

The Madness of Metrics and Possibilities of Pause in Open Research

Dr Marisa de Andrade



My journey

Questions:

How to capture the unmeasurable aspects of the human experience?

How to mobilise Research-Practice-Policy partnerships to tackle knowledge (in)justice in the academy and in the world?

- Measuring Humanity
- Art is Everywhere
- Researching Evidence-Based Alternatives in Living, Imaginative, Traumatized, Embodied Systems (REALITIES)
- Public Health, Humanities & Magical Realism



My key message:

So-called 'traditional' methodologies and conceptualisations of metrics, data and knowledge have the potential to exacerbate (health) inequalities by excluding and misrepresenting the minority groups that they claim to represent.

Whose knowledge matters?



Trust 1

Culture 2

Interpersonal Relationships 3

Physical Health 4

Empathy & Helpfulness 5

Self-determination 6

Optimism 6

Access to Resources & Healthfulness of Environments 7

Affect 8

Spirituality and Personal Meaning

Important for some but not so much for others

SAVE ROMA SAMKATE
 ANDRO GLASGOW ~~DEZUVA~~ ISASHAVAS
 O CHAVORE AMENZA
 GILAVEN
 Singing

A DKURE VON KELEN
 SAUKAR VOJA VONKEREN
 O CHAVE VON BASHAVEN
 GILAVEN
 Singing.

SAVORE SAM SASTE
 KAJSE SAM BARIKANE
 TE DZIDZUVAS AME
 KETANE
 Together.

CHORUS:
 2x (: SAVORE :) SAM SASTE
 TE BACHTAKE
 health and happy.

COMMENT | [VOLUME 391, ISSUE 10128, P1340-1341, APRIL 07, 2018](#)

Measuring Humanity: hip-hop as evidence for health inequalities

[Marisa de Andrade](#) 

Published: April 07, 2018 • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(18\)30575-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)30575-0)

