Seminar
Co-hosted by the Black Dog Institute and the Qualitative Research Network Hub

Ecological perspectives, mixed art-science research and mental health

Dr Geoffrey Edwards, Laval University, Quebec

Tuesday, 29th August 2017
10:00 – 11:00
Black Dog Institute Lecture Theatre G39
Hospital Road, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick

Summary
Dr Geoffrey Edwards will present ongoing research seeking to situate both disability, and now mental health, within an ecological perspective. To begin with, he will present a reworking of the Human Development - Disability Creation Process model, already being updated for ecological considerations, to accommodate mental health issues. He will touch lightly on issues of resiliency, although these are strongly relevant to mental health, in order to address instrumentation, and in particular the potential use of smart garments for applications in mental health as well as initial steps in this direction. Finally, Dr Edwards will address the importance of aesthetics, and the inclusion of artistic modes of functioning, within research that embraces an ecological perspective. This will provide the necessary background for viewing "Pinnacle", a 20-minute science fiction virtual opera that grapples with some of these issues.

Biography
Dr Geoffrey Edwards has a PhD in Astrophysics (1987), some of whose work was followed up at the Anglo-Australian Telescope in Coonabarabran. He is a Senior Professor in the Geomatics (surveying) Science Department at Laval University in Quebec City, and for the past fifteen years he has been a member of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Research in Rehabilitation and Social Integration (CIRRIS) as well as being a founding member of the Centre for Research in Geomatics (CRG). Dr Edwards’ current interests include the development of a mixed science-art strategy for health research and the exploration of appropriate theory in support of such research, the development of smart environments and smart garments in support of people with disability, and the inclusion of ecological and sustainable development perspectives within disability and mental health research. He is completing a two month stay as a visiting scientist at the Black Dog Institute.

Enquiries
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