

CMMI 2015 Fellows - Jami Blythe

Project Title: Using digital story making to uncover and transform the mask behind UK law enforcement

Biographical Statement

Jami Blythe is a Professional Doctorate student at University of Sunderland, England, and a serving police officer with some 16 years service. She is studying the powerfully transformative nature of digital storytelling to facilitate personal, professional and organizational development. The world of policing is challenging, not least because of the many moral, cultural and personal dilemmas facing officers each day. Jami's work on the facilitated transformative reflection of critical incidents through the creation of digital artefacts is providing officers with alternative perspectives and stories to aid constructive meaning-making of these challenging experiences fostering transformative learning, and build confidence and resilience. When not researching, Jami, a keen cyclist, can be found pedalling around the Scottish Borders, sampling tea and cake in the many tea rooms.

Project Description

Jami's fellows project focuses on the metaphorical mask police officers wear in order to build a resilience to the many moral, cultural and personal challenges the world of policing presents to officers. Using digital storytelling as a means of reflection, this piece of research will explore how this pedagogy of story making and telling tackles the internal conflict some officers face when they feel their actions have not met the masculine and tough expectation of the culture of policing. A sample of officers will reflect on an incident in which they were perceived as weak or 'not up to the job' by constructing a short movie rather than a traditional written narrative. The impact of this constructive and creative process on future professional behaviour will be explored.
