

DRAMA HIVES: DRAMA THERAPY AS PUBLIC PRACTICE

INSTITUT FÜR THEATERTHERAPIE
RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM
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AGENDA

INTRO

- Drama Hives Project
- Public practice drama therapy

SUMMARY

- Theoretical approaches: decolonization, liberation psychology, third spaces etc
- Applying Public Practice Framework to Drama Therapy

DEBRIEF

- Q&A

PROJECT CONTEXT

- Grant from the J.A. De Sève Foundation and the Art Hives network
- Master's research built on this experience



PROJECT CONTEXT





WHAT IS PUBLIC PRACTICE DRAMA THERAPY IN NORTH AMERICA?



WHAT IS PUBLIC PRACTICE DRAMA THERAPY?

- Departs from traditional spaces where therapy is offered (such as clinics, hospitals and agency offices)
- Positions itself within the community in public spaces like libraries, schools, parks
- Promotes accessibility
- Creates a sense of belonging
- Informed by decolonization, liberation psychology, third spaces, public practice art therapy, the Art Hive model, and existing public practice drama therapy approaches



THEORETICAL APPROACHES EXPLORED

Decolonization


**Third
Space**

**Liberation
Psychology**



APPLYING PUBLIC PRACTICE FRAMEWORK TO DRAMA THERAPY

Approaches that engage participant-facilitator interaction:

- Theatre of the Oppressed
 - Brechtian Drama Therapy
 - Miss Kendra Program
 - Developmental Transformations (DvT)
 - The Drama Hive / The Story Hive
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LIMITATIONS

Lack of implementation of:

More fieldwork and exploration are required to create working templates for varied Drama Hives

- Principles of disability justice
- Mutual aid
- Land-based healing
- The Seven Generation Principles
- Public performance/ community arts

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRAMA THERAPISTS

- Frame social justice calls-to-action in one's practice
- Engage in decolonial work
- Personal and professional accountability in social justice and accessible approaches
- Pay homage to Indigenous and pre-colonial praxis and interventions by acknowledging how drama therapy emerged from these theories
- Be cognizant to one's colonizer/settler/immigrant narratives
- Experiment with public practice (i.e., outdoors or drop-in spaces)

WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN DRAMA THERAPY COMMUNITY:

- Lack of access to public practice
- Create a sense of permission
- How do you measure work in public practice?
- Is this a form of solidarity or mutual aid?
- Professionalism is a colonial construct
- How do we not reproduce in the same colonizing dynamics, as we move into a new space for liberation without colonizing third spaces
- Tip - Jar How do you fund it? Would this “ruin” the element of a Drama Hive?

FIND OUT MORE AT:

- Our Drama Therapy Review Vol 8.2 Article:
 - *Exploring Public Practice Drama Therapy Using Drama Hives*
 - Available through the NADTA's DTR online access portal
- Art Hives Instagram: [@art.hives.hq.concordia](https://www.instagram.com/art.hives.hq.concordia)
 - Website: <https://arthives.org/>
 - <https://arthives.org/drama-hive>





LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

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Thank You!

The background is a light gray textured surface with various watercolor-style illustrations. In the top left, there are red and orange splatters. In the top center, there are orange and blue shapes. In the top right, there are red and orange shapes. In the middle left, there is a blue shape. In the middle right, there are orange and red shapes. In the bottom left, there is an orange star-like shape. In the bottom center, there are orange and red shapes. In the bottom right, there are orange and blue shapes.

QUESTIONS?