

**Research in the real world and reaching out  
to people and communities through  
developing a living-educational-theory  
(values-led) research methodology**

Marie Huxtable

Presentation at CARN 2023

26 – 28 Oct, Friends Meeting House, Manchester, UK

Research in the Real World: Reaching out to  
people and communities

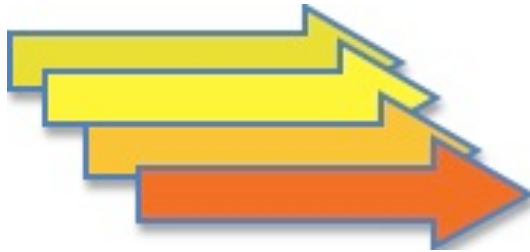
# **Research in the real world and reaching out to people and communities through developing a living-educational-theory (values-led) research methodology**

## **Abstract**

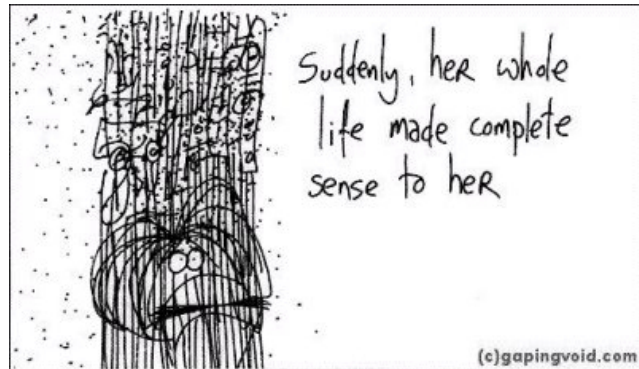
In 2016 I presented a paper at the CARN annual conference, 'How does a Living Theory research approach to Action Research enhance the understanding, development and integration of personal, professional and political collaborative practice as a contribution to the flourishing of humanity?' I will use that paper as a base from which to explore questions such as: What currently constitutes the 'real world' that is the context of my practice and research?; How has that world changed since 2016?; What influence has those changes had on my practice and research?; How has what I do to reach out to people and communities changed with what result?; What are the implications of what I learn through exploring these questions for my research and what I do to enhance my educational influence in my own learning, the learning of others and the learning of the social formations to bring into being a world in which our individual and shared humanity flourishes?; How has developing my living-educational-theory research methodology helped me to contribute to the realisation of values of an emancipating, inclusive, egalitarian society in the real world?

I will present a brief summary of my evolving answers as an invitation to others to contribute their reflections to help us learn, from and with each other, to improve how we research in the real world of the here and now, and to improve how we reach out to people and communities in the space and time we have together and beyond.

# Research in the real world and reaching out to people and communities through developing a living-educational-theory (values-led) research methodology



