

Name of collection

Video 1 - Student

Judy Chandler:

My research project is about the complex enactment of leadership by administrative managers, and it was inspired by my own professional experience working in a role that involved close working with both academic and professional services colleagues, or administrative colleagues. Another term for professional services is non-academic.

My research question is, how do administrative managers operate at key intersections during the coordination of curriculum delivery? And it started with my initial literature review that I'd used when developing my research proposal, and as I've read more into the topic and began to appreciate the language used to refer to the type of role, I was interested in.

Yes, it has changed quite considerably since I started my study. and over a series of reflective moments while delving deeper into the topic, becoming more familiar with key debates and discussions within the literature, it went through several iterations over time, which reflected the shift in focus as I started to gain more clarity around my intended contribution.

In essence, I want my research to stir further debate around higher education leaderships, and even provoke reconsideration of hierarchical staffing structures within higher education institutions. I'm mindful that my chosen research context has its own nuances and things that are specific to this setting.

However, the binary categories of academic and non-academic staff within universities is an apparent divide that currently contains a whole host of assumptions. A further impact would be potentially on leadership development in higher education and what that might consist of in light of my findings.

Celia Whitchurch is a key author, and she writes a lot about professional identity, the professional identity of academics and administrative colleagues. A particular pertinent concept that she writes about is third space professionals. Now Whitchurch takes this idea or builds on an earlier idea that was introduced by another writer called Homi Bhabha, who writes about the space in between cultures and the subsequent formation of hybrid identity.

So, when Whitchurch writes about this, she writes that a third space professional would similarly have a blended identity, or even shifting identities that exist in between academic and non-academic staff.