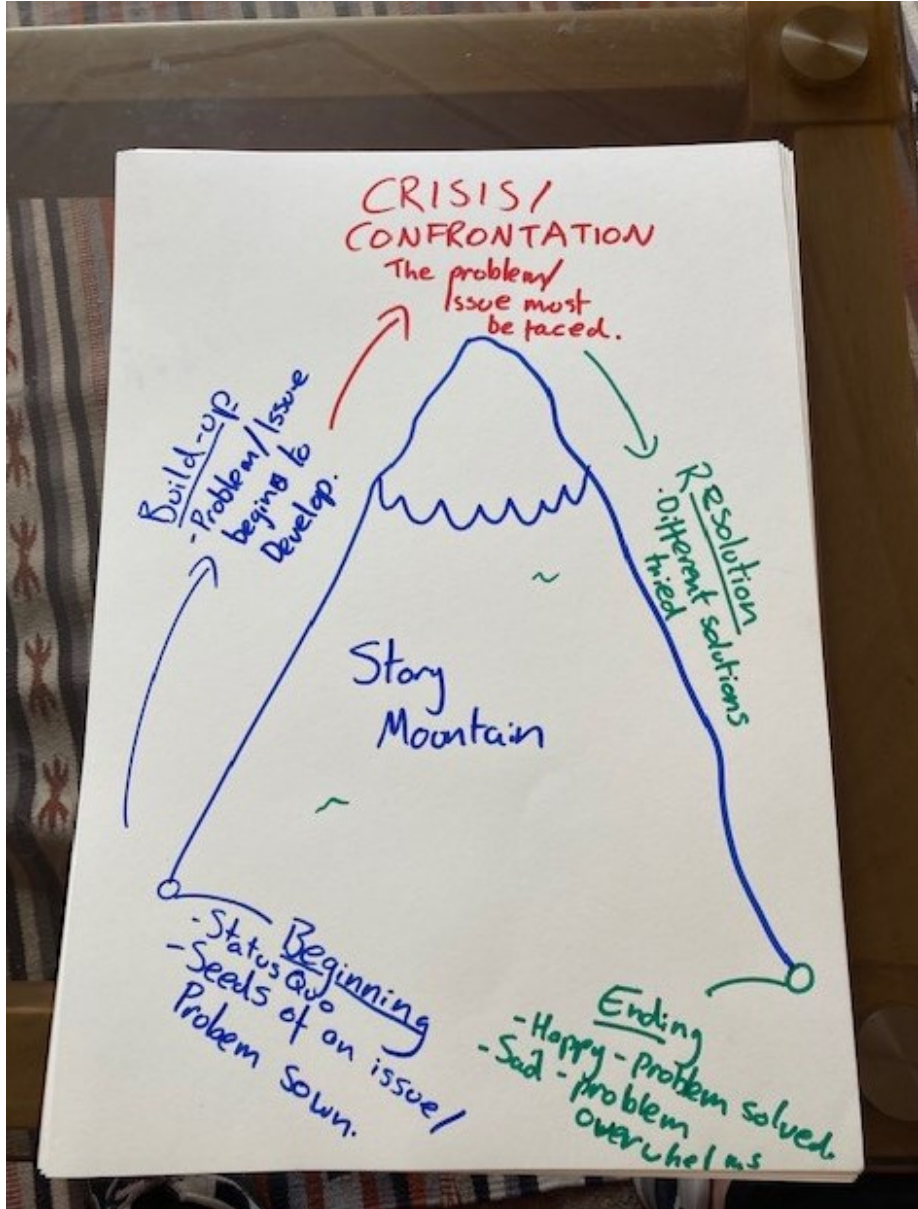


Dear Human

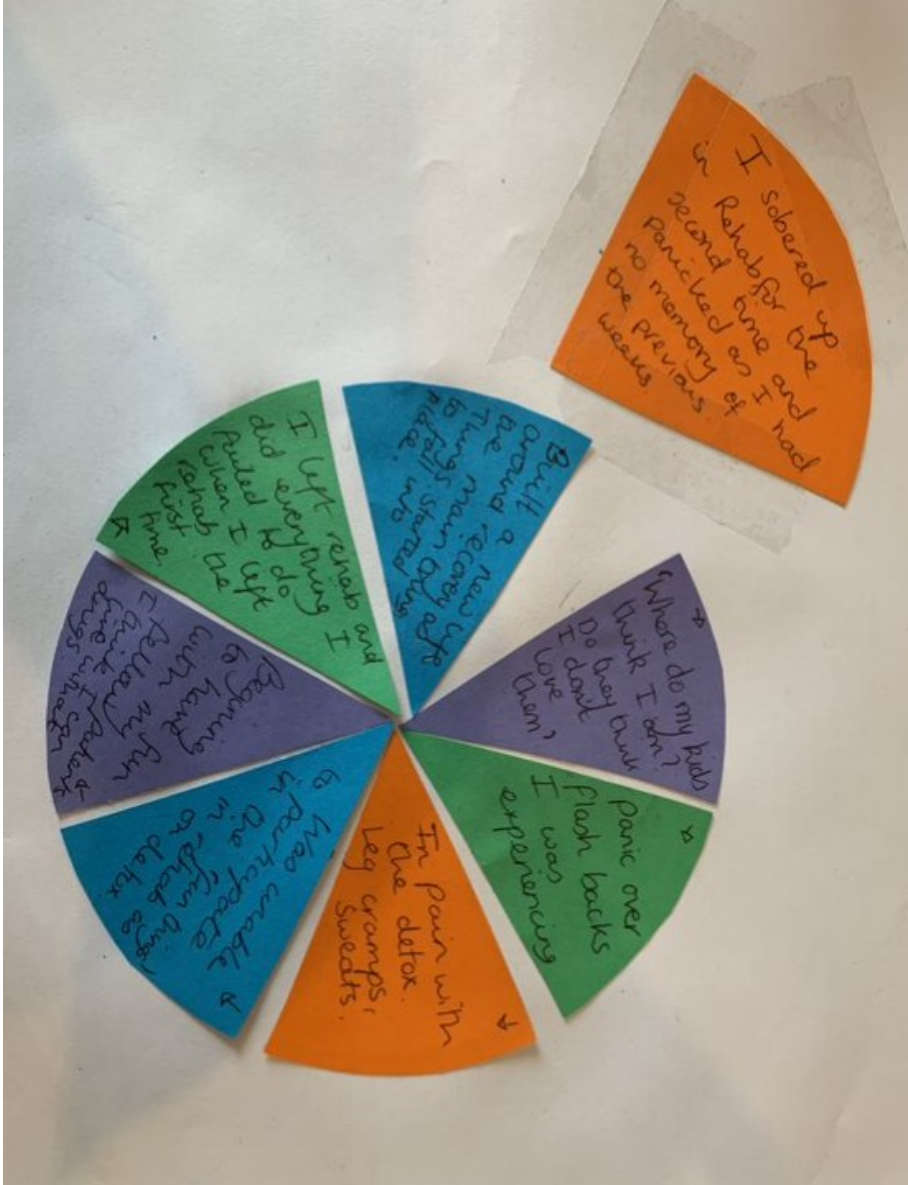


Dear Human #MeasuringHumanity





LOOPING STORIES

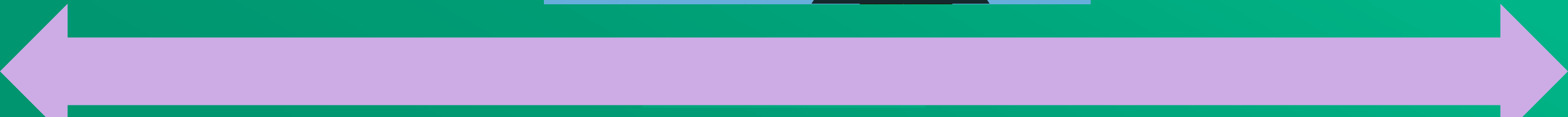


Creative-relational practices & lived and felt experiences are evidence

Creativity, connectivity and the process *being*
together in community is the data...

But we need to translate it into a more
palatable, peer-reviewed publication for it to
'count'...

Who's counting?
What are they counting?



Books Authored:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:
Books Edited:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:
Books Chapters:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:
Journal Articles:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:
Research-based Public Output – Please specify:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:
Other Public Output – Please specify:	No. since most recent promotion/ appointment:


Page 1 of 3

Effective July 2023

Four most important outputs since your most recent promotion/appointment (please include titles):

1.

CV Summary for Promotion



Routledge Studies in Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMANITIES AND MAGICAL REALISM

**A CREATIVE-RELATIONAL APPROACH TO
RESEARCHING HUMAN EXPERIENCE**

Marisa De Andrade



Measuring Humanity



Going beyond current metrics

How might we measure the work we are doing differently?

