

# Who am I?

## The Challenges of Multiple Positionalities in Nursing Research

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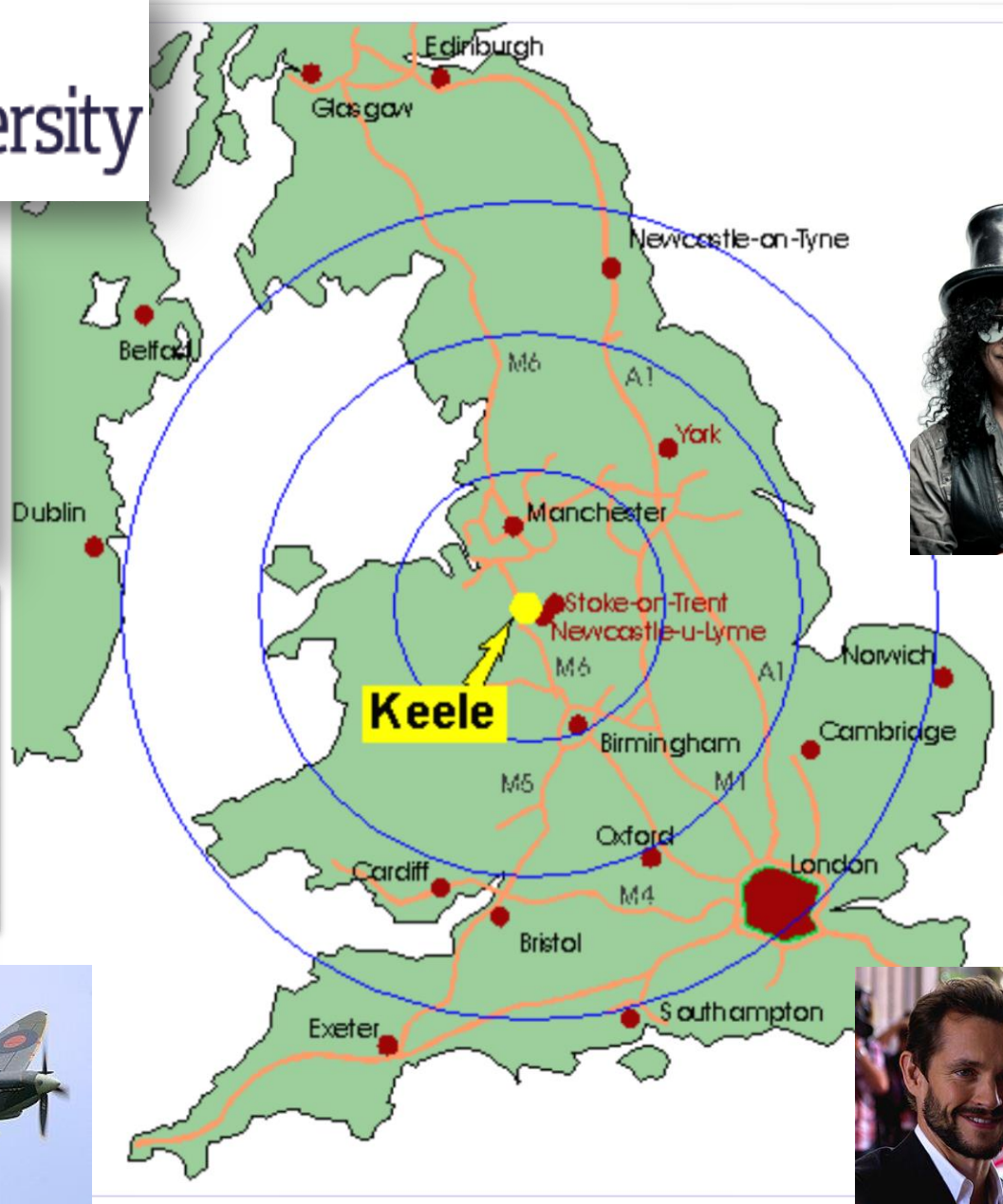
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# *Where am I from...*



Staffordshire is in the Midlands area of England.  
It is 4265 miles from Banff.



