

Episode 5 Transcript

00:00:17,479 --> 00:00:44,779 [Speaker 0]

Welcome, listeners, to Education Isn't a To-Do List. I'm your host, Hannah Jimenez, and today's episode is a journey into the world of arts-based research. Now, I know what you might be thinking, "Research and art? How do they fit together?" Well, that's exactly what we're here to explore, but I won't be doing it alone. Joining me is a special guest, my inner voice. Together, we're going to unpack this fascinating methodology, its purpose, and why it's my choice for my own research.

00:00:44,779 --> 00:00:48,759 [Speaker 1]

Let's start with the basics. What's the main purpose of your methodology?

00:00:48,759 --> 00:01:32,059 [Speaker 0]

That's a great starting point. My study is grounded in arts-based research, or ABR for short. The main purpose of ABR isn't just to collect and analyze data in the traditional sense. Instead, it's about engaging with people on a level that's accessible and resonant. [chime] Think of it like this. Traditional research often limits itself to rigid methodologies and prioritizes objectivity and detachment. The goal is often to produce findings that are seen as universal- universally applicable. But ABR challenges this notion. It operates on the behalf that all solutions are context dependent. What works in one setting might not work in another. [chime]

00:01:32,059 --> 00:01:36,940 [Speaker 1]

Now, this doesn't mean that ABR rejects the idea of finding solutions, right?

00:01:36,940 --> 00:02:06,219 [Speaker 0]

On the contrary, it's deeply invested in exploring solutions, but it does so through a lens that recognizes the multiplicity of truths that exist in the world. [chime] It's about embracing the complexity of human experience rather than simplifying it. This is particularly important in education, where the experiences of students, teachers, and administrators are so varied. ABR allows for this diversity of experience to be acknowledged and respected.

00:02:06,219 --> 00:02:20,420 [Speaker 1]

That's really interesting. So if I understand correctly, the idea is to create a methodology that doesn't just provide one-size-fits-all solutions, but instead opens up a space for multiple interpretations and solutions.

00:02:20,420 --> 00:02:50,839 [Speaker 0]

Absolutely. ABR is designed to be flexible and adaptable. It's less about finding the right answer and more about exploring different possibilities. [chime] This is why it's so well-suited for educational research. Education is inherently complex and context dependent. What works in one classroom with one group of students might not work in another. ABR allows us to explore these nuances in a way that's, that more traditional methodologies might miss.

00:02:50,839 --> 00:03:14,699 [Speaker 1]

Isn't another key aspect of ABR that it's designed to engage with a broader audience? While traditional research methods often result in dense academic papers that are difficult for non-specialists to engage with, ABR uses artistic processes, things like storytelling, visual art, and in your case, podcasting, to make research more accessible and engaging.

00:03:14,699 --> 00:03:24,759 [Speaker 1]

This means that the findings of an ABR study are more likely to resonate with a wider audience, including those who might not typically engage with academic research. [chime]

00:03:24,759 --> 00:03:39,000 [Speaker 0]

Exactly. So the purpose of my methodology is really twofold. It's about embracing the complexity of human experience and making research more accessible to a broader audience. To me, that's a powerful combination.

00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:43,219 [Speaker 1]

But I'm curious, what are the underlying principles to this methodology?

00:03:43,219 --> 00:04:15,039 [Speaker 0]

That's a great question, and it really gets to the heart of what makes arts-based research unique. At its core, ABR is based on the principle that the artistic process can be a systematic way to examine, understand, and represent human experience. [chime] This might seem like a departure from traditional research methodologies, which often prioritize objectivity and detachment, but ABR challenges these assumptions by embracing the idea that research can be both rigorous and deeply personal.

00:04:15,039 --> 00:04:19,939 [Speaker 1]

I really like the sound of this. What are these key assumptions of ABR?

