

## A Workshop on Poetic Transcription, Photovoice and Arts-based Research Methodologies - Dr Sarah Meaney Sartori [sarah.sartori@mu.ie](mailto:sarah.sartori@mu.ie)

My name is Sarah Sartori, and I am an educator and researcher based in Maynooth University in Ireland. I began experimenting with arts-based research methodologies during my PhD research, which was a creative exploration of educational exclusion from the perspective of prisoners and youth.<sup>1</sup> My experimentation led me to travel to the University of Victoria in Canada in 2016, to be mentored under Professor Monica Prendergast, a specialist in poetic inquiry in qualitative social science research.



Since then, I have utilised Photovoice, poetry, film, dance, drama, illustration and story-telling to communicate research and participant voice, and to provide another lens from which to explore issues of inequality. I am looking forward to visiting Uppsala University and workshopping some arts-based research methods that can be used to take research outside the academy and into the community for discussion and debate.

- Workshop Part One – Research-Poetry and Performative Research

Research-poetry is poetry that utilises participants' exact words in a compressed form in an attempt to convey the central message.<sup>2</sup> Creating research poetry is a performative act,<sup>3</sup> in that it can be read, performed, responded to, and presented in diverse settings to different audiences.<sup>4</sup> Part one of this workshop will break down the process of turning research transcripts into performative and dramatic form, so as to bring theoretic understandings 'live' to bars, theatres, research conventions and media.



- Workshop Part Two – Using Photovoice in Research and Creating a Photovoice Exhibition

The second part of our workshop together will go through the different stages of turning a Photovoice research project into a virtual and touring Photovoice exhibition, based on my experience of creating the [We are here Hear Project](#). In early 2021, I trained peer-researchers to carry out research with refugees and people seeking asylum on access and barriers to higher education in Ireland. We used Photovoice as a methodology, where people brought a picture that represented their experience of educational exclusion. Following on from this I submitted a proposal to develop a Photovoice touring exhibition and website documenting the educational exclusion and experience of refugees in Ireland. The '*We are here, Hear Project*' has toured nine locations nationally in Ireland, since it launched in October 2021.



I hope this workshop on **Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 in Uppsala University**, will be useful for your research practice and to inspire your creativity.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/14863/>

<sup>2</sup> Faulkner, S. L. (2007). Concern with craft: Using Ars Poetica as criteria for reading research poetry. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 13(2), 218-234.

<sup>3</sup> Prendergast, M. (2009). Introduction: The phenomena of poetry in research. In M. Prendergast, C. Leggo & P. Sameshima (Eds.) *Poetic Inquiry: Vibrant voices in the social sciences*. Netherlands: Sense.

<sup>4</sup> Richardson, L., (2000). Evaluating Ethnography – The Ohio State University. *Qualitative Inquiry*, Vol 6, No 2, pp. 253-255.