

Title: Discovering a new identity after brain injury: A visual illness narrative

Type: Oral presentation

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For a photo-elicitation study of lived experience with acquired brain injury (ABI), 11 adult ABI survivors took photographs of living with brain injury from their perspective and talked about them with the researcher, who used narrative analysis methods to form visual illness narratives for 3 brain injury survivor case studies. Each visual illness narrative is a series of 4 or 5 images and their interview texts centered on a common theme and analyzed using structural, dialogic, and visual analysis methods. The presentation shares one visual illness narrative, of a brain tumor survivor whose injury occurred 17 years ago. She relates a narrative of identity in which she speaks in a chorus of voices as chef, gardener, and brain injury survivor. Her visual illness narrative is an evocative portrayal that resists current medical models for rehabilitation from brain injury, engages us in her context, and makes us feel.