

# *The Accidental Cartoonist*

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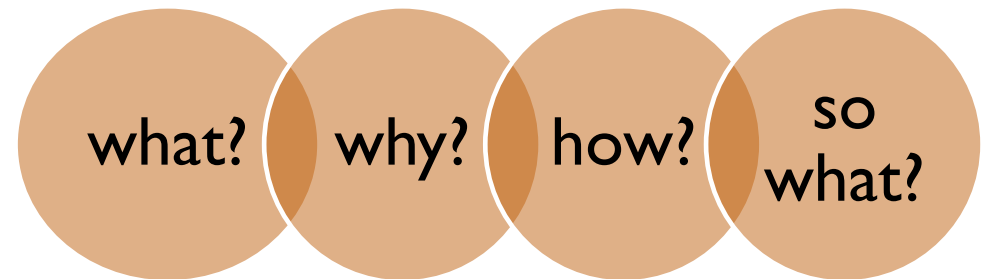
2019

#gettinggraphic #gwordtour



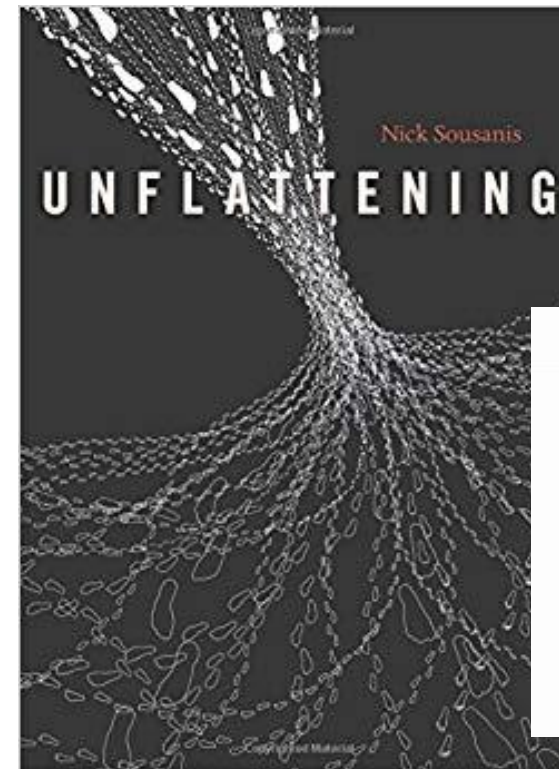
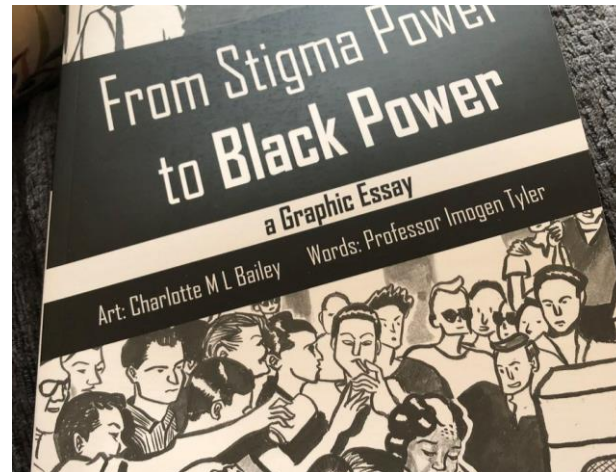
## “graphic social science”

