**Teaching Reflective Writing**

Introduction. Much of the writing that occurs in doctoral programs is associated with the production of a dissertation and related research publications. The writing task is approached as an individual enterprise resulting in high levels of isolation, anxiety, and apprehension. Engaging in reflective writing as part of a group can provide opportunities for learning from and with others, and improve doctoral student wellbeing and critical thinking and writing skills.

Aims. Through the reflections of doctoral student participants, educators and authors, this paper reflects on a series of reflective writing workshops for multi-disciplinary PhD students researching higher education. Each workshop involved exposure to a specific genre or type of reflective writing and built around an illustrative focus paper. Four types of reflective writing were selected to represent the breadth of reflective writing practice: reflective writing as reportage, personal narrative reflective writing, critical reflective writing, and collaborative reflective writing. Where possible an author from the featured paper was invited to share their reflections on the paper and on reflective writing as a practice. Workshop participants then engaged in two rounds of reflective writing; the first centred on reflecting on the reflective genre and the second on a focus question relating to the writing group. These reflections on the writing group were collated and used to create a co-authored collaborative reflection on the writing group that was peer-led with the support of an academic mentor.

Methods. Written reflections prepared at the time of the workshop and again one year later are analysed. Results. Participation enhanced interest in writing collectively and alone and increased participant confidence in exploring and exercising their own scholarly voice.

Discussion. We suggest spaces for collective reflection and writing beyond the thesis may work to disrupt some of the hyper-individualism and anxiety associated with doctoral writing.