

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES in Education

Workshop Series



Prof. Eva Alerby

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Eva Alerby is a Professor in Education at Luleå University of Technology in northern Sweden. She is interested in the philosophical aspects of education and has researched and published extensively in this area. Eva plays a leading role in the Arctic Children's Project which focuses on the socio-psychological well-being of children who live within the Arctic Circle. This is a cross-border research project involving academics and other professionals from Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Eva is also involved in a study of the school experiences of children in remote communities in central Australia and northern Sweden. All of her work centres on understanding the ways in which children experience school and the diverse ways in which they express these experiences.

Visual Narratives as Research Data – To Grasp Experiences by Drawings

Experiences can be expressed in many different ways, and within this workshop I want to stress the humans' ability to use many forms of 'languages'. Polanyi (1969) claims that, beyond our ordinary spoken or written words, there is a rich domain of the unspeakable that constantly beckons us. Polanyi also emphasises that there is a silent and tacit dimension, which he calls 'tacit knowledge'. This implies that spoken or written language alone may not be enough to represent our total knowledge. One way to evoke some of what lies hidden in the 'tacit' domain of our knowledge is to use different forms of visual representations – for example drawings. A drawing can be used to stimulate and express experiences.

The workshop will give a brief theoretical background, but also some examples of using drawings as a way to illuminate experiences.

Date : **Feb 13 2008 (Wednesday)**

Time : **13.00-15.00**

Venue : **D2-G/F 01, Tai Po Campus**