



**Martin Gough:**

**“Shades of Sartre and Polanyi: a review of the Conference”**

**Sum up? - so hard - not been in everyone's talk - seen a broad range**

**Very stimulating - one reason, the range of disciplines, bringing people together out of narrow discipline an achievement  
- theme so appropriate as focus**

**On Adventure**

**- c.f. Sartre, adventure is what you are not having but what seems exciting as an idea when described, event in future but especially as past, like visiting an exotic place, or walking up a mountain  
- when you are there moment to moment**

**experience far from 100 percent thrill, may seem a bit mundane, hard drudgery even**  
**- research study anything like this? - for you...**

**- exciting to be offered a place originally!...**

**- maybe my research will make big difference?**

**- yes, some of you gone/going to some exotic locations**

**- many of you focused on methodology - bit mundane on face of it, to others**

**- maybe quite a drudge to gather data, read all those books, getting bogged down**

**- but choices and decisions how to approach problem part of your adventure**  
**- especially dealing with contingencies off-plan, external influences threatening to sabotage you**

**- your resilience shines through as theme, narrative for the adventure story**

**- also an adventure in actual sense of thrill of discovering things, through your hard work**

**Perhaps all good adventures are all the**

**better for some planning that goes in to them (c.f. scheduling a walk up a munro, the thrill of being at the summit, but also the walk back down and a hot bath and a wee dram to round off the process)**

**But the planner types have been in the ascendent to an extreme recently as regards research, with bids for funding emphasising the importance of claims to beneficial impact which WILL arise**

**Michael Polanyi - theorist I would like to see returned to more by scholars**

**applied to Research, which is:**

- A practice which (adults) have to learn how to do, phronesis - might be fun to learn, might be troublesome, perplexing**
- a form of learning, directed at the object of research, the world - finding more out about the world**

**Tacit dimension/component (to both knowing and learning) - RHS**

**- articulated/codified vs practical k. - so words cannot capture richness of practice**

**- focal awareness (explicit) vs subsidiary awareness (implicit)**

**AND - explicit vs hidden (soln to new problem) - context of discovery, of object of research**

**- discovery by defn beyond reach of what planned, the noumenal beyond the phenomenal - key to the adventure**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**The Post Graduate Research  
Association's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

# **“The Adventure of Research” Is Research Enough of an Adventure?**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

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