**We're on a mission to “measure” health and inequalities
through creativity and connectivity**

Reductionism < = > Logic Models < = > Theory of Change <=>

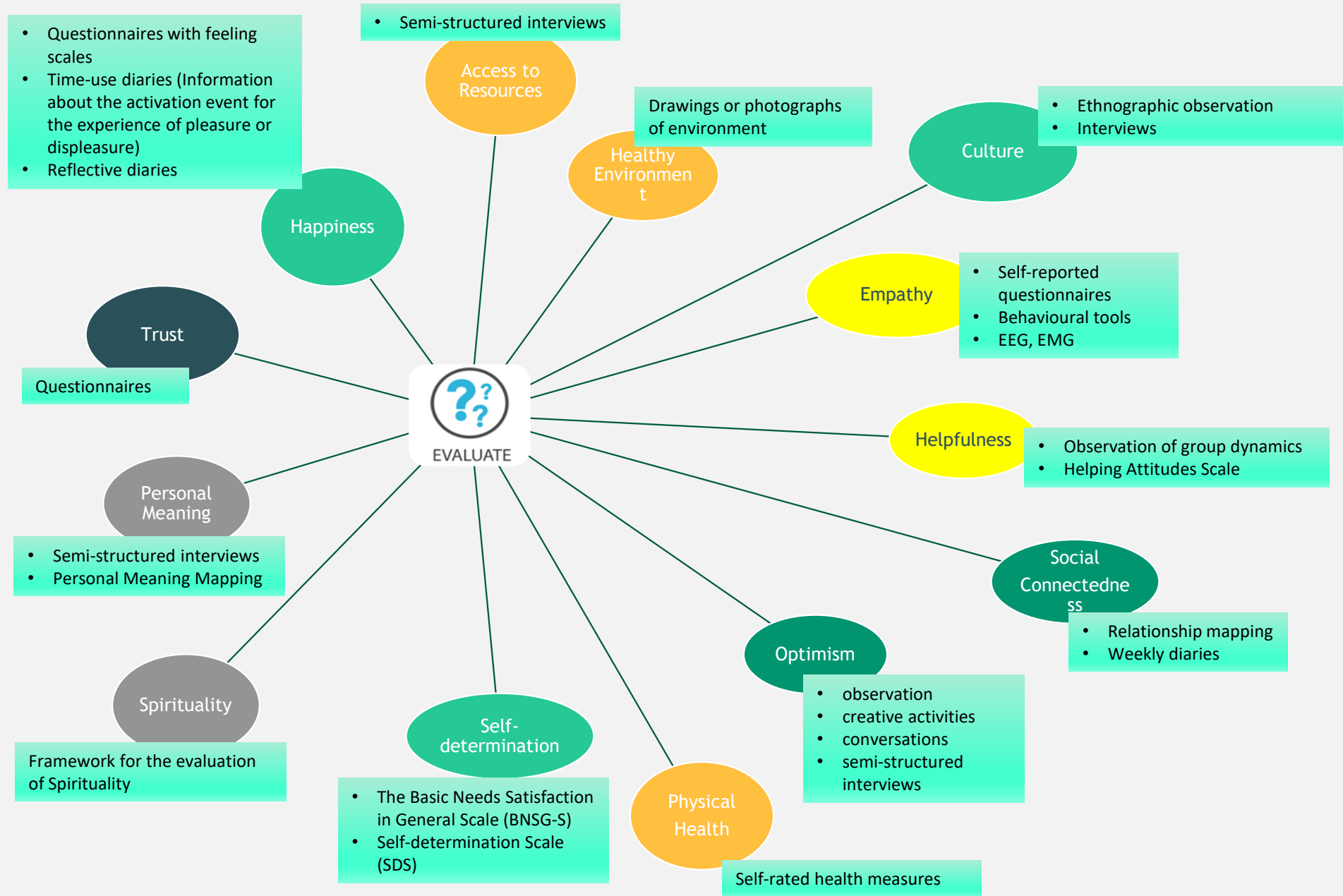
The Future < = > REALITIES Model

Measuring Humanity



Data, Evidence, Our worth, Our value

- i) How did we start measuring it?
- ii) How are we measuring it now?
- iii) How will we measure it in future?



ICQI



PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMANITIES AND MAGICAL REALISM

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*ICQI.org | International Congress of
Qualitative Inquiry*

Qualitative Book Award

International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry

*'paradigm-shifting
text that espouses
important messages
about relationality,
research practice,
and well-being.'*

What is the role researchers play in maintaining or even exacerbating inequalities?

Is it possible and ethical to be unaffected by and distant from (public health) data and research 'participants'?

Asks challenging questions about what constitutes knowledge and reality - epistemology and ontology - in research, policy and practice

How can creative and personal, experience-near approaches challenge structural causes of inequality?

Importance of a different approach to measurement in inequalities research

Transdisciplinary approach to tackling inequalities by linking public health and science to humanities and magical realism



ICQI



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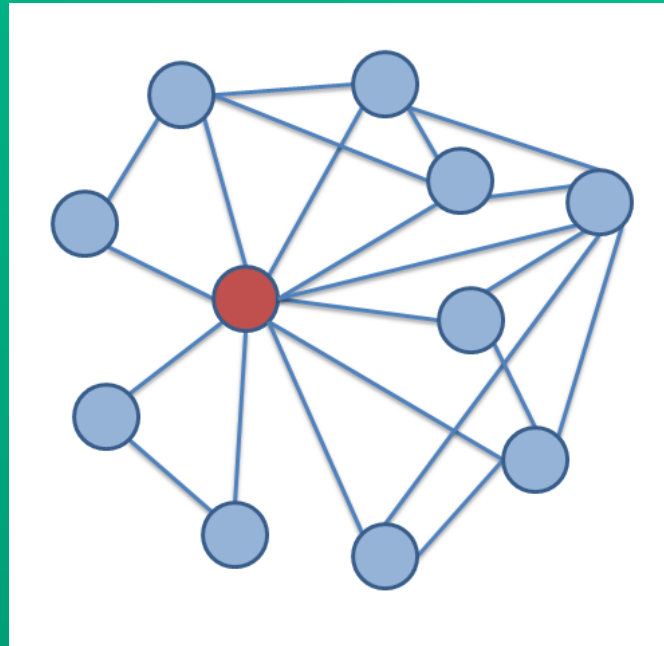
*ICQI.org | International Congress of
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Qualitative Book Award

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£135

How am I part of the problem?



