



Daisy Pillay, Theresa Chisanga, Anita Hiralaal, Lungile Masinga, Inbanathan Naicker, Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan

Title: Productive *un*-knowing through curating a virtual exhibition of object artworks

We are a group of researchers from diverse ethnic and academic backgrounds at three very different South African universities. Our collaboration is enriched by our different indigenous histories and our shared interest in the study of objects as an arts-based educational research practice. We also have a joint commitment to the disruption of historical hierarchies of knowing in our higher education institutions. In this discussion, we draw on a conceptualisation of “productive un-knowing” to study our curation of a virtual exhibition of found objects that were made into artworks by university academics. Object studies as an artful research practice is founded on an appreciation for the local and the everyday as sites for different ways of knowing. Taking a narrative inquiry approach, we explore how we worked virtually with the object artworks to compose textured, dynamic portrayals of self-other relations. Data generated from our Zoom meetings, email conversations, selections of visual exhibits, and fieldnotes informed our productive learnings. Our discussion reveals that how we curate the products of arts-based research can facilitate productive un-knowing that can contribute to a broader agenda of inclusivity and community in higher education.

We acknowledge gratefully grant funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa (Human and Social Dynamics in Development Grant Number 118539). We further acknowledge that any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and therefore the funders do not accept any liability in regard thereto.