

## TOWARDS THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND A REFLEXIVE BODY OF PRACTICE.

### **Section One Overview.**

As I have mentioned in the Thesis Overview, this research account tells of a journey. As all journeys start somewhere and require preparations, I would like to describe this process in this section.

In Chapter One I will present myself and the research setting and be as explicit as possible about the values, intentions, questions and frameworks I held at the outset and as I began the first steps. To some extent, enrolling for a PhD is a somewhat arbitrary punctuation of 'journey beginning', but it is a useful one because it forms a rite of transition where the researcher announces her or his intentions, begins drawing ideas into focus and engages in the journey in more systematic, rigorous and explicit ways. This was the case for me.

In this chapter I will also sketch the setting I work in and the people who inhabit it, create it and give it life. This is also the setting for the inquiry and as such the relationships between individuals and groups within this setting provide a major context for understanding personal experience. I would like to give my picture of this at the outset of the research. My awareness of self and of the organisation both informed the inquiry process and in turn was changed by it over time as the inquiry progressed.

In Chapter Two I introduce Narrative Inquiry as a methodology and make a case for using it to aid in the creation of this thesis as a narrative. Over the course of this research I came to use story-telling as a means of representing experience in the research field as well as a means of inquiry into my own personal process as a researcher. This started inadvertently and intuitively and it was only towards the end of the research that I more fully considered Narrative Inquiry as more systematic means of inquiring into personal experience. However, I take licence to use Narrative Inquiry early in this thesis as a means of aiding its production.

In chapter three I will tell several 'stories' about past experiences which illustrate in more metaphorical form some of the key issues I seek to address in this research. They can also be seen as preparations for the journey and provide a context for understanding some of my motivations and questions informing the research. Working awarely with one's own personal process as a researcher is a validity issue in the emerging new paradigm approaches to research, one which I will return to at various points. This section is intended to chart the beginnings of this awareness and to locate the reader in the field of research.

Finally, in Chapter Four I will introduce the key theoretical and methodological frameworks which underpin the beginning of the inquiry process. This will provide a theoretical grounding which I will refer to , dialogue with and elaborate upon as the inquiry unfolds.