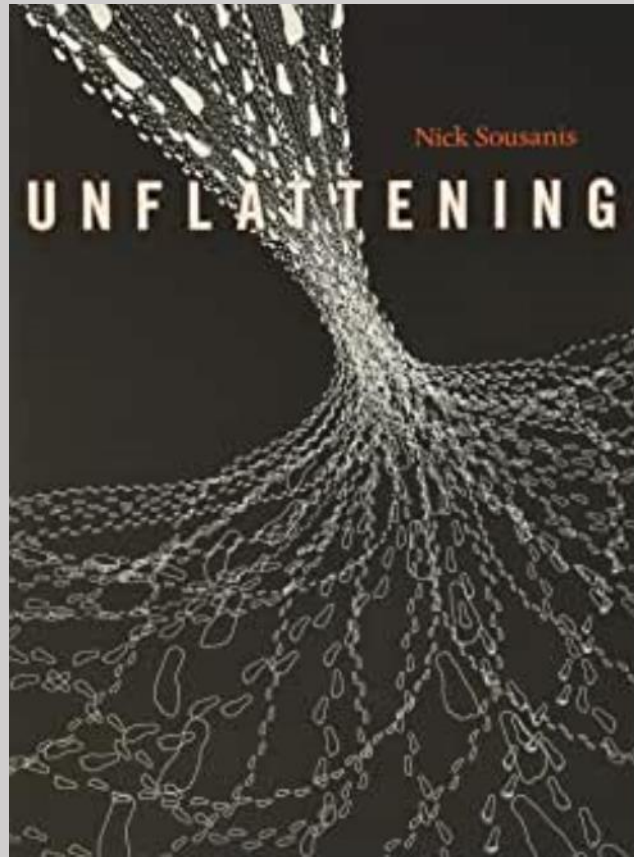
Writing, reading, and speech are very different

Creative techniques = more engaging writing





# Macro examples





# This is just to say...

I have taken  
the thoughts  
you voiced in  
our meeting

and which  
you were probably  
saving  
for writing

Forgive me  
they were ingenious  
so noble  
and so bold



# Participatory research: Full ethical approval

Joint. Co-constructed.  
I'll let you participate  
in my research work:

Take photos! Draw! Paint!  
Capture your experience!  
I'll make sense for you.

Marginalised voice  
amplified through my research.  
Silenced; no longer.

My research data.  
Your story. What's yours is *mine*  
to use and to keep.

Brown, N. (2021). This is just to say. *So Fi Zine*, 9, 11.

Brown, N. (2021). Participatory research: Full ethical approval. In: Book Review: Ethical Practice in Participatory Visual Research With Girls: Transnational Approaches (Vol. 2). *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, 2(2). page 2. <https://doi.org/10.35844/001c.25444>

# Writing as a resource

Writing can be your:

