

# Creative Research Methods

## Arts based methods

Helen Kara

Visiting Fellow

National Centre for Research Methods



# Creative Research Methods

- Arts-based research
- Research using technology
- Mixed-methods research
- Transformative research frameworks
- Indigenous methodologies

This presentation covers arts-based research; the next tech and mixed-methods, the last transformative and Indigenous research.

# Arts-based research

- Visual arts: e.g. drawing, painting, collage
- Performative arts: e.g. theatre, dance
- Written arts: e.g. poetry, creative prose
- Music, song
- Film, video
- Storytelling

# Arts-based research

- Key debate in Euro-Western research: how much skill do you need?
- Piirto (US): high levels
- Douglas (UK): no level
- Kara (UK): depends on context

# Arts-based research

- Research design: spidergrams, mind maps, timelines
- Lit review: personal documents, self-published literature, creative literature
- Data-gathering: enhanced interviewing, poetic inquiry, journals, mapping, drawing, painting, collage
- Data analysis: screenplay writing, poetic inquiry, metaphor analysis

# Arts-based research

- Writing: storytelling, creative writing, video, examples of arts-based data, photographs
- Presenting: illustrations (images, charts, graphs, infographics, diagrams), video, drama, song, dance
- Disseminating: writing, video, exhibitions/installations, multimedia

# Arts-based research

- Useful when working with
  - Children
  - People who speak different languages
  - People with communication difficulties
  - Mixed ability groups
  - Sensitive or emotive topics
- BUT need to be aware of participants' feelings – worth having a plan B

Next: research using tech and mixed-methods

For more information visit  
[www.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/online](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/resources/online)

