Poetry into data and data into poetry

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Some times there's a devil in me

Don't think that God designed me

Some times when I look I can't see

Even a half moon blinds me

(David Carless, Pipeline, 2002)

Elliot Eisner

"not only does knowledge come in different forms, the forms of its creation differ."

Elliot Eisner (2008, p. 5)

'Failing to appreciate the contribution of arts-informed practices means we utilise unnecessarily narrow and perhaps a seriously unbalanced approach to communicating research.'

"As language users, we have a range of communication modes available to us. In social science research, we use far fewer than is healthy for the growth of our profession and of our capacity to engage with the world. We have strengthened our muscles for argument, propositional discourse, hortatory expression, categorizing, and creating hierarchies. In social science, and particularly in education, we have let our other muscles languish."

(Neilsen, 2008, p. 386)

Facilitating emotional connection necessitates a move away 'at least for a moment' from the abstract and theoretical forms of knowledge that dominate social science and education, towards the kinds of knowledge that inhabits visceral, embodied experience.

(Carless 2012, p. 4)

15 Justifications for Poetic & Performative Research

- *Multiple knowing*

- *Honours speech & rhythms of life through the writing process*

- *Creates evocative and open-ended connections* to the data for the researcher, reader, and listener.

- *A different and compelling* – to understand the data and self in alternative and more complex ways

- *Interpretive openness* - poetic representations are designed to stimulate and encourage multiple interpretations

- *Condensed form of communicating*

- *Catalyst*

- *Provoke connections*

(Developed from Douglas & Carless, 2009, 2011)

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7

Justifications for Poetic & Performative Research

- An alternative to exclusionary language of traditional social science

- Invite embodied responses that stimulate interest, action and dialogue

- Expand repertoires for social action

- Undermine realist assumptions (i.e., "mirror to nature") to consider different ways of seeing the world

- Expand use of language to include ambiguity, subtle nuance and contradiction

- Overturn presumptions of value-free research, revealing commitment and/or care to the research topic or participants

- Challenge traditional "truth zones," moving towards polyvocal, dialogical and democratic representations
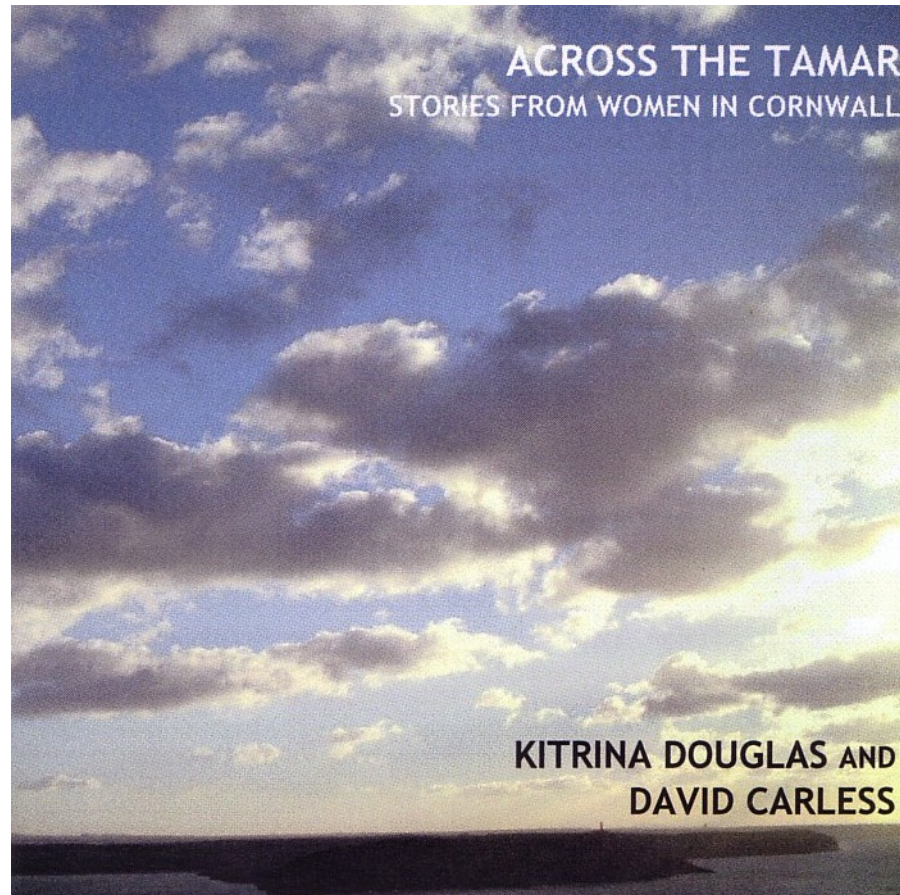
(Developed from Gergen & Gergen, 2011)

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ACROSS THE TAMAR
STORIES FROM WOMEN IN CORNWALL

KITRINA DOUGLAS AND
DAVID CARLESS

Signals & Signs
Qualitative Inquiry 2012

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IuUFDMLGfiE

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