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# **A ~~tale~~ tale of PhD surviving and thriving!**

by

**Dr Tracy Ann Hayes**

**&**

**Maisy the Rotten Russell**

**Thursday 11 July 2019**

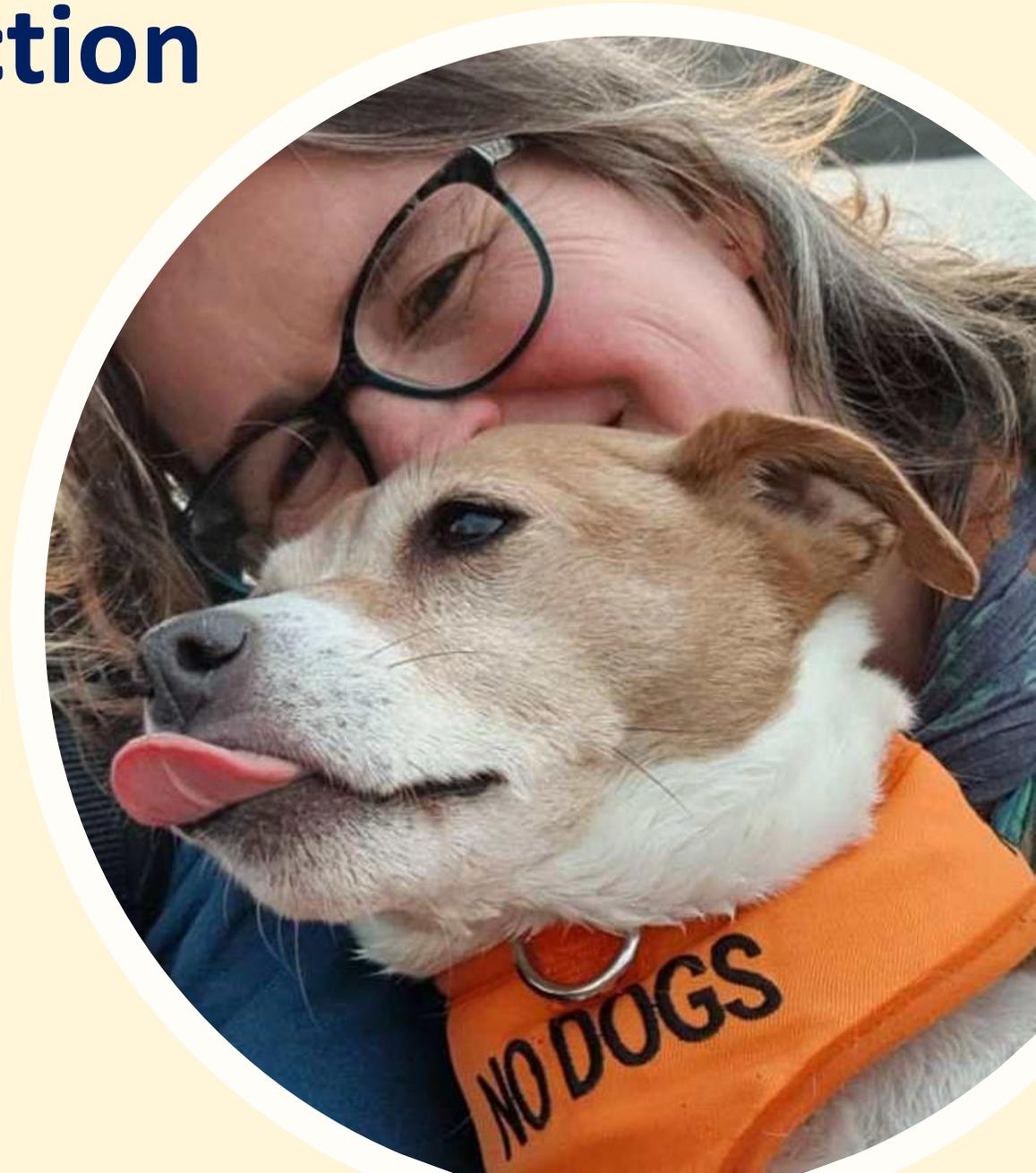
# Introduction

**Me:** ~~Lecturer~~ Incompetent Human

- Teach on BA Working with Children & Families and MSc Applied Social Science
- PhD in Transdisciplinary Research in Outdoor Studies *Making Sense of Nature: A creative exploration of young people's relationship with the natural environment.*

**Maisy:** A ~~Rotten~~ Jack Russell

- Doesn't really like other dogs
- Or many people
- Keeps me grounded, takes me for walks...



# Making Sense of Nature...

- The natural world is under threat from human activities and we need to consider how we protect places, people, animals and plants found there.
- My focus is on how we can engage the public in this (children, young people and families).
- Creative approach, preferring everyday language and utilising stories.
- Resulted in commission to develop a practitioners' toolkit providing guidance on how to work effectively outdoors, with young people identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- Also worked with HASCE (now HASKE) on range of projects including delivery phase of the SNROS Heritage Lottery Funded Project: 'Back On Our Map' (BOOM).