*a graphic means of communicating social research*



## an emerging practice

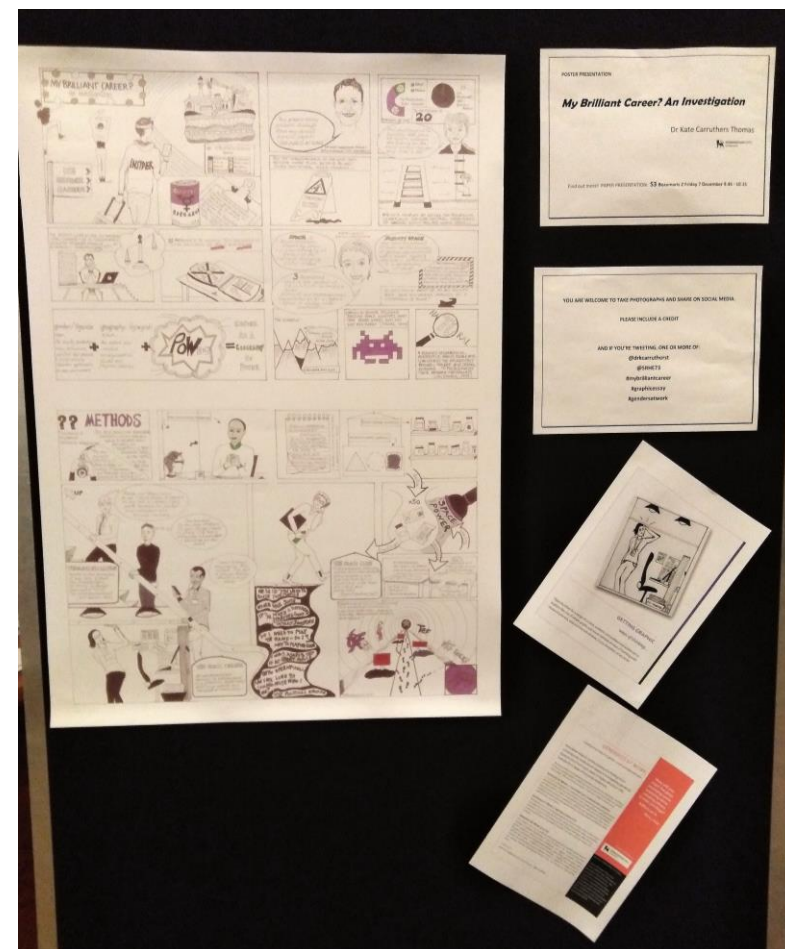
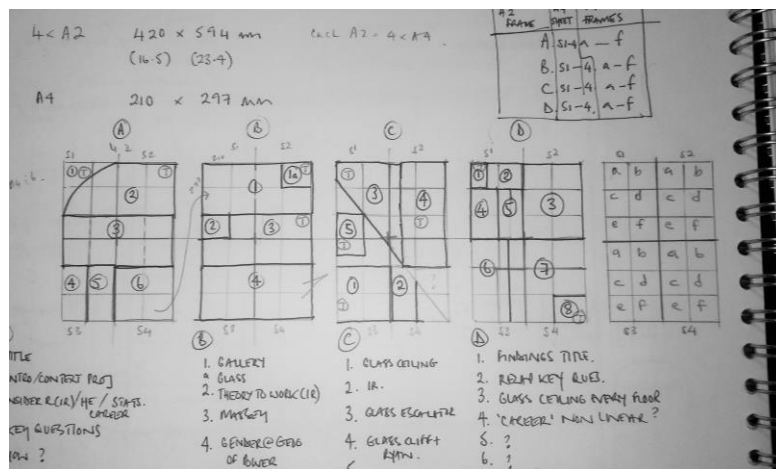
- live illustrated records – *visualising ideas in a dynamic way* (More Than Minutes 2019)
- *a means to transform attitudes, awareness and behaviour around social issues* (Priego 2016)
- a way of exploring ideas and analysing data
- *comics creation as a way of thinking* (Sousanis 2015)



what?

# My Brilliant Career? An Investigation – a graphic essay

- presents research findings on gendered experiences of work and 'career' in HE
- combines the structural/textual conventions of the academic essay/article with those of the cartoon strip
- departure from conventional academic publication formats
- 4 X A2 panels and an A1 poster

