

The duplicity of my insider/outsider role while conducting research

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Thesis title:

- Academic literacies, through the writing of assignments, in a pre-service primary teacher education programme: Student and staff perspectives.

Research design

- Qualitative
- Interpretive
- Social constructionism
- Ethnographic methods
 - Observation
 - Interviews
 - Focus group – Facebook

Insider or outsider?

- Insider: The researcher shares the “characteristic[s], role[s], or experience[s]” (Dwyer, & Buckle, 2009, p. 55) with the group.
- Outsider: “outsider to the commonality shared by participants” (Dwyer & Buckle, 2009, p. 55).

Adler and Adler (1987) membership role - peripheral

- Complete member (insider)-
- Active member – Take part in the core activities of the group.
- Peripheral membership role – researcher does not take part in core activities of the group.

Role as observer

- Observer as participant and participant-as-observer (Gold, 1958; Junker, 1960, as cited in Adler & Adler, 1987, p. 13).

My multiple roles: with students

- Student to student
- Researcher to students

My multiple roles with staff

- Student to student
- Researcher to staff member
- Staff member to staff member

Ethical dilemmas: blurring of boundaries, compliance

- Student interviews
- Role in tutorials
- Engaging with the academic staff member
- Interactions with staff – research requests

Questions