‘I wear heels to try to make myself look a bit different than how I really feel’

Mapping material-discursive-affective intra-actions in the production of a counsellor subjectivity

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Being and becoming counsellor

‘the novice journey can be arduous’

‘they are in the midst of great anxiety, discomfort, and uncertainty’ (Skovholt and Ronnestad, 2003)

‘A rhizome has no beginning or end; it is always in the middle, between things, interbeing, *intermezzo*’

(Deleuze & Guattari, 1987, p25)
Method - Collective Biography
(Bronwyn Davies & Susanne Gannon)

• 8 participants
  – 2nd year student counsellors

‘the detail of the telling makes visible the constitutive work that is going on and that has gone on...’ and through this the (illusion of the) autonomous subject is made possible. (Davies and Gannon, 2006, p:176).
Mapping Data – poems and images

‘Mapping affords opportunities to read data as complex, connected, relational networks. It discloses potential organizations of reality rather than reproducing some prior organization – it thus charts territory anew.’ (Martin & Kamberelis, 2013, p671)

Rescued Speech Poems
- enables the complexity, multiplicity, richness, and partiality of stories to be told
- poetry has ‘space between’ which allows for tentativeness, silence, and ambiguity to be held
- de-centring coherent, linear narratives and the spoken voice as dominant representations of knowledge.
Karen Barad ‘the entanglement of matter and meaning’

‘to be entangled is not simply to be intertwined with another, as in the joining of separate entities, but to lack an independent, self-contained existence. Existence is not an individual affair. Individuals do not pre-exist their interactions; rather, individuals emerge through and as part of their entangled intra-relating’ (Barad, 2007, pix)
Trying to be a counsellor honour what the client needs and also what I need as a counsellor cos my job’s really hard and I need space and I need things to be able to look after myself so I can do the job properly and
‘I wear heels’

I haven’t been able to be myself completely in the professional environment. I’ve had to put this capsule around me to make myself look older, more professional, more mature. I dress quite differently to go to placement. I wear heels. I try to make myself look a bit different than how I really feel.
you need to be at the staff room every lunchtime and interval and network with the teachers so they learn to trust you,
Implications

‘From a poststructuralist perspective the individualised subject-of-will is both an idea and an accomplishment that we each labour over, attempting to make real an idealized image of ourselves—as rational, as responsible—in relation to which we are always judged and found wanting’ (Davies, 2010, p55)

‘In contrast, listening to the other, for the subject-of-thought, involves listening not just to oneself and the other, but to the boat, the river, the stars, the changing weather patterns, the waves, and their co-implication in each other. It listens to changing, emergent thought and reflects on it, is integrally co-implicated in it. It is in this capacity to listen to emergent thought that its agency lies.’ (Davies, 2010, p57)
...and getting into this trap like I mean there’s part of me that has contributed to it, but I’m not just seeing it as me and my fault and me and me and self-doubt. I can see that there is a lot more that’s been going on.

...so I kind of felt I was stuck in this loop, just over and over again, so coming to the group was a way for me to unknot that loop, I guess and I could understand it better. I feel I could have been stuck in a lot of loops that didn’t shift without everyone else’s contribution.

Eva.
References


