Chapter 6
The Implications: Data Representation and Interpretation in Self-as-Subject Research

ABSTRACT
This chapter presents current research insights into various forms and representations of the results of self-as-subject data analyses from both expert and doctoral research experiences. Distinctions between heuristic inquiry and autoethnography are highlighted as well as differences between self-as-subject data analysis approaches when compared with convention methods used within other forms of qualitative research. In self-as-subject research, data representation and data interpretation are often also simultaneous or overlap in presentation to illustrate key findings and insights into the phenomenon of inquiry.

INTRODUCTION
Our mind is the canvas on which the artists lay their colour; their pigments are our emotions; their chiaroscuro the light of joy, the shadow of sadness. The masterpiece is of ourselves, as we are of the masterpiece. – Kakuzō Okakura (1906)

Data representation and interpretation across self-as-subject research can be quite integrated within protocols for self-as-subject research when compared

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The Implications

Table 1. Representation of data and findings from doctoral self-as-subject research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox (2018)</td>
<td>Heuristic</td>
<td>Visual images juxtaposed with song lyrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokkanen (2017)</td>
<td>Autoethnography</td>
<td>Character portraits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumar (2017)</td>
<td>Heuristic with coresearchers</td>
<td>Self and other narratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake (2015)</td>
<td>Autoethnography</td>
<td>Personal narratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozertugrul (2017b)</td>
<td>Heuristic</td>
<td>Poetry, allegory, narrative, self-interview dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeh (2018)</td>
<td>Heuristic with phenomenology</td>
<td>Brief narratives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

to distinct procedures between data analysis and interpretation that may occur within other forms of qualitative research. Forms and formats for the representation of findings can vary creatively across autoethnographic or heuristic study (see Table 1). What is important here for the doctoral researcher is to comply with expectations of the respective discipline, doctoral research supervisor, and any institutional requirements imposed upon the self-as-subject research if it is to be a culminating demonstration for doctoral degree completion.

For generative forms of data, such as those used in autoethnography, the term data preparation may actually be a misnomer or considered to be part of postpositivist methods of measurement as reflexivity is embedded within data analysis whereby experience and analysis are “hinged” as Adams and Holman Jones (2011, p. 109) described the process as an inherent tension between reflexivity and theoretical perspectives brought to the work. For example, Winkler (2017) stressed that for analytic autoethnography to consider theoretical understandings of the phenomenon of inquiry, the researcher-participant must present findings that are not only descriptive of the experience but also explanatory. This differs from more evocative forms of autoethnography where researchers have been resistant to abstract or explain findings within traditional scholarly forms (Ellis & Bochner, 2000). Whereas Honan and Bright (2016) referred to form from a post-qualitative paradigm and called for innovation in forms used traditionally for doctoral thesis or dissertation formats and encouraged doctoral researchers to experiment wherever possible with representational forms and manuscript chapter structures.

For heuristic research, Brisola and Curry (2016) encouraged Moustakas’ (2001, 1990) data collection protocols designed to follow a process-over-
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