# *Aims are to...*

- Introduce the background and rationale for my PhD research
- Discuss the multiple identities and positionalities encountered and the associated challenges



# *Background and rationale*

Advanced Nurse Practitioner at a large teaching hospital .....

- a lead member of the cardiac arrest team
- performing initial clinical assessments
- planning the management of adult medical patients.

Ensuring quality care through education and support of nursing and medical staff

Ensuring appropriate policy/procedures are in place



# *My Journey...Adult Nurse Researching Children?*

MSc – Children:  
Critical Perspectives



Experience in MAU  
& Cardiac Arrest Team



'Sudden Death' Chapters



*PhD*

PAR study to improve  
**support** provided to  
children and their families  
when visiting relatives in  
hospital

# *Research objective*

**A Participatory Action Research (PAR) study to improve the support provided to children and their families when visiting adult relatives in hospital.**



# *Why PAR?*

- Researcher as change agent is a pivotal role in both developing and maintaining the research
  - Where knowledge is irrevocably linked with action and produces outcomes relevant to that particular practice (McLeod, 2001)
  - An approach that emphasises collaboration, participation, active engagement and inclusion
- Where the researcher's relationship with the practice area of adult nursing remains a crucial element of the research and its subsequent development (Read, 2013)

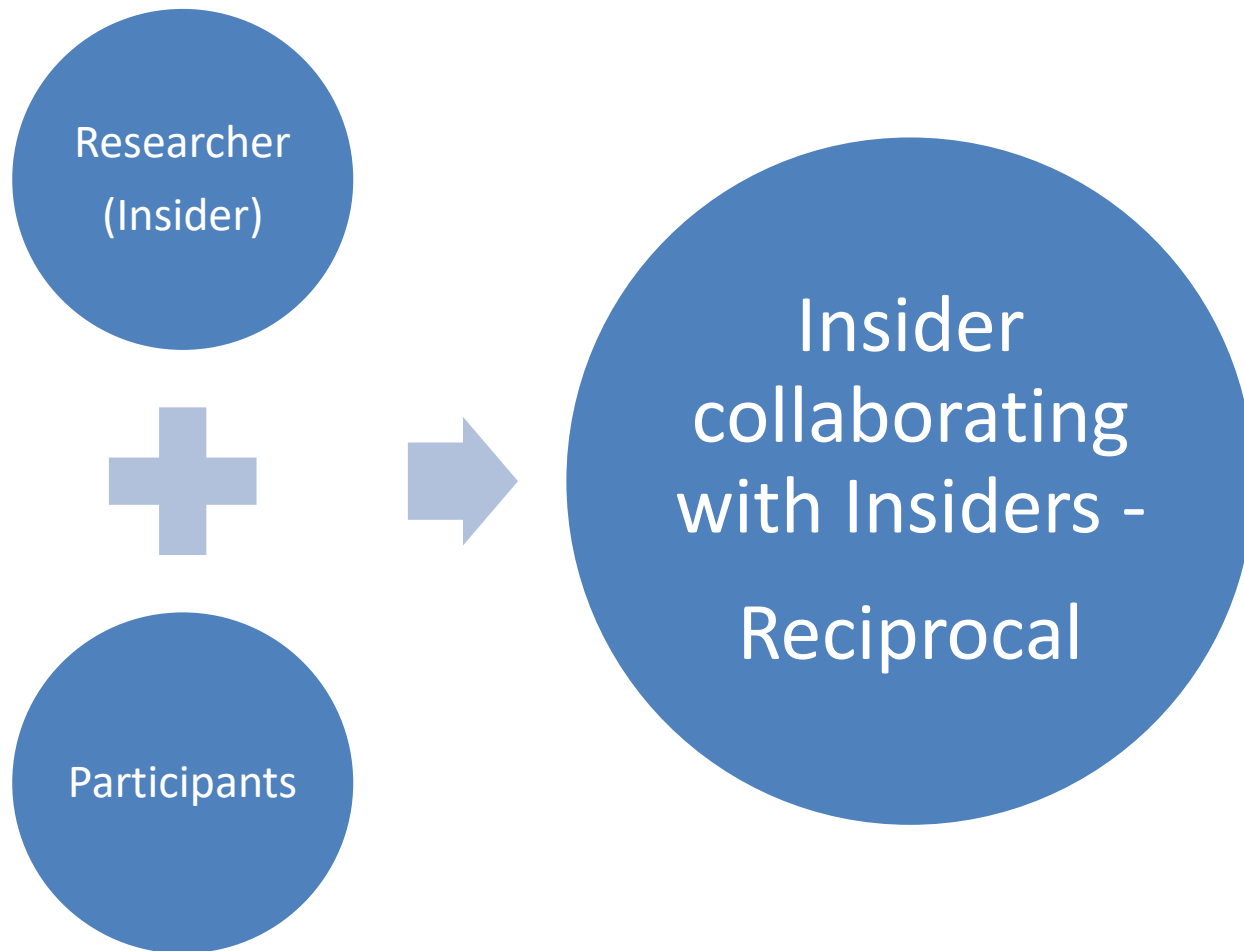


# Continuum of Positionality

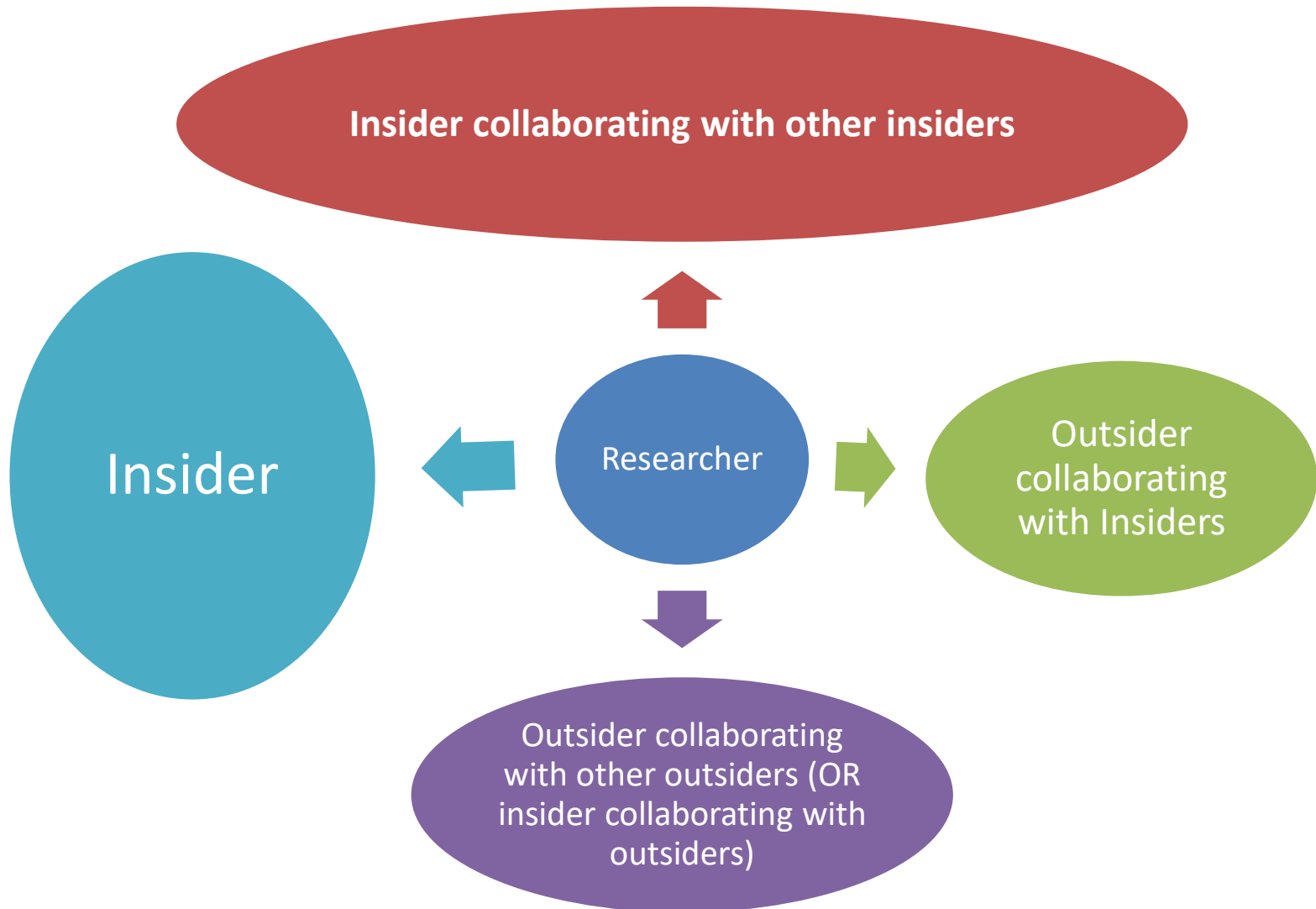
Herr and Anderson ( 2015)

