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Arne Carlsen and Jane E. Dutton (Eds.):

## Research Alive: Exploring Generative Moments in Doing Qualitative Research

What makes qualitative research really worth doing? When do people feel most alive and energized in their research? *Research Alive* offers insight into the doing of qualitative research by focusing on stories of moments that are experienced as *generative*. A focus on generative moments illuminates what is life-giving, transformative and expansive both with regards to imagination of ideas and development of scholars in the process of doing research. The book offers a unique array of 40 stories from both new and established scholars.



The stories cover the full arc of the research process, from initial idea conception to publication and other forms of interaction with users of research. The stories are personal, back-stage accounts of everyday challenges in research and their resolutions. These accounts provide readers with insights about the micro-moments that compose the doing of qualitative research, that are typically invisible, not discussed and yet are wellsprings of motivation and insight that sustain and inspire qualitative researchers. From these stories readers will gain critical new insights about research practice and acquire important perspectives that are an inherent part of developing as a research scholar.

Research Alive belongs on the bedside table of every qualitative researcher. It is a book I will go back to time and again, sometimes to re-read a specific story but just as often to dip into it at random for inspiration and energy. The stories in this volume come from qualitative researchers at every career stage and will speak to a similarly broad audience. They address a wide range of dilemmas and situations faced by qualitative researchers, but come together in their celebration of connection and community as key sources of generativity in our work.

Thomas B. Lawrence, Weyerhaeuser Professor of Change Management,  
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### Research Alive:

Exploring Generative Moments in  
Doing Qualitative Research

By Arne Carlsen & Jane Dutton (Eds.)

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Copenhagen Business School Press

This is not a book! It is a generative instrument for sharing the feelings associated with doing qualitative research within a community of scholars. This book is an entry door to a secret garden where qualitative researchers share their lived experiences and wisdom.

Silvia Gherardi, Professor of Sociology, University of Trento, Italy.

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Pre-order the book at:

[www.researchalive.cbspress.dk](http://www.researchalive.cbspress.dk)

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## Introduction

Carlsen, Arne and Dutton, Jane, E.: *Research Alive. The call for generativity*

## Seeding stories

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*Opening up through mutual engagement*  
*Entering wonderland: Connecting through negative capability*  
*Doubting Thomas - seeds of wonder*  
*Using surprise as a guide: "Aha" moments of confirmation and disconfirmation*  
*The story of H. Bustos Domecq: Creating "third person" conversations*  
*Maiden voyage: Mapping the territory*  
*What comes first, the egg or the chicken?*  
*Finding beauty in unsightly places: The power of invoking counter-typical reflection*  
*The "Martha" moment: Wading into the others' worlds*  
*Striking a nerve that opens the why*  
*A shocking awakening*  
*What do you care about? Studying what I love*  
*Engaged reciprocity: All this from a hug?*  
*Possessed: Where are the fools?*  
*Commentary: Finding insight in unexpected sources: Seeding generativity*

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*Daring to be different: Forming partnerships and using self-report diaries*  
*I save a technician's butt and another saves mine*  
*Engaging fertile frustration*  
*Movement as a means of overcoming dread and despair*  
*Interviewee created boundary objects: Placing experiences in the context of a whole*  
*A moment of zen: Awakening to an essential feature of analysis and writing*  
*On the road: Making space to reflect and to listen*  
*Tacking toward completion*  
*From Sialkot with Ishq: Opening up intuition's eye and the quest for meaning*  
*Touching data: Revelation through energetic collaboration*  
*How the "strategy-bug" helped me make sense of 301 interviews*  
*The power of shared peak moments*  
*Making research sing: Sharing, building, and feeling knowledge in conversation*  
*Prepare for the scientific journey: Pack your suitcase for all conditions*  
*Commentary: Taking risks and daring to be different: The journey of growing*

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*Making waves: Moments when ideas are set free*  
*Widening vistas – a question of comparison*  
*Sledging towards match point*  
*Seeing the forest through the trees: "Aha's" from out-of-discipline research*  
*Seeing and being seen across differences in race and gender*  
*Blink and you (dis)miss them: Coming to see new lines of sight*  
*Collaborative implementation: "What if," asked George*  
*Spiraling to hope after years of struggle*  
*The gift of the world: Writing as openness and responsibility*  
*Reaching to embody insights*  
*Sparkling conversations*  
*Watching your theory: The Cerro Grande staff ride*  
*Commentary: When experts learn: Intellectual humility as key to research generativity.*

## Conclusion

Dutton, Jane E. and Carlsen, Arne    Seeing, feeling, daring, interrelating and playing. *Exploring themes in generative moments*  
Carlsen, Arne and Dutton, Jane E.    *Come Alive!*

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