00:04:19,939 --> 00:05:34,159 [Speaker 0]

One of the key assumptions of ABR is that research doesn't have to be limited to the written word. In traditional academic research, there's a strong emphasis on producing written reports, journal articles, dissertation, papers, books that communicate the findings of a study. But ABR recognizes that the written word is just one way to communicate knowledge. Artistic processes like storytelling, visual art, music, and in my case, podcasting, can be equally valid and effective ways of conveying research findings. [chime] Another important principle of ABR is that it challenges the dominant academic model. Traditional research often operates within a framework that values objectivity, detachment, and universal application. The goal is to, is often to produce findings that can be generalized across different contexts. [chime] But ABR takes a different approach. It recognizes that all knowledge is situated. That is, it's always bound to specific contexts and experiences. This means that ABR is less concerned with producing universally applicable findings and more concerned with exploring the nuances and complexities of specific contexts. [chime]

00:05:34,159 --> 00:05:51,559 [Speaker 1]

That's a really important point. In many ways, it sounds like ABR is pushing back against the idea that there's one right way to do research. Instead, it's about opening up space for different ways of knowing and understanding the world. How does this connect with your theoretical framework?

00:05:51,559 --> 00:06:11,139 [Speaker 0]

ABR aligns closely with my theoretical framework, which is grounded in critical theory. Critical theory is all about challenging the status quo and questioning the system and structures that shape education. It's about recognizing that education is not a neutral process. Power dynamics, cultural assumptions, and social norms always shape it.

00:06:11,816 --> 00:06:41,615 [Speaker 1]

So ABR complements this by offering a methodology that's also critical in nature. It's not just about collecting data and reporting findings, it's about using the artistic process to critique and question the systems and structures that shape our world. This is particularly important in education, where there are often deeply entrenched assumptions about what education should look like, who it should serve, and how it should be delivered. ABR allows us to challenge these assumptions and explore alternative possibilities.

00:06:41,615 --> 00:07:05,635 [Speaker 0]

Yes. For example, in traditional research, there's often a focus on producing findings that reinforce existing knowledge and assumptions. However, ABR is more interested in disrupting these assumptions and opening up space for new ways of thinking. This is why it's such a powerful tool for critical research. It allows us to question the status quo and explore alternative possibilities in a rigorous and creative way.

00:07:05,635 --> 00:07:18,215 [Speaker 1]

It sounds like ABR is well-suited for research focused on social justice and equity, topics deeply rooted in critical theory. What are some of the key characteristics of this methodology that make it so effective?

00:07:18,215 --> 00:07:23,095 [Speaker 0]

One of the central characteristics of ABR is that it's both evocative and critical.

00:07:23,095 --> 00:07:25,595 [Speaker 1]

Okay, hold up. What does that mean?

00:07:25,595 --> 00:07:58,335 [Speaker 0]

The dictionary definition of evocative is bringing strong images, memories, or feelings to mind. This essentially means that arts-based research targets personal emotions in order to create a connection between the research and the audience. The dictionary meaning of critical used here is expressing or involving an analysis of the merits and faults of a work. Instead of there just being an analysis of initiatives without any personal connection, ABR brings a unique avenue with this combination.

00:07:58,335 --> 00:08:11,575 [Speaker 0]

The goal of ABR is to connect with the audience on an emotional level, in addition to an intellectual one. When ABR is done well, it can evoke strong emotional responses from the audience.

00:08:11,575 --> 00:08:50,135 [Speaker 0]

This is important because emotions are a key part of how we understand the world and make meaning from our own experiences. For example, consider a traditional research study that reports on the impact of a specific educational policy. The findings might be presented in a way that's dry and detached, focusing on the numbers and statistics. But an ABR study might present the same findings through a storytelling approach, using the voices and experiences of those affected by the policy to bring the data to life. This approach can invoke a much stronger emotional response from the audience, helping them to connect with the material on a deeper level.

