



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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