

# **Tell-tale stories about a dissertation: teaching and research as human activities**

Proefschrift ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor aan Tilburg University op gezag van de rector magnificus, prof. dr. Ph. Eijlander, in het openbaar te verdedigen ten overstaan van een door het college voor promoties aangewezen commissie in de Ruth First zaal van de Universiteit op dinsdag 11 november 2014 om 12.15 uur door

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geboren op 15 juni 1967 te Victoria, Mexico

## **Abstract**

This dissertation is about two processes of construction. The construction of a method of research that tells how writing can become a method for investigation; and the construction of teaching as a dialogical, ethical and political process. The dissertation introduces the ideas of teaching and researching as human activities; as “ways of being” more than simply methods and techniques; as personal and collective processes of transformation; and as ethical processes. It also presents an example of teaching as one that assumes that we learn more than content, where we learn to relate, to express, to be and to dialogue together. And finally, it presents forms of research in which one talks about possibilities; truths as ways of being; and truths that are invitations to doubt, to enjoy and appreciate life.

The document is divided in five chapters. The first is about the context of this particular research. It introduces the researcher as knower and writer, the participants, and programmes and places. The second is a narrative about the crafting process of a research method. The third chapter is an extensive description of the teaching process. The fourth includes a new perspective about the teaching process from both theory and participants’ experiences. The fifth is the introduction to a philosophy of life for teaching and research.