<p><b>Insider</b>            Studies own practice            Practitioner research            Self study            Critique own practice            Self professional transformation</p>	<p><b>Insider/Insider</b>            Collaborative            Feminist consciousness            Inquiry teams            Professional organisational transformation</p>	<p><b>Insider/Outsider</b>            Collaborative            Inquiry groups            Critique/improve practice            Professional organisational transformation</p>
<p><b>Reciprocal</b>            Insider-Outsider teams            Participatory – equitable power relations            Critique/improve practice            Professional organisational transformation</p>	<p><b>Outsider/Insider</b>            Collaborative            Organisational transformation            Mainstream change agencies            Community empowerment</p>	<p><b>Outsider/Insider</b>            Traditional            Knowledge base            Research on action research methods or projects.</p>

# Expected positionality - Cycle 1



# Positionality – Cycle 2



Nurses derive their self-concept and professional identity from their public image, work environment, work values, education and traditional social and cultural values

TEN HOEVE Y., JANSEN G. & ROODBOL P. (2014)

# Personal, professional positionalities

Colleague

Nurse

Insider

Senior nurse  
practitioner

Gender

Outsider

Godparent

Academic

Family status

Researcher

Friend

PhD student

Social status

Geographical location

# Participant personal, professional positionalities

Ward Nurse

Colleague

Nurse in  
charge

Adult nurse

Children's Nurse

Gender

Sibling

Parent

Child

Family status

Patient

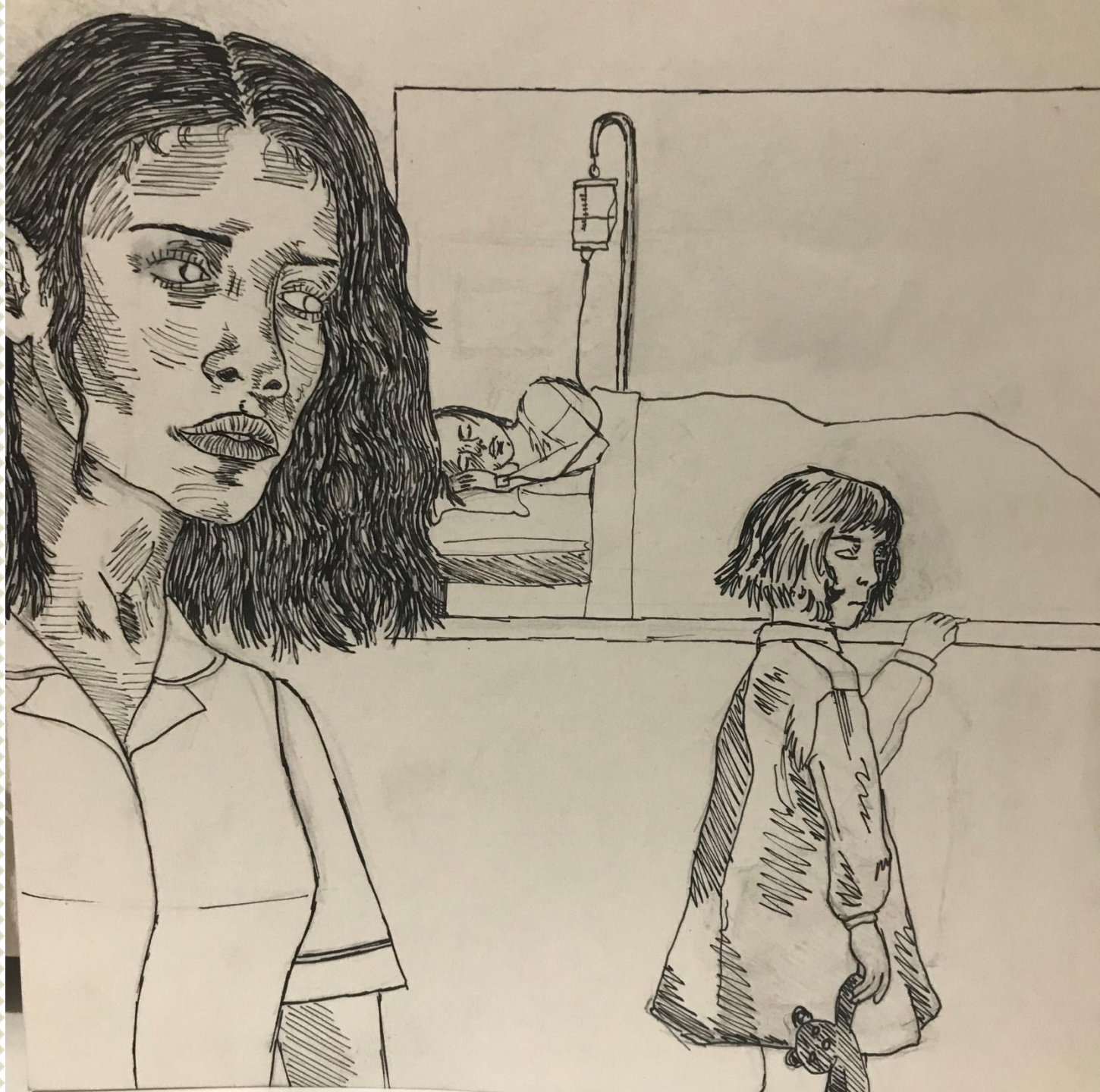
Friend

Relative

Social status

Geographical location

Co-researcher



Illustrated  
by Laura  
Green

# Summary

## In nurse research...

- The researchers positionality to the participants and the setting is central to the research process
- Positionality
  - Is fluid and complex
  - Links to ethics and trustworthiness of the research
  - Links to both researcher and participant professional personal identities, values and assumptions



# References

Herr, K. and Anderson, G.L. (2015) *The Action Research Dissertation*. Second Edition. London, Sage

McLeod, J. (2001). *Qualitative research in counselling and psychotherapy*. London: Sage.

Read, S (2013) Facilitating bereavement support for people with intellectual disabilities in England IN J. Hockley, K. Froggatt, & K. Heimal (Eds) *Participatory research in palliative care*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



# Thank you for Listening.

## Any questions ?



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