

Trustworthiness and Rigor in Ethnodramatic Performance

A major issue that confronts ethnodrama as a means of research dissemination (Saldaña, 2011; Beck, Belliveau, Lea, Wage, & 2011) is theorizing the audience's response to the data. What happens on stage is not what happens in real life, but theatre may communicate more richly than other forms of report.

The symposium looks back to core theory in ethnographic methods (Clifford & Marcus, 1986) to look forward to new methods of conveying qualitative research. We discuss two questions

- How might one appraise the trustworthiness and rigor of ethnodrama in relationship to the events the performance evokes?
- How might one understand the meanings shaped by ethnodrama in relationship to common academic communication practices, such as Powerpoint lectures and journal articles?

During the first half of the session, we perform an excerpt from a revised version of a peer reviewed ethnodrama, *Goodbye to All That!*, which evokes a teacher's effort to teach a difficult and complex subject: the middle passage. The original script was constructed from verbatim transcriptions of the teacher's interviews using inquiry theatre methods (Vanover, in press) and interspliced the teacher's verbatim stories with excerpts from a novel on the middle passage she taught during the unit.

The TQRC session is intended to act as an open, peer review process. Panelists and audience members will discuss how the ethnodrama evokes the teacher's stories of teaching events she imperfectly understood and communicated. These comments will be used by the author to revise the script for publication. The revised ethnodrama will be performed as part of the Studio @ 620's Social Justice series in June of 2016.