Open Research

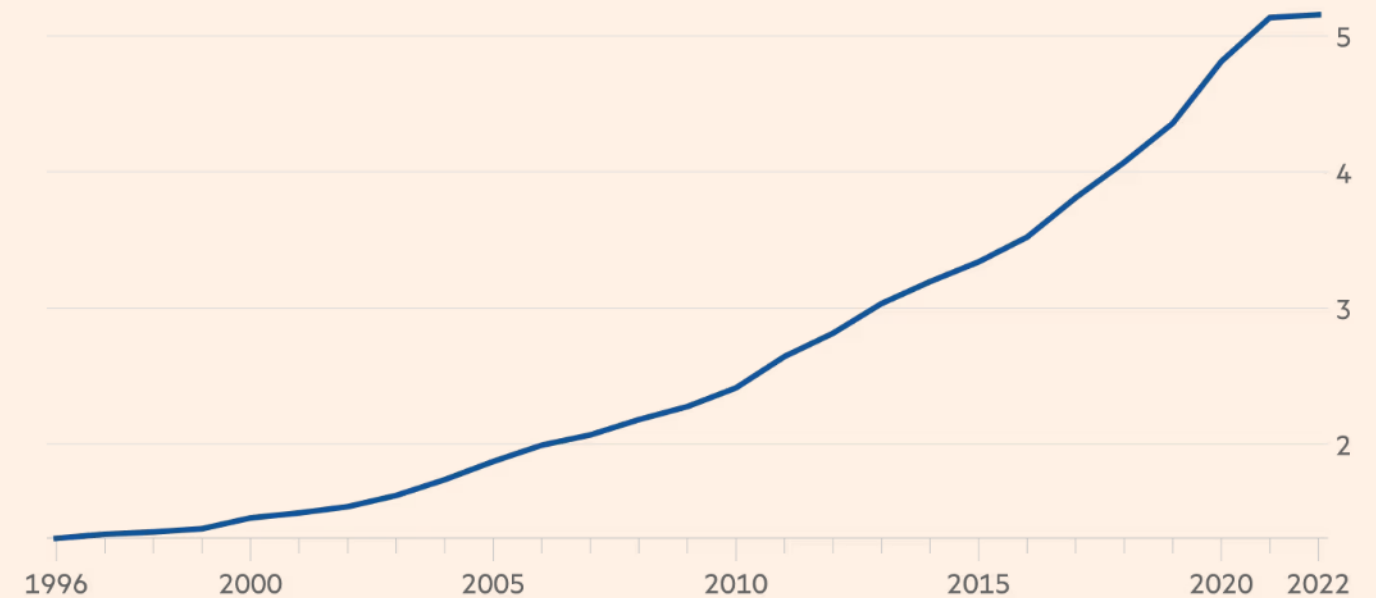
Publish?

Perish?

- “The number of academic articles published has increased by a half in just six years to 2022” (FT, 2024)

Academic publishing has expanded rapidly

Total number of scholarly journal articles published per year (mn)



Source: Clarke & Esposito's Scholarly Journals Market Trends 2024 (<https://www.ce-strategy.com/reports/>). Data from Dimensions, an inter-linked research information system provided by Digital Science (<https://www.dimensions.ai>)

Open Research

Publish?

Perish?

- “A shift from a **pay-to-read model** to a **pay-to-publish model** has increased the proportion of scientific papers published without a paywall by 20 percentage points to about half in the decade from 2010”
- Extortionate article processing charges
- More information can be [found here](https://www.ft.com/content/575f72a8-4eb2-4538-87a8-7652d67d499e).

Routledge Studies in Public Health

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“With regards to price and format, the reason this book was published in hardback was because we saw it as a monograph, aimed principally at researchers rather than a student readership. Books with a broader student readership, or whose readership is primarily professional, are published as what we call dual editions – i.e. in both hardback and paperback. Having said that, we do publish a paperback edition of a monograph 12-18 months after the hardback comes out.

Our hardbacks are priced at a relatively high price because they are aimed at the institutional library market. Libraries tend to buy bundles of our books, rather than individual titles, and so they don't actually pay the list price.”

REALITIES

Key issues expressed through lived & felt experiences:

- Intergenerational trauma
- Displacement
- Social injustice
- The economy

Circular impact with local partners connecting to policy = new model to measure change in complex systems



Change our relationship with:

- Time
- Matter
- Reality
- Measurement
- Knowledge
- Vulnerability
- Ethics



Applying Human Learning Systems (Toby Lowe) to

REALITIES



Final reflections

- **Metrics** without **context** are **meaningless** - so far all of the indicators we've **measured** against were **disparate** when tested with local communities
- Our **systems** and **communities** are increasingly **complex** and **intersectional**. Trying to fit the **complexities** of life into its existing **models** and **metrics** is a game. *“We must change the nature of the game itself”* (Toby Lowe).
- **Change** happens one person - and one **healthy ecosystem** - at a time. Converse, collaborate and share both in the limelight *and* in the shadows of meaningful **Research-Practice-Policy** partnerships.
- Find your tribe and **work together!**

Questions

Dr Marisa de Andrade



Centre for Creative-Relational Inquiry

