

Dr. Miranda Matthews, Educational Studies, Application for REC 500

A study of visual and discursive practices for the intersectional representation and wellbeing of undergraduates in British Universities

Research Objectives

- This research aims to find out how arts pedagogies, that are integral to academic teaching content, may alter discourses that contribute to cultural dissociation among students in minority groups starting at university. This dissociation impacts on their attendance and wellbeing.
- I am taking an intersectional approach to addressing experiences of minorities of class and ethnicity, for more effective cultural representation at university. This research will contribute to new understandings, for example of the transitions of young people from urban mixed communities starting at elite universities.
- For accessibility, observation of GDPR (2018), and transferability of research recommendations, I will analyse the approaches of university lecturers who use creative arts pedagogies, in what are usually high entry level courses in the humanities and social sciences. I will analyse their observations of student experiences.
- I aim to find out what makes good practice effective, for those who seek to welcome undergraduates into university culture with creative arts methods in teaching, and to make further recommendations that will provide new insight for the academic community.

Action Plan

- I will interview lecturers in three Russell Group universities, Goldsmiths and at a post-92 university, for thematic comparison.
- Expanding on current connections, I aim to interview 20 lecturers, 3-5 in each university, aiming for representation of gender, ethnicity and class among participants. Expanded data collection, alongside analysis could take until September 2020.

Envisioned Impact/ Outputs

- The first outputs will be conference presentations (2019-20).
- An article to be published in a peer reviewed journal, and book proposal (2020).
- Impact will be enhanced through building a collaborative network of response that could lead to a larger internal/external partnership, and a funding application through the AHRC or Leverhulme.

Costs

- 4 hours (£70 per hour) of transcription, generating rapid data for presenting issues and connecting to diversity of participants = £280
- Transport to interview lecturers, e.g. Cambridge (2 x £19), Bristol (2 x £59.50) Cardiff (£78.80) = £220 (£235.8)
- Total £500

