



Research Engagement in 55 words (Flash Fiction)

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Inspiration

The project was participatory action research for teachers and staff wellness at a care centre for youth-at-risk. You showed me your courage, your willingness to engage, your passion and pain, your growth and wisdom. You facilitated your own healing through silence, reflection, honesty, curiosity, laughter, and tears. As group facilitator, I was humbled and inspired.

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No Downside

“Let’s double check these responses with our interviewee. Respondent validation guarantees credibility and research engagement.”

“Actively engaging interviewees correspondingly facilitates researcher-respondent power balance. There’s simply no downside to this!”

“So, Melanie, are our interpretations correct?”

“Yes,” said the victim of bullying in a trembling voice.

Shortly afterward, her psychotherapist received an unexpected client visit.

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*(Is There a) Middle Ground?***Proposition:**

“Qualitative inquiry needs a checklist.

A table of essential research actions, decisions, fixes.

For rigor and trustworthiness.

For engaging readers and reviewers.

Especially the critical positivists.”

Counter-proposition:

“Not a table. A word cloud or decision tree, maybe.

Let’s make it look nonformulaic and unrestrictive.

To stop provoking readers and reviewers.

Especially the critical interpretivists.”

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