00:08:50,135 --> 00:09:29,915 [Speaker 1]

I can see how this emotional connection is what makes ABR such a powerful tool for raising critical awareness. When we connect with research on an emotional level, we're more likely to engage with it deeply and critically. This can help to break down stereotypes and challenge the ideologies that often shape our understanding of the world. ABR has the power to expose these ideologies and encourage the audience to question their assumptions. So the evocative aspect of ABR is really about making the research more relatable and engaging for the audience. But it also sounds like it's about pushing the audience to think critically about the material. How does this align with your theoretical framework?

00:09:29,915 --> 00:10:17,015 [Speaker 0]

The evocative and critical aspects of ABR align perfectly with critical theory. Both are concerned with challenging the status quo and encouraging critical thinking. Critical theory is all about questioning the systems and structures that are in place and shape outcomes in education, and ABR provides a methodology that can bring these questions to life in a powerful way. I believe that Barone and Eisner 2011 summed it up best by stating, "We do not see certainty through ABR, but plausibility, and it is a plausibility that is promoted through the deliberations that occur and that are prompted by forms." ABR is closer to the idea of let us reason together than about the swift pursuit of a certain outcome.

00:10:17,015 --> 00:10:39,775 [Speaker 1]

This is why ABR is such a unique tool for critical research in education. It allows us to connect with the material on both an intellectual and emotional level, which can lead to deeper and more meaningful engagement. It's not just about collecting data and reporting findings. It's about connecting with people and encouraging them to think critically about the world around them.

00:10:39,775 --> 00:10:43,495 [Speaker 1]

What are some of the other key concepts that are central to ABR?

00:10:43,495 --> 00:11:08,235 [Speaker 0]

One of the key concepts of ABR is the idea of public scholarship. This is the idea that research should be accessible to a broad audience, not just academics and specialists. Unlike traditional research that is often behind paywalls or in research libraries, ABR challenges this by using artistic processes to make research more accessible and engaging for a wider audience.

00:11:08,235 --> 00:11:46,195 [Speaker 1]

This seems particularly important in education, where the goal is to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including teachers, students, parents, and administrators. By using artistic processes, ABR makes it easier for these stakeholders to engage with the research and apply it in their own contexts. This is why ABR is such a powerful tool for public scholarship. It opens up the conversation and invites a broader range of voices into the discussion. In many ways, it seems like ABR is about breaking down the barriers that often exist between researchers and the public. How does this connect with your own research?

00:11:46,195 --> 00:12:17,955 [Speaker 0]

My research is deeply connected to the idea of public scholarship. I'm not just interested in producing findings that other ide- academics will read. I want my research to be accessible and relevant to the people who are most affected by the issues I'm studying. This is why I've chosen to use podcasting as my primary medium for this research. Podcasting is an incredibly accessible and engaging medium, and it allows me to reach a broad audience, specifically the people who are actually doing the work of integrating initiatives in schools and districts in North Carolina.

00:12:18,819 --> 00:12:50,479 [Speaker 1]

So, through your arts-based podcasting study, you are hoping to engage with educators, administrators, and other stakeholders in the education system. Your goal is to create a conversation around the issues that matter most to them and to provide them with the tools and insights they need to make positive changes in their own contexts. By using an arts-based approach, you are able to connect with your audience on both an intellectual and emotional level, which you believe will lead to deeper and more meaningful engagement with the material.

00:12:50,479 --> 00:12:59,899 [Speaker 0]

Yes, exactly. It's not just about producing findings, it's about creating a conversation and making sure that the research has a real impact in the world.

00:12:59,899 --> 00:13:14,739 [Speaker 1]

It's clear that ABR offers a lot of flexibility and creativity, which seems essential when dealing with complex and context-dependent issues in education. How does this methodology enable you to explore your topic in unique ways?

