

In search of truths: pursuing the illusions of objectivity or mirroring the processes of learning?

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This paper examines the discourses of research which influence VET researchers to frame research within traditional patterns of objectivity. The paper explores why such a pursuit may be viewed as illusionary. The paper proposes that there may be more value in framing the research methodology to mirror the learning situation that is under examination. This approach may provide the opportunity to display the complexity of the learning environment and often paradoxical narratives.

The paper is about future research in that it illustrates this approach by examining a current project to evaluate the Frontline Management Initiative. The FMI is of specific VET interest because it represents the emerging form of CBT, an open market training package, based upon facilitation in the organisational context, underpinning moves towards continued situated learning and knowledge development for adaptive organisational cultures. The paper describes how such a project both drew from past practices and will attempt to mirror the causal chain of learning situation that it evaluates.

Finally the paper outlines the proposed methodology and the relevance of competence approaches which exhibit an engineered diversity. The paper invites comment from the VET research community that can develop the project and aims to establish an on going network of dissemination and feedback thought the life of the project.

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