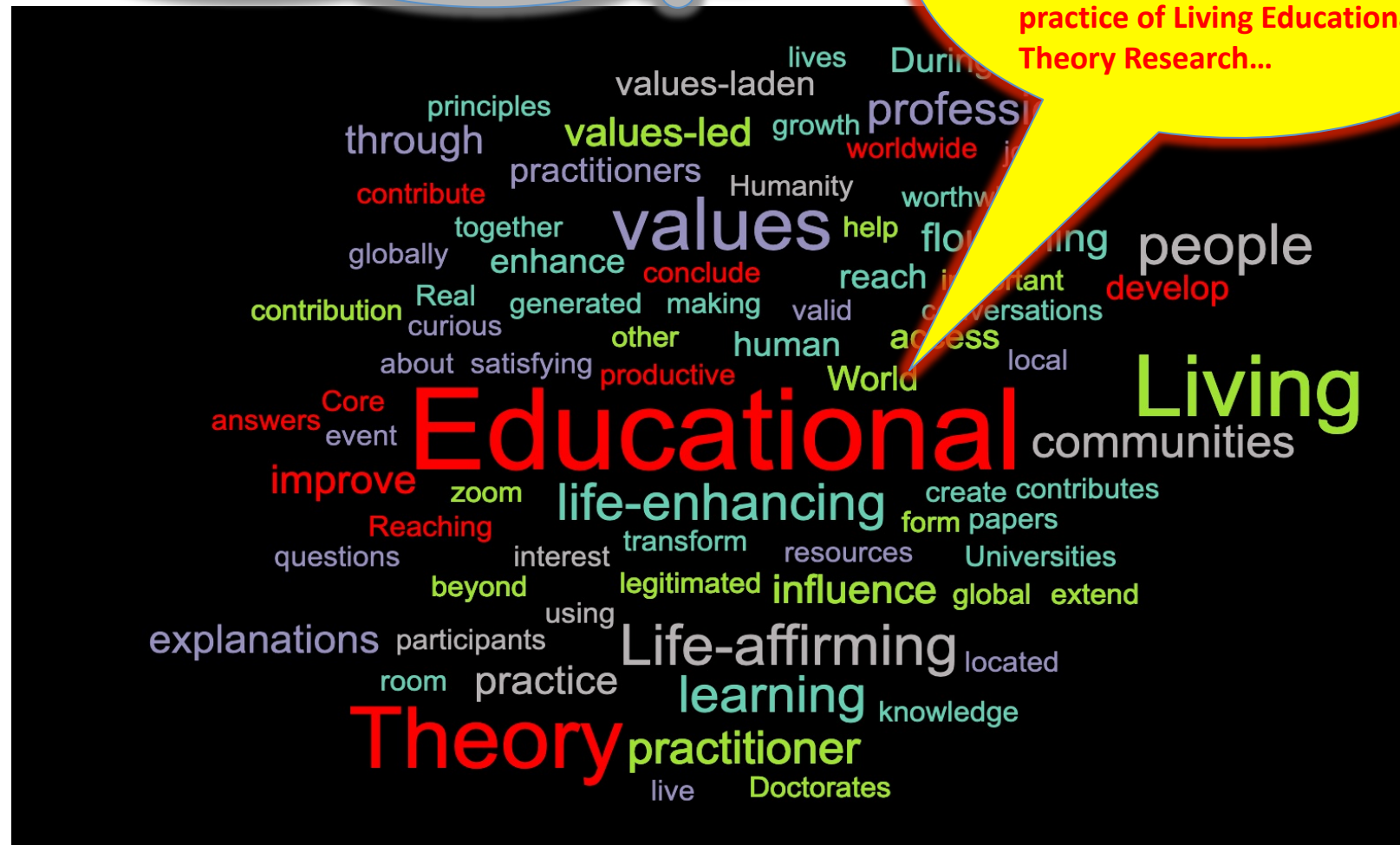
# Research in the real world and reaching out to people and communities through developing a living-educational-theory (values-led) research methodology



# 1. What currently constitutes the 'real world' that is the context of my practice and research?

... through the lens of international news reports – wars, famine, pestilence, poverty, floods, drought

... through the lens of my experience my evolving practice reaching out to people and communities to extend knowledge, understanding & practice of Living Educational Theory Research...



## ***2. How has that world changed since 2016?***

- Two major changes have occurred in the intervening years as people and communities have to find ways of cooperating to face the challenges of a pandemic and global environmental catastrophes.
- As the world went into lockdown technology has been harnessed to open up channels of communication. This has contributed to the development, influence and visibility of a global Collective Imaginary with values of human flourishing.

### 3. What influence has those changes had on my practice and research?

COVID changed every bodies' real worlds.

Mine contacted and expanded

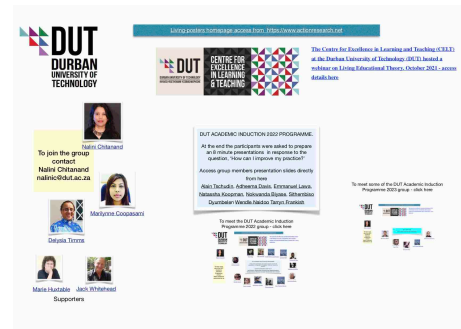
*Lockdown contracted  
my physical world and  
expanded my virtual  
world*



The 1st International Living Educational Theory Research Online Conference  
Theme: Living Educational Theory research making a difference in communities & organisations