00:13:14,739 --> 00:14:03,739 [Speaker 0]

One of the unique strengths of ABR is that it allows me to explore my topic in a way that's deeply connected to the human experience. Education is built on relationships between teachers and students, between administrators and teachers, and between schools and communities. These relationships are complex and nuanced, and they can't be fully captured by traditional research methodologies. Arts-based research allows me to explore these relationships in a way that's both evocative and critical. By using podcasting as my medium, I'm able to engage with the voices and experiences of educators, administrators, and other

stakeholders in a way that's deeply personal and resonant. This allows me to explore the nuances of these relationships in a way that, in a way that more traditional methodologies might miss.

00:14:03,739 --> 00:14:06,339 [Speaker 1]

Can you provide an example of what you mean?

00:14:06,339 --> 00:14:52,819 [Speaker 0]

For example, one of the key issues I'm exploring in my research is the disconnect between educational initiatives and their implementation. This is a complex issue that is deeply rooted in the relationships between different stakeholders in the education system. And by using an arts-based approach, I'm able to explore this issue in a way that can capture the nuances of these relationships and the impact they have on student identity and success. Another unique aspect of ABR is that it allows me to create a study that's accessible and engaging for a broad audience. Traditional research methodologies often result in dense academic papers that are difficult for non-specialists in the subject to engage with. But ABR uses artistic processes to make research more accessible and engaging for those who need it.

00:14:52,819 --> 00:15:13,919 [Speaker 1]

So, by using podcasting as your medium, you are able to reach a broad audience and ensure that your research has a real impact in the world. As we start to bring this part of the conversation to a close, I'd love to hear your thoughts on why you believe ABR is the best choice for your research. How does it allow you to address your topic in a way that other methodologies might not?

00:15:13,919 --> 00:16:35,679 [Speaker 0]

Arts-based research is the best choice for my research for several reasons. First, it allows me to challenge the traditional academic focus on the written word. While I have a deep appreciation for text and literature, I've come to realize that the written word can be restrictive, particularly when it comes to making research accessible and engaging for a broader audience. ABR encourages public scholarship, making research easier to access and engage with. Secondly, ABR allows me to raise critical awareness around the issues I'm exploring. Our educational system is facing a myriad of challenges, and there's often a disconnect between the initiatives that are implemented at the district level and the reality

of what happens in the classroom. By using an arts-based approach, I'm able to explore these challenges in a way that's both evocative and critical, encouraging my audience to think deeply about the issues I'm raising. Finally, ABR allows me to explore the human experience in a way that's m- that more traditional methodologies might miss. Education is built on these relationships, and by using podcasting, I'm able to capture the voices and experiences of educators, administrators, and other stakeholders in a way that's deeply personal. This allows me to create a study that's both rigorous and connected to the human experience.

00:16:35,679 --> 00:16:49,699 [Speaker 1]

That's a compelling argument for ABR. It's clear that this methodology allows you to approach your topic in a way that's both innovative and impactful. Before we wrap up, could you summarize your study's purpose and methodological approach?

00:16:49,699 --> 00:17:15,419 [Speaker 0]

Absolutely. In my arts-based podcasting study, I'll be interviewing eight to 10 educators who work with the culturally sustaining pedagogies and educational technology across North Carolina. Using critical theories, I'll critique the existing structures that control initiatives in school districts. My goal is to connect with educators and administrators on an emotional level, ensuring that the research resonates and leads to change.

00:17:15,419 --> 00:17:43,699 [Speaker 0]

By using an arts-based approach, I'm able to create a study that captures the nuances of these relationships that shape our educational system. I'm also able to make my research accessible for a broad audience, ensuring that it has a real impact. This is why I believe ABR is the best choice for my research. It allows me to explore my topic in a way that's both innovative, using educational technology, and deeply connected to human experience.

00:17:43,699 --> 00:17:53,899 [Speaker 1]

Thank you for guiding us through the fascinating world of arts-based research. I am truly excited to hear about how you are applying this methodology to your own method and research topics.

00:17:53,899 --> 00:18:15,559 [Speaker 0]

And that is exactly what we will discuss next time on the podcast. I hope you will all join us then. [upbeat music]