

## Abstract

Social construction invites us to engage in meaningful conversations, to be curious about new possibilities, and to co-create alternative ways of being-with one another in the world. It counters notions of individualism and nurtures dialogical engagement. It challenges our knowing and certainty, and asks us to embrace un-knowing and un-certainty to co-construct emergent ideas, meaning making, and transformative possibilities in our re-search and future practice. The stance of relational construction, being-in the discourse of 'we,' moved this re-search into new terrain and un-mapped territory. Relational inquiry cultivated our curiosity about the confluence of hope, strengths, and resistance, and the fluidity of the transformative dynamic portrayed through our verbal and visual narratives. The re-search presented in this dissertation focused on the stories and art created by nine co-inquirers and how their invited conversations, rich in meaning and deeply experiential, illuminated the importance of story and art in therapeutic practice. Rhizomatic thought flourished. This narrative of re-search and practice is based not on 'I the researcher' but on 'we the co-inquirers,' collaboratively co-constructing counter-stories of relational practice for discursive therapeutic space. The everyday-ness of our conversations encourages multiplicity of voice and deconstructs the power differentials of researcher/researched and of therapist/client. This re-search opens new ways of relationally being-with in therapeutic space. This project originated as *Curious conversations: Verbal and visual narratives, relationally co-creating the meaning of strengths, resistance and hope with women in discursive therapeutic space. What is this intertwined, transformative dynamic?* ... and became so much more for all nine co-inquirers.