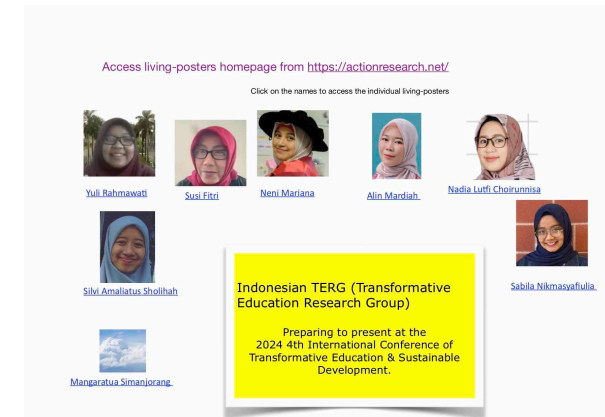
<http://www.spanglefish.com/livingtheoryresearchgathering/>

*Stimulated a focus on  
collective responses  
with communities  
developing their Living  
Educational Theory  
Researcher around the  
world.*



Durban University of Technology,  
South Africa

<http://www.actionresearch.net>



Indonesian group preparing to  
present at the  
2024 Transformative Education &  
Sustainable Development  
conference





























## 4. How has what I do to reach out to people and communities changed with what result?











**2016** – I used the idea of living-posters to help individual's have a presence when they could not be present at an event and make serendipitous connections by enabling them to make visible their professional practitioner educational values-led research and interests.













**2023** – in the idea continues with that purpose focussed on the individual **and** helping to form, sustain and connect communities developing their knowledge, understanding and practice of Living Educational Theory Researchers.











**Living Educational Theory Researchers & other educational-practitioner researchers developing educational, values-laden knowledge, theory, practice and opportunities that contribute to systemic change for the flourishing of humanity.**

Find a kindred spirit by exploring the researchers' living-posters where they give a snapshot of their sites of practice and research. Follow the links into a group page to find links to the individual's living-posters.  
(Use your back-button to return to this page.)

**HOW to CREATE and SHARE your LIVING-POSTER...**

Contact Jack Whitehead at [jack@livingtheory.org](mailto:jack@livingtheory.org) for further information



**5. What are the implications of what I learn through exploring these questions for my research and what I do** to enhance my educational influence in my own learning, the learning of others and the learning of the social formations to bring into being a world in which our individual and shared humanity flourishes?

Increasingly focussing what I do on supporting people and communities to develop their knowledge, understanding and practice of Living Educational Theory Research

Researching into new practice which contributes to the development of local and global communities ' Collective Imaginary' with values of human flourishing

The latest focus has been on a joint publication with Jack Whitehead on

**Living Educational Theory Research as an Epistemology for Practice: The Role of Values in Practitioners' Professional Development**

## 6. How has developing my living-educational-theory research methodology helped me to contribute to the realisation of values of an emancipating, inclusive, egalitarian society in the real world ?

It has helped me in the generation of my living-educational-theory with values of an emancipating, inclusive and egalitarian society in the real world. The use of insights from my living-educational-theory in the generation of another's living-educational-theory has enabled me to see the value of my own work in the work and lives of others...

- critically and creatively engage with the work of others Improve their educational learning and expertise in the field of their practice, as they
- Hold themselves to account for the consequences of what they do, by continually seeking data to enable them to understand, improve and evaluate the educational, values-focused influence of they are having
- contribute to the social formations realising all their raisons d'être which are the context of realising its values-based purposes
- **enjoy the pleasure that comes with realising your educational values as fully as you can in practice in a researching Community of Practice in a local and global real world**



## Concluding

“What is the goal of education?” he would ask, “When all is said and done, we want [...] to grow up to be decent human beings, a ‘mensch’, a person with compassion, commitment, and caring.” (Ginnot, 1972, p.10)

An invitation to you to contribute your reflections to help us learn, from and with each other, to improve how we research in the real world of the here and now, and improve how we reach out to people and communities in the space and time we have together and beyond

**Engaging in Living Educational Theory Research can enable you to realise such a goal of education and help other individuals and communities (such as your employing organisation) to do so too.**

**When to start? NOW – never a better time!**



**Educational Journal of Living Theories**

<https://ejolts.net/>



<https://actionresearch.net/>