Patricia Liehr, PhD, RN has been working with colleagues in Japan for nearly 20 years. The presentation being done at this conference describes a culmination of her cross-cultural, cross-discipline work expressed in the documentary theatre performance, "With Their Voices Raised".

Kate Morris, MA has served as script researcher and dramaturg for over a dozen collegiate and professional theatre performances on the FAU campus and other established theatre venues in the South Florida area. She collaborated with teams of Japanese and American researchers from the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology and the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University to create With Their Voices Raised. This performance will also contribute to her doctoral thesis titled: “Documentary Theatre: Pedagogue and Healer With Their Voices Raised.”

Mary Ann Leavitt, RN, BSN, CCRN has extensive nursing experience in critical care, cath lab and electrophysiology. She has been working with patients with heart failure for the last 10 years. She is interested in the impact of this progressive chronic condition on the lives of these individuals. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Florida Atlantic University.

Ryutaro Takahashi MD PhD
Tapping the Magic of Verbatim Theatre to Move from “Field to Forum”: Translating Peace-Promoting Research Findings

Study purpose

- To examine stories of health for people who had survived the bombings of Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima....and
- To identify story turning points in the decades after surviving the bombings

Turning points

Hiroshima
- Facing the disorienting aftermath of people and places with fall of Genbaku
- Becoming Hibakusha
- Reaching out to create meaning/purpose that is consistent with cherished peace

Pearl Harbor
- Coming to grips with the reality of a Japanese attack and scrambling to respond
- Honoring the memory of their war experience and trying to set it aside to get on with usual valued activities
- Embracing connection as a source of comfort and understanding

Translation of Research Findings

Bench to Bedside | Field to Forum
---|---
View of the World | Particulate-deterministic
Approach to Data | Unitary-transformative
Quantitative | Qualitative
Outcome | 
Practice protocol | Change in understanding
leading to measureable | that affects personal
change in health indicator | perspective

From Field to Forum

Verbatim Theatre
- A vehicle for learning
- A bridge for divisiveness, promoting understanding
- Political nature, addressing the difficult questions
- Exact words of the storytellers crafted into script by dramaturg
- Intent to engage the audience through talk-back

The Forum

WITH THEIR VOICES RAISED
A provoking dice-throwing theatre performance created by Sarah Mims, based on stories from the veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2012
Florida Atlantic University Theatre
777 Glades Road, Boca Raton
7 p.m.

A donation of $1-$5 will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will be donated to the VA Veterans Coalition.
A story of common ground

Surprise

Hell on earth

Wishing for Peace

Surprise

Hell on earth

Wishing for Peace
Wishing for Peace

Audience Talk-back

- Transcripts from talk-back analyzed to consider the impact of the translation approach for those who attended:
  - Openness to understand
  - Engagement to understand
  - Trust to act on understanding

Audience Talk-back

Openness to understand
- Recognition that the message warrants sharing
  - “testimonials are an effective way to communicate the suffering imposed by these events”
- Appreciation for the universal message
  - “situations were specific but could happen to anyone...stories involved hope for peace for future generations...cross cultural”
Audience Talk-back

Engagement to understand
- Shifting awareness from historical knowledge to felt human experience
  - “Hiroshima – that’s history but then grandmothers talking about their grandchildren…that is very powerful and I never thought about it”
- Overwhelming sense of powerful reality
  - “It was very intense… I had a visceral response. My stomach was in knots and I wanted to leave the room…I have a lot of thoughts running through my head that I need to sift out”

Trust to act on understanding
- Considering personal responsibility
  - “I’d like to do something...to bring this to Israel. We could do something now to prevent this from happening there”
- Imagining extended impact
  - “This should be filmed and shown in schools all over the country to stress the importance of remembering”