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**Self-disclosure or not? That is the question**

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Many health-care related qualitative research projects focus on exploring vulnerable and marginalised groups and are often underpinned by the researcher's emancipatory ideals. Simultaneously, the researcher has the obligation to ensure transparency and rigor regarding their use of research methods, data analysis, decision making and representation of research findings. Researchers undertaking qualitative research are challenged further, as their tools to provide transparency are directly related to self-reflection and reflexivity / insight into their way of being as a researcher. Autobiographical narrative is often ethically, philosophically and pragmatically related to providing transparency in order to represent participants, but there are specific discussions related to the ethics of personal and professional self-disclosure. This paper addresses the dilemma of research ethics versus vulnerability from the researcher perspective in placing the issue of sexual orientation in a public arena when researching the professional socialisation of undergraduate student nurses.

*Philip Esterhuizen has many years of international experience as a nurse in a variety of settings and as an academic in both teaching and qualitative research. In his current position as Senior Lecturer he stimulates self-awareness, narrative and self-reflection via the subject areas of practice-based learning, palliative care nursing, ethics, qualitative research and critical reasoning. He is also involved in international Masters and PhD supervision in which these areas of self-development are often central to student development. He is a board member for the International Association for Human Caring and an editorial reviewer for five international nursing research journals.*