

THE MORE-THAN

These pages express some of that which exceeds the apparatus of capture of our Castle conference paper-- the “more-than” of our collaboration.

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Over the years, we assumed the name “et alia” (Latin for “and others”) and adopted the ampersand as an expression of our collective identity, inking it on our wrists (see Figure 1, a composite photo over Herstmonceux Castle, an important site in our community development).



Figure 1. Becoming-et-alia.

Timespacemattering

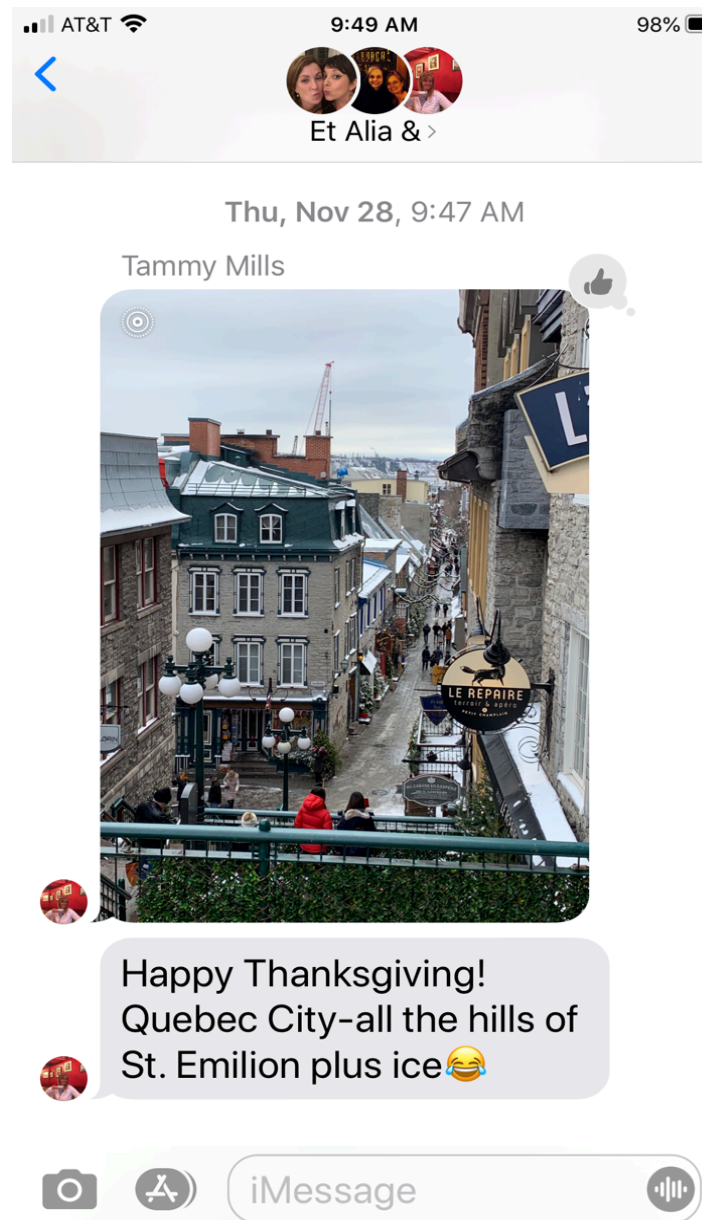
Outside of our formal data collection and meetings, we text each other almost daily, sharing things that are happening in our lives, celebrating successes, commiserating through illness and adverse life events, and planning conferences and trips. In the text screenshots below, our “more-than” evokes past shared experiences, knowledge, and places.

For example, in the first screenshot (Figure 1), one of us called up memories of shared fun at the Herstmonceux castle pub, the Headless Drummer, during past Castle conferences.

In the second screenshot (Figure 2), Tammy shared a photo of her view during her Thanksgiving trip to Quebec City, referencing our 2018 visit to the medieval village of St. Emilion, which set amongst the vineyard-dotted hills of the French wine region of Bordeaux.

