



METHODS AND MEDIATION

OBSERVATIONS OF A MID-CAREER TEACHER/SCHOLAR

WHO DECIDED TO SHAKE THINGS UP

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PROJECTS:

Communication & Care
Communities

Conflict Mediation Training

Impetus & Need

The Project:

- Zotero & The Literature
- Three Research Prongs (models/pandemic/expectations)
- The Interviews
 - (15 women ages 30-62 acting as primary caregivers for aging family members)

COMMUNICATION & CARE COMMUNITIES

- Models: Integration (member of the household); Assistant (go-with/do for—compartmentalized, often)
- Pandemic: Nostalgic—easier because there were suddenly fewer things to focus on and eased the time together—enjoyable, especially if already in the household
- Expectations: This was mixed—if they expected to fulfill this role, it most often was because their mother or aunt had, or multi-generational families living in the same space was a cultural expectation.

A FEW OBSERVATIONS:

This work :

- often feels invisible, and can be especially hard for women who have seen themselves as independent (with or without children in the home)
- can be physically exhausting—but the mental toll is perceived as more significant
- doesn't re-work family dynamics--it persists as it was (usually)

The hardest parts: “Standing outside of her bedroom door every morning before I go in, hoping she is still with us.” Experiencing parent/love one decline from up close; relentless responsibility

The Joy: “I get to be with *her*.” Experiencing life with special people when time feels more precious.

The Needs: Personal support for the caregiver. Close personal relationships outside of the caregiving relationship was the most necessary, appreciated, and wished for.

GENERAL FINDINGS

LESSONS IN METHOD:

- I usually work with texts. People are harder.
- Rapport is usually easy for me. It was harder to develop with strangers and over Zoom.
- Zoom transcription is better than my own ears.
- Everything took/takes longer than I anticipated (that is unusual for me).
- It's good for me to be new at something—hard can be useful.

CERTIFICATE OF
TRAINING

Communication and Conflict Management Associates
herby certifes that

HEATHER M. NORTON DAVIES

has completed 20 hours of training in

Civil Mediation
October 5-7, 2022

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**CONFLICT
MEDIATION
TRAINING**

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S H O U L D H A V E D O N E
B E F O R E I L E A R N E D
S O M U C H O F T H I S T H E
H A R D W A Y .**

UNEXPECTED ALIGNMENT



BONUS PROJECTS



PERSONAL BONUS PROJECTS

Curves
Women's Fitness Center



**THANK
YOU**

- The Committee on Rank & Tenure
- The Board of Trustees
- The President, Provost, & Dean
- My Colleagues in the Department of Humanities
- The women who trusted me with their stories