



## Visit by Professors Ardra Cole & Gary Knowles May 2009



**The University of Sydney** Faculty of Education and Social Work

Presentation: 10:00-11:30am Wednesday 6 May

**Exhibiting Research about Caregiving and Alzheimer' s Disease:  
A Virtual Tour of "Putting Care on the Map"**

Ardra L. Cole, Centre for Arts-informed Research, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

*Putting Care on the Map* is the name of an 11-piece multi-media research exhibit based on qualitative data gathered in a cross-Canada study of caregiving and Alzheimer' s disease. Putting care on the map is also a broad research agenda. The research is exhibited in public places and in forms that are familiar and accessible to diverse communities. A virtual tour of *Putting Care on the Map* will be followed by a discussion of some of the highlights and challenges of exhibiting research.

By Invitational Symposium: 12:30-5:00pm Wednesday 6 May

**Imagining, Creating, and Supporting Scholartistry: The Challenges of Research Work Grounded in the Arts – Arts-informed Research Perspectives**

Ardra L. Cole & J. Gary Knowles, Centre for Arts-informed Research, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

We begin with the assumption that the arts have potential for illuminating the possibilities, practices, and representations of sound qualitative research projects. We explore the foundations of our experience as qualitative researchers and outline for discussion the defining qualities of arts-informed research (to be distinguished from arts-based and art-based research). Using examples from Master' s and doctoral theses we engage with participants on topics such as links with more traditional methodologies, the transformative possibilities of the arts, promises of alternative representation forms, issues and challenges of doing arts-informed work and / or guiding the development of theses, barriers to and concerns about the role of the arts in researching. We anticipate the symposium to be a context where those who advocate or support the roles of the arts in researching will share experiences and search for mutual ground and perspectives.

N.B. Numbers for this invitational symposium are strictly limited. Please ensure you RSVP.

Research / Methodological Collquia Presentation: 5:00-6:30pm Thursday 7 May

**Drawing on the Arts, Transforming Research: Possibilities of Arts-informed Perspectives**

Ardra L. Cole & J. Gary Knowles, Centre for Arts-informed Research, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

An exploration of the possibilities for and challenges of arts-informed research is the focus of the presentation. We begin by recounting the beginnings and foundational elements of arts-informed research and illustrate the various ways in which it is embraced by a variety of qualitative researchers (as a stand-alone approach or in combination with other perspectives). We emphasize the transformational possibilities that come with presenting scholarship in alternatives ways to traditional academic discourse. The barriers and challenges to researching through the arts are also addressed. We illustrate and provide examples within our presentation from the work of graduate researchers and others and, in so doing, we address the utility and constraints of arts-informed research.

Enquiries and registration to Deans Unit, Reception 9036 5368 or [d.brooks@edfac.usyd.edu.au](mailto:d.brooks@edfac.usyd.edu.au)

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### Biographies:

Ardra L. Cole and J. Gary Knowles are both Professors of Creative Inquiry and Adult Learning within the Program of Adult Education and Community Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. They also are Co-directors of the Centre for Arts-informed Research ( CAIR ) in the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology.

Ardra and Gary have published extensively on life history, reflexive, and arts-informed research as well as in the area of teacher education and development. Their co-authored books include: *Through Preservice Teachers' Eyes: Exploring Field Experiences through Narrative and Inquiry* ( Macmillan ) ; *Researching Teaching: Exploring Teacher Development through Reflexive Inquiry* ( Allyn & Bacon ) ; *The Heart of the Matter: Teacher Educators and Teacher Education Reform* ( Caddo Gap Press ) ; and *Lives in Context: The Art of Life History Research* ( AltaMira Press ) .

Most notably in relation to their visit to the University of Sydney they are the co-editors of the recently published international *Handbook of the Arts in Qualitative Research: Perspectives, Methodologies, Examples, and Issues* ( Sage ) with Chapter 5 of that volume focusing specifically on arts-informed research. They are also co-editors of *The Arts-informed Inquiry Series* ( Series Editor, J. Gary Knowles ) which includes: *The Art of Writing Inquiry* ( 2001 ) ; *Provoked by Art* ( 2004 ) ; *The Art of Visual Inquiry* ( 2007 ) ; and *Creating Scholartistry* ( 2008 ) ( Backalong Books and CAIR ) .

Ardra and Gary have each helped many graduate students complete arts-informed doctoral and Master's degree theses embodying poetic, fictional, performative, and visual arts inquiry processes and forms to address educational and social issues.

Some of Gary's other coauthored books include: *Emerging as a Teacher* ( Routledge ) , and *Home Schooling: Parents as Educators* ( Corwin Press ) . His more recent inquiry work involves high school students from Ontario and Newfoundland, Canada, portraying experiences of school and community through photography and narrative. A water media visual artist, Gary has exhibited in several South Pacific countries as well as in the United States of America and Canada. Notions of sense of place, of self-on-the land, and self in place were at the heart of his earlier work in Australasia as an outdoor educator and in his work as a co-director of I-land gallery ( a one-time Toronto contemporary art gallery ) .

Ardra has published extensively in conventional and non-conventional academic prose and in alternative, scholarly, non-print media throughout her career as a teacher educator and qualitative research methodologist. Ardra's ongoing research ( with Maura McIntyre ) on care and caregiving and Alzheimer's disease involves multi-media installation, performance, and the World Wide Web ( [www.oise.utoronto.ca/research/mappingcare](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/research/mappingcare) ) .

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