

Using Art in the Research Process: A story of being inclusive and disseminating research findings through poetry and visual representation



The task

Bournemouth University researchers were asked by an arts charity to get feedback about how dancing sessions for people with Parkinson's might be helping (you can see the summary report [here](#)).



What happened?

A researcher joined in the dancing sessions to see what went on and to find out the best ways to get feedback. The people in the sessions knew what the researcher was doing there and helped to design the feedback methods.

Bournemouth University gave ethical approval for the work.

When the researcher came to share what sessions were like, she found that writing about them in an academic way didn't work.



The writing didn't describe well enough what the researcher had seen and felt through the dancing and being with the group, so she wrote a poem called 'What Goes On' and made it into a film with added music and pictures (you can see a version of the film [here](#)).

The researcher showed the film to the dancers who have Parkinson's and others who went to the sessions to see if what it showed, matched their experiences.



So what?

Asking people if the film matched their experiences was found to be inclusive because it meant that they could be involved in giving feedback to the extent that they wished or were able to. The film also helped the researcher to share what she had found with participants in an engaging way.

Using poetry, music and visual imagery helped the researcher to represent the experience of the Parkinson's dancing more fully than words alone.

