



In what ways do socially grounded practices of creativity resist and reimagine institutional and discursive power structures?

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In a forthcoming chapter (Hogan, 2026) I air the notion of 'poly-crisis' (Pink 2025). Poly-crisis is the acknowledgement of multiple crises converging. These include war, climate instability, an aggressive model of capitalism which exacerbates inequality and is premised on an impossible model of perpetual 'growth' that in turn is causing environmental destruction and unprecedented species extinction, coupled with the revival of fascism and fascistic policies of exclusion and profound breaches of international law. I posit the audacious question - how can art therapy be more than the handmaiden of neoliberal capitalism, ameliorating the lot of those less able to adapt to precarity? Or, alternatively, will the arts in health be increasingly called upon to provide a sort of disaster relief, mopping up after the destruction caused by neoliberal regimes?

This chapter will provide a brief theorisation. Drawing on Judith Butler's work, it addresses the conference theme by looking at the reiteration of gender norms. It will justify why thinking about operations of power is important, indeed crucial, for art therapy practice and art therapy training. It will then present a case study which attempts to disrupt the dominant ideology around the subject of perinatal mental health (the period immediately before and after childbirth). The chapter will discuss how this alternate approach looks at institutional practices which are 'iatrogenic' in nature (relating to illness and distress caused by medical practices) and how this can impact individual women's experience.

This paper is a provocation and a reminder that we must think critically about gender and cultural differences. It moves on to give an example of an art therapy project which sought to disrupt some of the dominant thinking about post-natal depression and maternal inadequacy which are predominant.



Biography

Susan Hogan is a Professor of Arts & Health at the University of Derby and a Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Mental Health, University of Nottingham and current chair of the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) Arts, Health & Wellbeing SIG. Susan has wide-ranging interests in visual culture, from the history and development of the arts and health, including the use of the arts in propagating health messages and research findings, to artistic and performative research methods. Her books are used in the training of arts and health professionals internationally.

Recent Publications

Hogan, S. 2019 (ed.) *Gender and Difference in the Arts Therapies. Inscribed on the Body* Oxon: Routledge.

Hogan, S. 2020 (ed.) *Arts Therapies & Gender. International Perspectives on Research* (European Consortium of Art Therapy Educators – ECArTE) Oxon: Routledge.

Hogan, S. 2020b. **Arts in Health: Pregnancy, Birth & New Parenthood.** In Hogan, S. (ed.) *Therapeutic Arts in Pregnancy, Birth and New Parenthood.* Oxon: Routledge. pp 1-8.

Hogan, S. 2022. *Photography.* Arts & Health Series. Bingley: Emerald.