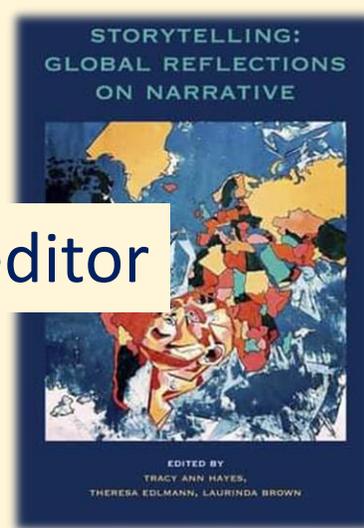
# Emerging Impact & Influence



- **Royal Geographical Society (RGS)**
  - Conference Officer of GCYFRG.
  - June 2016: awarded Reflective Essay Postgraduate Prize by HERG
    - Essay now published as a book chapter.
- **British Educational Research Association (BERA)**
  - In 2018, awarded the Anna Craft Creativities in Education Prize by BERA Creativities in Education sig.
  - Convener of new special interest group (sig) in *Nature, Outdoor Learning and Play* (nolap), officially launched 2 July 2019.
- **UoC**
  - June 2016, recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Early Career Research Excellence.
  - May 2017: awarded ECR grant to support post-doctoral study, for project titled 'Playing with Words... Connecting through Story'.



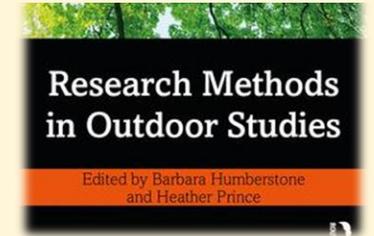
Lead editor



Chapter author



Chapter author



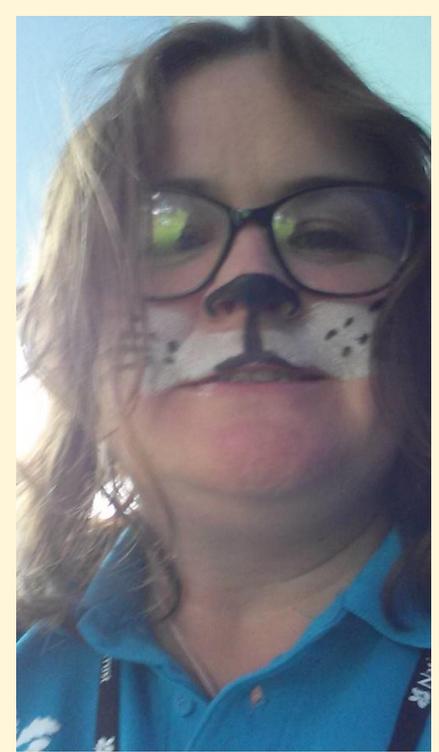
## Celebrating achievements

**Journal article** - 'Dr Bear and the Adventure Bears', published in *Children's Geographies*.

**Book chapters:**

- 1) 'I thought... I saw... I heard...: the ethical and moral tensions of auto/biographically opportunistic research in public spaces', in *The Palgrave MacMillan Handbook of Auto/Biography*.
- 2) 'Bear Illustrations in Children's Literature', co-authored with Profs Heather Prince and Ian Convery, in *The Bear: A Cultural and Natural Heritage*.

**My non/less  
academic  
achievements  
include...**





# Finding the 'joy' in research...

- Not everyone will see what you see.
- Need to value differing perspectives.
- Be open to feedback.
- Respond to challenges.
- Which is where the real learning lies.

# The Iceberg Illusion

Success is an iceberg

SUCCESS!

WHAT PEOPLE SEE

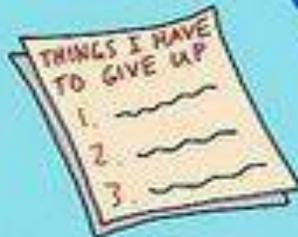
Persistence



Failure



Sacrifice



Disappointment



WHAT PEOPLE DON'T SEE

Dedication



Hard work



Discipline





# Coping with the unexpected...

- I had no idea what a PhD was, until I did one.
- Not from an academic background.
- Preparation will take you so far...
- Flexibility, responsiveness and a good sense of humour are vital.

# When things feel tough...

- Take a break
- Have a rest
- Do something different
- Remember this is a marathon, not a sprint....
- Pace yourself





# You are not alone

- Supervisors
- Mentors
- Research Office
- Research community
- Family & Friends
- Pets...

**Now a Nana to 2 grand-doggies and a very beautiful grand-daughter...**



**There is more to life than work ...**

# What's next?

Under development:

- Collaborative study into Nature, Outdoor Learning and Play as means of encouraging healthy and sustainable lifestyles.
- Exploring teaching ethics within research methods.
- Book chapter on practicalities of Creative research.
- **Red Riding Hood & Wolves** – an alternative story...
- **Raven Crag** - joining in with [Another Waywright Day](#)



# Thank you for listening – any questions?

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