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The proposal fits several sub-themes (they seem explicit in the proposal – let me know if you need more on this):

- Arts-based research and/or artistic research and belonging/not belonging to communities
- Arts-based research and/or artistic research and voluntary or forced minority status
- Arts-based research and/or artistic research and the norms of communities (cultural, geographic, scientific, and so on)
- Arts-based research and/or artistic research and diversified communities of scholarship

A Collective Case Study

On Arts-based Community Inquiry and DIY Research Publication.

The silence of words, or what Rancière (2011, 158) calls ‘mute speech’, points to ‘a productive contradiction’ whereby words can...escape the posture of authority of the supposed masters of language, those such as the consecrated writers and experts who are presumed to own the “means” of expression’ (Ross 2010, 135 as cited in Singh & Meng, 2013, p.219)

Created by 5 members of the mental health community when an art therapy program was defunded, the Pandora Arts Collective (PACS) currently offers a facilitated open studio in urban Victoria, British Columbia, providing emotionally safe creative space for anyone who chooses it. PACS emphasizes wellbeing and self-determination through self-directed studio practice, mutual aid, and creative community outreach.

PACS’ 20-page ‘zine is an example of a marginalized community creatively exploiting the culturally loaded silences of research practice and publication in Western Academic journal culture to research and present their organizational history and auto-ethnographic stories as a means of furthering community outreach and to fight the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Beyond the PACS case, I will reflect on the changing forms of academic knowledge design and distribution. Clearly online choices “which encourage the principle that as long as the methodology is sound, the decision as to what is important may be taken by users rather than editors and reviewers” (Cope & Phillips, 2014, http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/book/library-and-information-science/9781843347835/chapter-1-introduction/st0020_html?uicode=uvictoria) are redefining form, content, peer review and merit. At the

same time, and related to many of the same questions of power and self-representation, self and small-scale print publication is experiencing a resurgence.

Weighted down by zero hour contracts and rising rent prices, zines offer ... no interruptions, and unlike dusty old glossies, provides a realistic proposition of what the future of media could look like. Stapled, bound, black and white or perfect colour, the zine is perhaps almost unique in the fact that budget rarely directly correlates with success. (Gamble, 2015)

Drawing on Rancierian notions of muted speech and Dissensus, I will explore the Academic journal and the politics of collaboration in art-making, community activism and research in the shared research, creation and publication processes that lead to the PACS 'Zine. The silence of words Singh and Meng (2013) invites discourse where 'non-experts' can voice the alternative meanings so essential to democracy.

[In] the three key constructs integral to Rancière's (1991) concept of democracy, namely equality, diversity and dissensus...[d]emocracy refers to the effectiveness of a part of those who have no part making their claims on reconfiguring the relations between the part and the whole. Democracy designates the 'subjects that do not coincide with the parties of the state or of society, floating subjects that deregulate all representation of places and portions' (Rancière 1999, 99–100) as cited in Singh & Meng, 2013, p.210)

These questions will support consideration of:

- Collaboration and expertise as aspects of research
- Silence, speech and the street-level democratizing function of art
- analog 'zines and controlling distribution as forms of safe communication (Cresser, F., Gunn, L. & Balme, 2001)

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