Even the tiny circular photos at the top of Figure 2 (the photos of Linda, Charity, and Tammy that pop

up when they call or text Katie) evoke our shared time-space-mattering: The left circle shows Charity and Katie making kissy faces while at dinner on a 2016 trip to Edinburgh, Scotland; the middle is a photo of Katie, Linda and Tammy in Philadelphia during AERA 2014; and the right features Tammy holding up a teacup at an Alice and Wonderland themed tea shop in Manchester, England during a trip she and Katie took in 2017 to attend a qualitative research conference together.



Figures 2&3. Text messages from et alia members.

The places in the collage below (Figure 4) span Herstmonceux, England; London, England; Manchester, England; Washington, DC; Edinburgh, Scotland; Highlands, Scotland; Paris, France; St. Emilion, France; Interlaken, New Jersey; Toronto, Canada; Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio, TX; and Bangor, Maine.



Figure 4. Timespacemattercollaging a decade of et alia.

Understanding Communities as Systems: What's Going on Here?

Protocol for Group Analysis of Data

Groups of 4 [~ 30 minutes each]

Goals:

1. Inquiry groups help make sense of each member's data by:
 - a) describing/noticing what we see in the data
 - b) using the Activity System Framework as a lens for analysis
 - c) determining potential leverage points for the researcher to strengthen her community.
2. Groups will also explore connections across group members' contexts.

Decide on roles (who is keeping time, taking notes, etc.)

Get started (5 minutes)

(1 min) Presenter:

- Give a *brief* introduction/context for your data.
- State a *focusing question*. (What do you want your inquiry partners to focus on in this data?)

(2 min)

- Review the data without commentary from the presenter.

(2 min) Clarifying questions (Simple factual questions that can be answered yes/no or with brief responses).

Close Description of Data (5 min)

Critical friends:

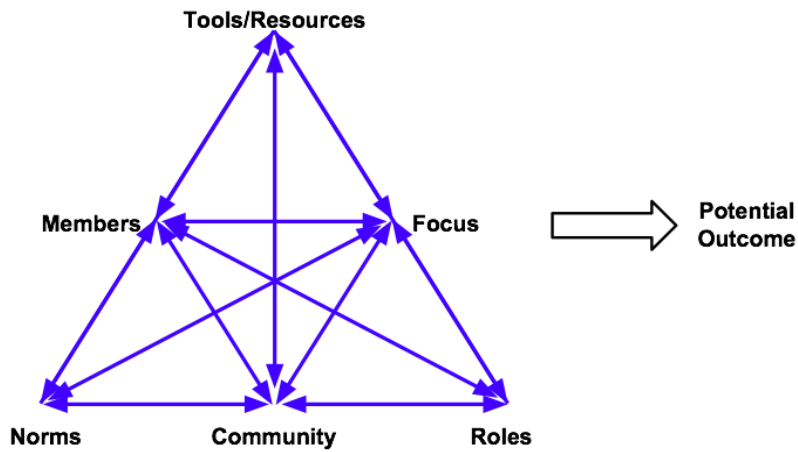
- What do we notice? What do we NOT notice?
- Use descriptive terms (no judgement or interpretation)

Presenter: Listen and take notes.

Use the Framework as a Lens for Analysis (10 minutes)

Everyone:

Referring to the [Activity System Framework](#), what might we interpret from the data about *any* of the following parts of this system?



Speculate on next steps (8 minutes)

Everyone: Considering what we know or don't know about this system:

- What do I think an “improved outcome” might be for this system?
- What are potential leverage points for the researcher to work toward an improved outcome?
 - Which parts of the system can change?
 - What are potential effects of that change?
- What are possible next steps for this inquiry?
 - Possible action steps?
 - What more do I need to learn?
 - What data might be important to track?

Presenter Reflects (2 min)

- What did I learn from our data analysis?
- How did this add to, complicate, or challenge my learnings from previous data?
- Based on my new thinking, what am I planning to do next?

Repeat the protocol for each member

Figure 5. CHAT analysis protocol used by the group.