Exploring teachers lives: A conversation on methodological opportunities and challenges

On Nov 4th, the Teacher Learning and Innovations in Practice Research Hub held an interactive symposium in response to the methodological queries received around working with teachers. Three of the hubs PhD students each gave a short summary about the methodologies they are using to examine teacher learning and practice.

Exploring Teachers’ Inquiry Experiences through Narratives: Joanna Lim
This presentation was about Joanna’s methodological journey with narrative inquiry. She shared her exploration of using narratives to inform her understanding of inquiry and highlighted the various challenges, dilemmas, and considerations that she experienced as she learnt to carve her own path within narrative inquiry.

A Social Network Analysis of Teachers’ Professional Interactions: Wei Zeng
Wei’s research uses social network analysis to identify the social structures and content of teachers’ interactions in their research activities within an English teaching department of a Chinese university. She shared how she used this analysis to identify the asymmetrical power relations and status in the workplace.

Caring to Learn, learning to care: exploring enablers of pedagogies of care in secondary schools: Maria Carolina Nieto Angel
Maria presented the opportunities and limitations of case study methodology to explore education for care and reconciliation in three secondary schools (Perú and New Zealand). This methodology provides a holistic approach to interpret the life of each school and facilitates relationship analysis between the personal journey of teachers, pedagogy, and the school ethos.

Thanks to Letitia Fickel who opened the session and introduced each speaker and to Ronnie Davey who posed some thought provoking and stimulating questions and facilitated the discussions.

The dialogue around the experiences, dilemmas, solutions, and opportunities of everyone who attended made for a successful and valuable session; it truly was an opportunity to share with and learn from others the intricacies involved in studying teachers lives!

“All three presentations and the discussion were a really wonderful learning experience. We rarely have such an event where students share their methodological choices for data gathering and analysis.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the interactive-approach of embracing/sharing/recognising the methodological musings we have with our research.”