

Review of: "Picture collage: A pedagogical reflective practice tool for nursing students in mental health practice"

Rachel Barbaresi¹

¹ Oxford Brookes University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Coming from an art and design background I find it interesting to see how collage can be used within the nursing context as an approach to reflection. The collage process encourages openness and intuition so is a good way to support nursing students with noticing their thoughts and feelings in relation to clinical experiences. Collage is also a very accessible creative process which can bypass inhibitions that other activities such as drawing can engender so is a good method to use for reflection with people who may not have a background in creative arts.

Other reviewers have suggested the inclusion of more information about the way that the activity was presented. From reading the article it sounds like a group activity and I wonder if the collective and playful practice of making the collages together may have had benefits in itself? Could there also be benefits in regular independent collaging and reflection as a way of documenting experiences and development over a period of time?

I am interested in how the collage material was sourced. Did the students contribute magazines or other material to be used for the activity? This could have an impact on outcomes, and student sourced materials could support culturally specific starting points.

The conversations and thoughts shared by the nursing students suggest that they were able to access and share expectations and experiences that they may have found it difficult to talk about through working with creative starting points. The study shows the potential for useful insights to be gained and shared through this approach.