

PhD Confirmation

The University of Melbourne

Development and Implementation of a Sanford Meisner Based Drama Intervention for 'colonized Other' Communities.

Presenter: Mikel Moss

Supervisors: A/Prof Harry Minas, Dr Ritsuko Kakuma

**Thursday 14th February, 9am-10am
Room 410, Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street**



Mikel Moss is a PhD student in Global and Cultural Mental Health, a recent Masters of Arts in Education in Clinical Psychology degree (minors in Global Mental Health and Trauma, Community Psychology, and Research Methods) from Columbia University, and a former Alternative Training Student in Drama Therapy and Counseling Psychology through the North American Drama Therapy Association.

His focus is on the development of empirical, mixed methods data-driven drama therapeutic techniques. Mikel is passionate about creating culturally relevant spaces in arts therapies for 'colonized Other' communities.

The arts in their many forms have existed in myriad ways in every culture and community on this planet. The utilization of the arts (art therapy, dance therapy, drama therapy, music therapy) as an alternative to talk therapy for symptom relief has long been established as a credible set of modalities in which those who can access the arts therapies find relief from mental health issues. Much is written on what to consider when utilizing these modalities within 'colonized Other' communities, but research on the effectiveness of arts therapies approaches within these communities is scarce. In an age where 'colonized Other' communities are being increasingly maligned, marginalized and systematically oppressed, where are the arts therapies?

This seminar outlines the paucity of the literature in this area through a systematic review of the literature. To redress this, a culturally relevant, mixed methods pilot intervention and research protocol that is a new approach within drama therapy will be outlined. This work centers on communities defined as 'colonized Other' and is researched through a 'screaming silences' framework.