



# Supporting Patients Living with Dementia During a Pandemic: Digital Theatre and Educational Spaces

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COLLECTION EDITED BY Janise Hurtig

COLLECTION  
Education Studies

EDITION  
1st edition

MARKET  
College/higher education  
and Professional and  
scholarly

## This course reading...

- Presents anecdotal examples and narratives of learning from a student knowledge exchange placement experience taking place in a hospital during a pandemic.
- Explores ideas of horizontal team structures within practical learning environments, the challenges of connection when balancing virtual and in-person presence, and the idea of a pedagogy of reciprocity.
- Offers real-life stories to help readers ground their understanding of theory in practical settings.

**How did a group of higher education applied theatre placement students learn to connect with patients living with dementia, in an acute hospital setting, during a global pandemic? How did they navigate the liminal spaces of inhabiting a virtual space while striving for real-life presence and an equality of learning and knowledge exchange?**

In this book, authors and project leaders **Dr Nicola Abraham PhD** and **Ma. Victoria Ruddock BSN** present narratives and anecdotal examples of how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the learning of these placement students and how they adapted the learning expectations of the project in order to account for the liminality of combining virtual and in-person space inhabitation.

Through stories and reflections from the project the authors explore the meaning of a pedagogy of reciprocity and ways of navigating uncertainty. They discuss the essential need for horizontal team structures to enhance learning experiences and consider the uses of transmedia communication tools.

**Nicola Abraham PhD** is an Applied Theatre practitioner and academic. Most recently, she is a lecturer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. While seconded to the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, she co-designed a Student Knowledge Exchange set of projects alongside clinical staff from the Dementia Care Team at Imperial.

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