Performing the Human Subject: Reflections on Arts-Based Approaches to Knowledge Translation in Health Research

Associate Professor Susan Cox
The W. Maurice Young Centre for Applied Ethics
School of Population and Public Health
Faculty of Medicine
The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Arts-based methods of health research are becoming increasingly popular as a means of doing research as well as disseminating the findings. In this presentation, I present excerpts from a recent arts-based project that employed found poetry, drama, song, and visual arts to represent findings from a funded study about the experiences of human subjects in health research. My talk will explore the practice and process of interdisciplinarity in arts-based health research, identifying ethical, methodological and other emerging challenges facing researchers and artists engaged in using the arts to represent research findings.

Susan Cox is a sociologist and qualitative health researcher. Her work applies the methods of the social sciences to applied ethics research and practice. Her research focuses on: 1) research ethics, especially the experiences of human subjects in health research, 2) arts based methods in health research, and 3) illness experiences throughout the life course, especially as they are shaped by as well as reflected through narrative. Susan is active within the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, is a member of the Advisory Council for the Arts Health Network Canada and serves as a member of the Research Ethics Board at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

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ALL WELCOME