Teacher

Therapist

Friend

Mentor



# Concluding thoughts

Writing takes many forms and formats

You can do writing and you can use writing

Writing as your friend, teacher, therapist and mentor

There is no such thing as the perfect piece of writing

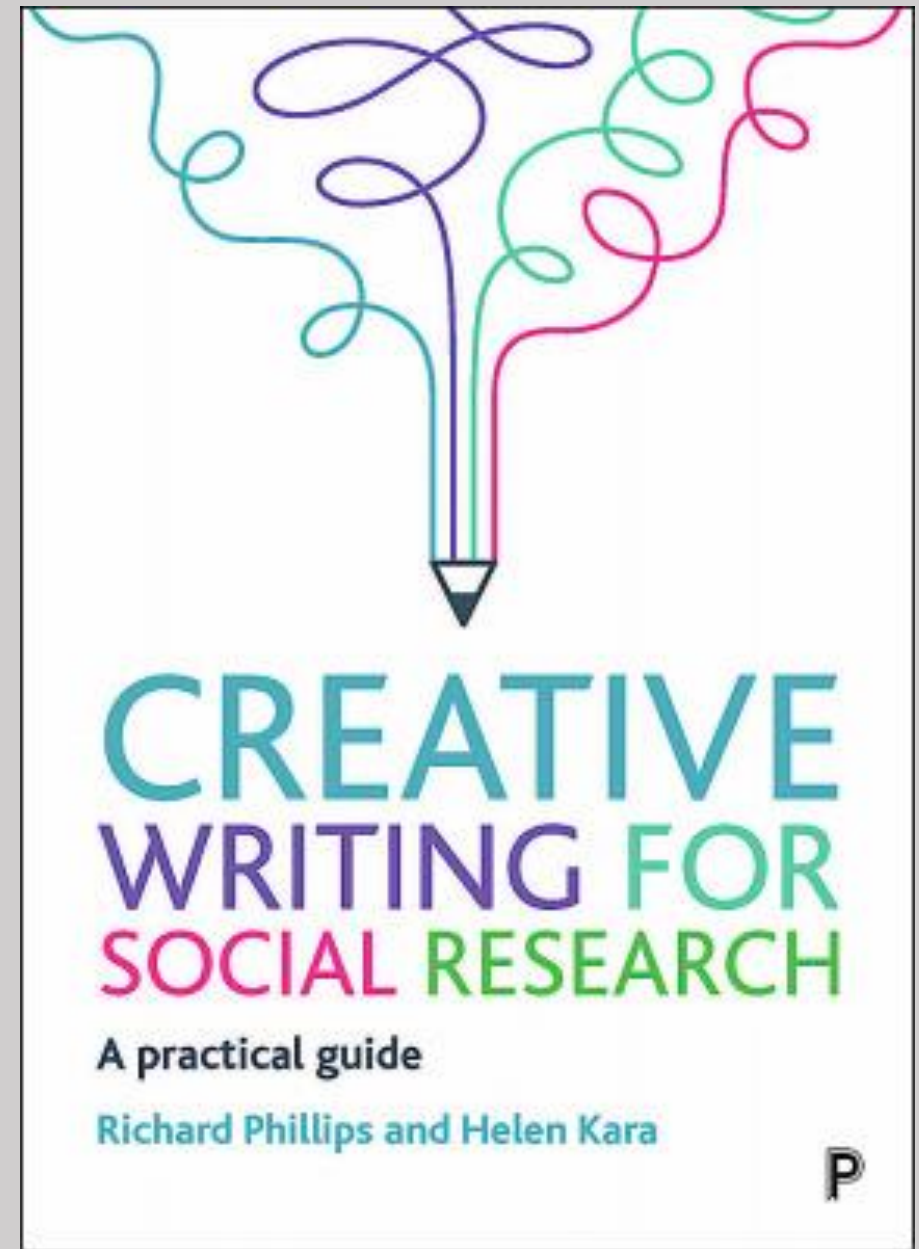
All writing is good writing – a step on the journey

<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/creative-writing-for-social-research>

This ground-breaking book brings creative writing to social research. Its innovative format includes creatively written contributions by researchers from a range of disciplines, modelling the techniques outlined by the authors. The book is user-friendly and shows readers:

- how to write creatively as a social researcher;
- how creative writing can help researchers to work with participants and generate data;
- how researchers can use creative writing to analyse data and communicate findings.

Inviting beginners and more experienced researchers to explore new ways of writing, this book introduces readers to creatively written research in a variety of formats including plays and poems, videos and comics. It not only gives social researchers permission to write creatively but also shows them how to do so.





<https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/making-the-most-of-your-research-journal>

Providing practical guidance based on real-life examples, this book shows researchers different forms and ways of keeping a research journal and how to get the most out of journaling.

Appealing to postgraduate students, new and experienced researchers, the book:

- provides a theoretical grounding and information about knowledge and sensory systems and reflexivity;
- presents a practical exploration of what a journal looks like and when and how to record entries;
- includes helpful end-of-chapter exercises and online resources.

The book highlights the different forms of research journals and entries so that readers can find what works for them. Giving researchers licence to do things differently, the book encourages and enables readers to develop their own sense of researcher identity and voice.



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