Supervising Practice Based Research

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Practice based research appears to have emerged alongside the popularity of the professional doctorates. One way of thinking about this methodological approach is to consider it’s research paradigm – a practice based epistemology, and from this perspective to consider whether the paradigm invites different approaches to research supervision.

This paper draws on the author’s own experience of completing both Master’s and Doctoral practice based research, and now supervising students who similarly are drawing on their practices as the basis for doctoral investigations. It takes a view that research supervision is pedagogy and draws on the ‘Productive Pedagogy’ framework to explore some of the variations in supervision that are invited by a practice based epistemology.

Geof Hill is the Managing Director of The Investigative Practitioner. In his capacity of a management coach he has assisted several clients to progress their reflection on work based practices into practice based research and supported them as they present their propositions for doctoral research degrees. Geof moderates two on-line professional development programs on research supervision, both of which work from a basis of practice based research.