

Urban Futures Symposium

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Presentation: Worth While Writing: Articulating New Ways to Value Feminist Creative Practice

In this research project I start with a personal problem: how do I value my feminist creative practice? Why am I more attuned to perceptions of failure than success? Ahmed (2017) suggests feminism is 'an affective inheritance' and one of its tasks is part of a wider struggle to 'make sense of being'. Failure and success are loaded terms. I want to interrogate them and see if I can make new sense(s) of them. I develop a creative practice research methodology that is affective, feminist, situated and driven by poetic inquiry. I use / write poetry as a research tool, and I employ a poetic research approach that is associative, notices language, and seeks openness in form. The project is supported by primary research of my community of practice through interviews, and critical and creative engagement with this community's work. Through paying attention to the 'worth' (value) and the 'whileness' (act of doing) of writing, I create new possibilities for how creative practice functions as research and propose new ways to see the value and sustainability of feminist creative practice.