

From inspiration to implementation: Creating & implementing a research-based theatre resource for graduate supervision



Susan M Cox¹, Michael Lee² and Matthew Smithdeal³

¹ School of Population and Public Health, ² Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, ³ Department of Philosophy

Background Graduate supervision profoundly impacts graduate student and faculty mental health and wellbeing. Tensions within supervisory relationships are further complicated by equity and inclusion related barriers that marginalized communities face within academia. To address this situation, we created, evaluated and revised *Rock the Boat*, an open access educational resource that uses Research-based Theatre to provoke dialogue about supervisory relationships. *Rock the Boat* is published through Pressbooks and includes four professionally acted scenes plus a facilitator's guide and supplementary resources.

“Research-based Theatre (RbT) an innovative methodology that brings research to life as a mode of inquiry and/or knowledge mobilization.”
<https://rbtcollaborative.ubc.ca/about-us>

Impact of Workshops

“[I was surprised by] my own emotion, vulnerability, humility – how much I have yet to learn, how I want to be better, do better by my students” – Faculty

"I left the discussion today having felt that graduate student's voices are heard and there is complexities within the supervisors themselves." – Student

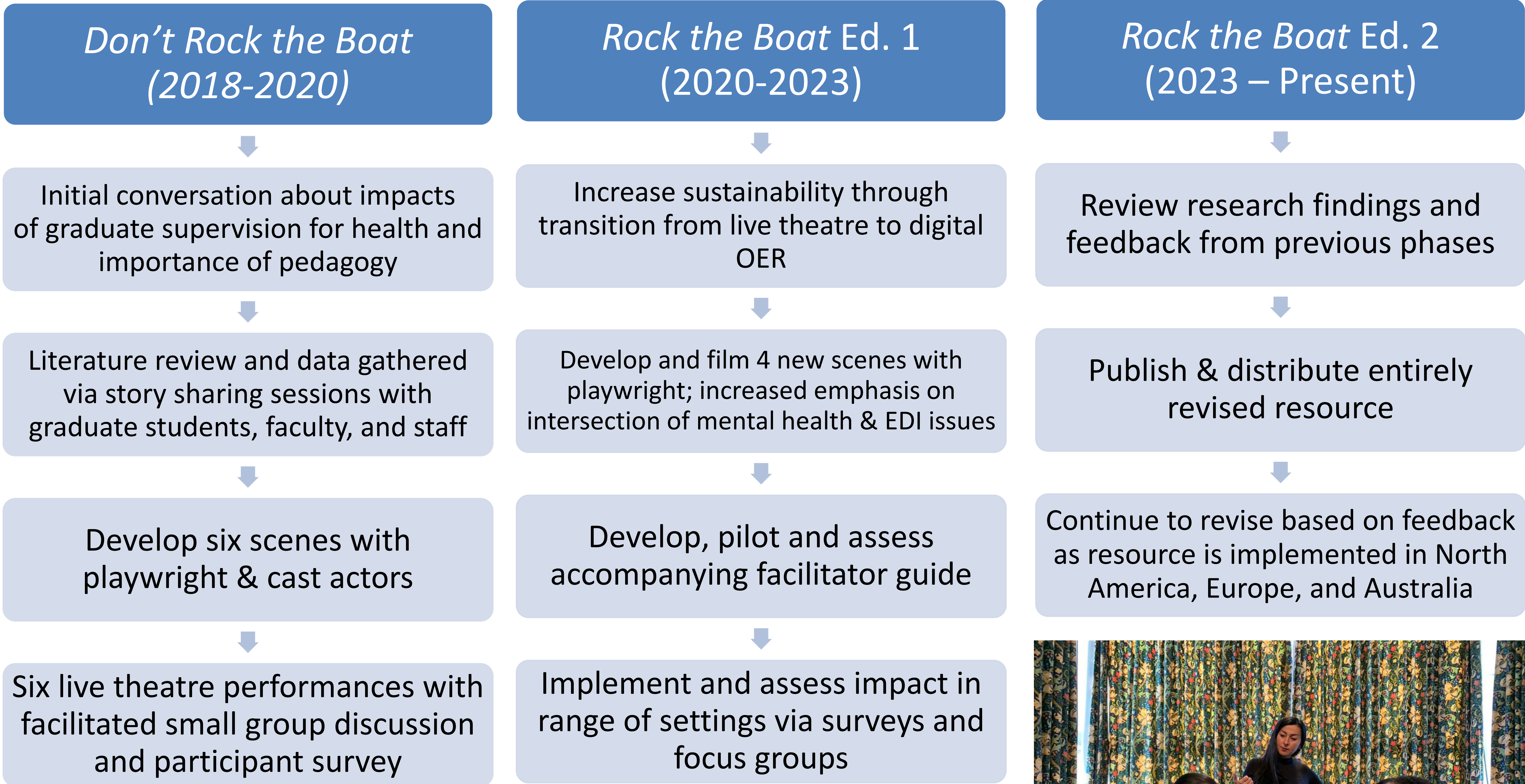
“... it shows the gap in training for Faculty members, as well as institutional-wide limitations in adequately addressing both mental health and EDI-based challenges experienced by students.” – Staff

“What made it effective was the use of multiple perspectives, and also the dramatization because it ... reveal[s] the broader context of both the student and supervisor's experience.” -- Grad student

Cox, Susan, M. Smithdeal, and Michael Lee. (In press) A script for change: Using theatre to facilitate difficult conversations about graduate supervision. *McGill Journal of Education* (Special Issue on Research-Based Theatre in Education).

Cox, Susan, Matthew Smithdeal, and Michael Lee. "Behind the Scenes: Insights on Pedagogy during Implementation of an RbT Open Educational Resource." *Arts*. Vol. 12. No. 6. 2023.

Resource available at:
pressbooks.bccampus.ca/rocktheboat/
 (or scan the QR code)
 Contact us at rock.the.boat@ubc.ca



Don't Rock the Boat's live-theatre workshops that took place in the Fall of 2019. Left to right: Tetsuro Shigematsu, Bahareh Shigematsu and Ingrid Broussillon (Photo credit: Simangele Mabena)

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