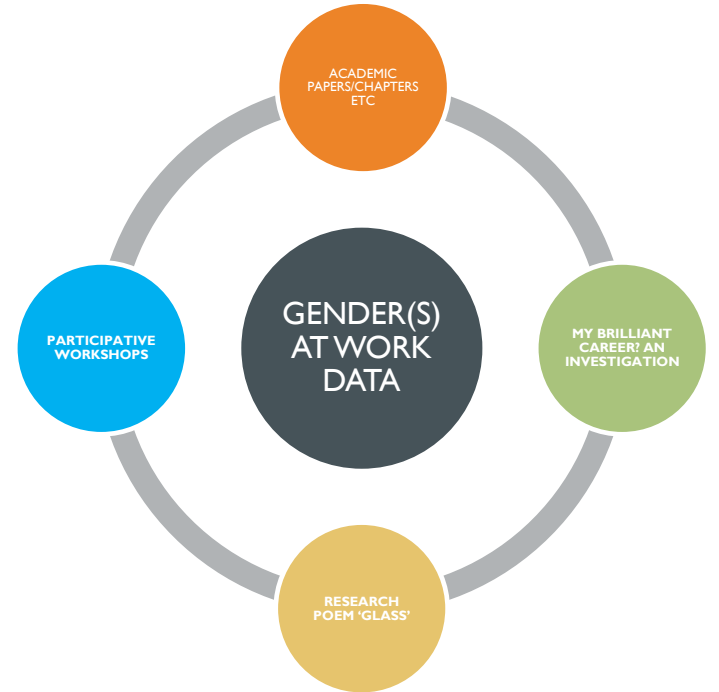
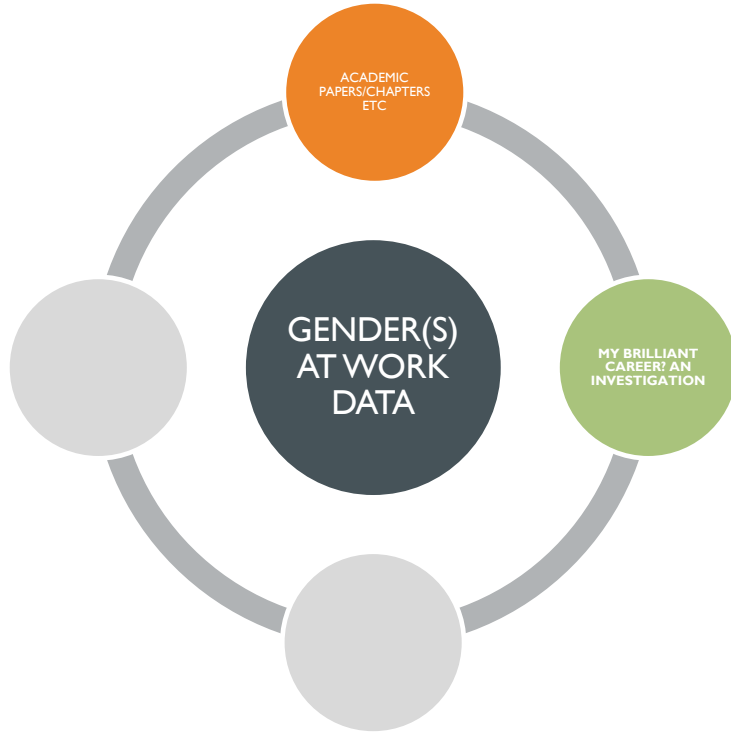
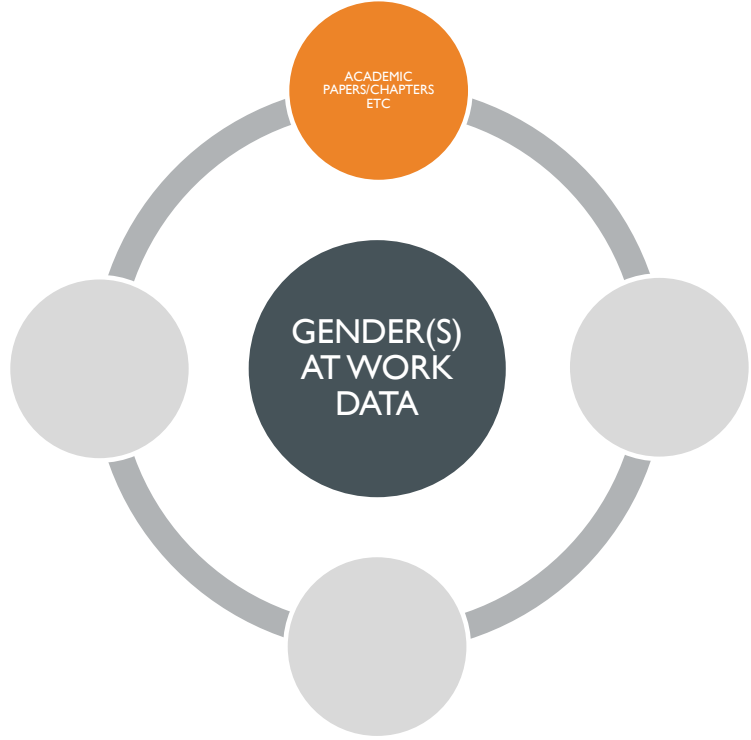




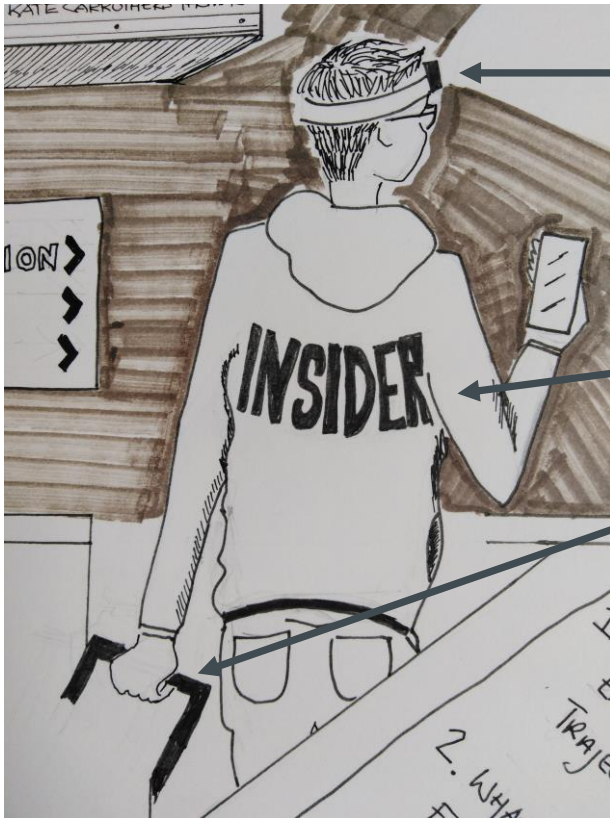
## getting graphic with research

- *Gender(s) At Work* – institutional research project – 50 participants at one post-92 UK university
  - ❖ in what ways does gender operate as a geography of power within HE to shape experiences of work and career for individuals of all genders?
  - ❖ what are the implications for gender-neutral, linear career metaphors, for organisational structures and equality agendas?
- data analysis underpinned by idea of ‘space as social relations shaped by power’ and device of ‘activity space – shaped by geographies of power’ (Massey 2005)
- large amount of qualitative data: interview transcripts, participants’ ‘organisational maps’

why?

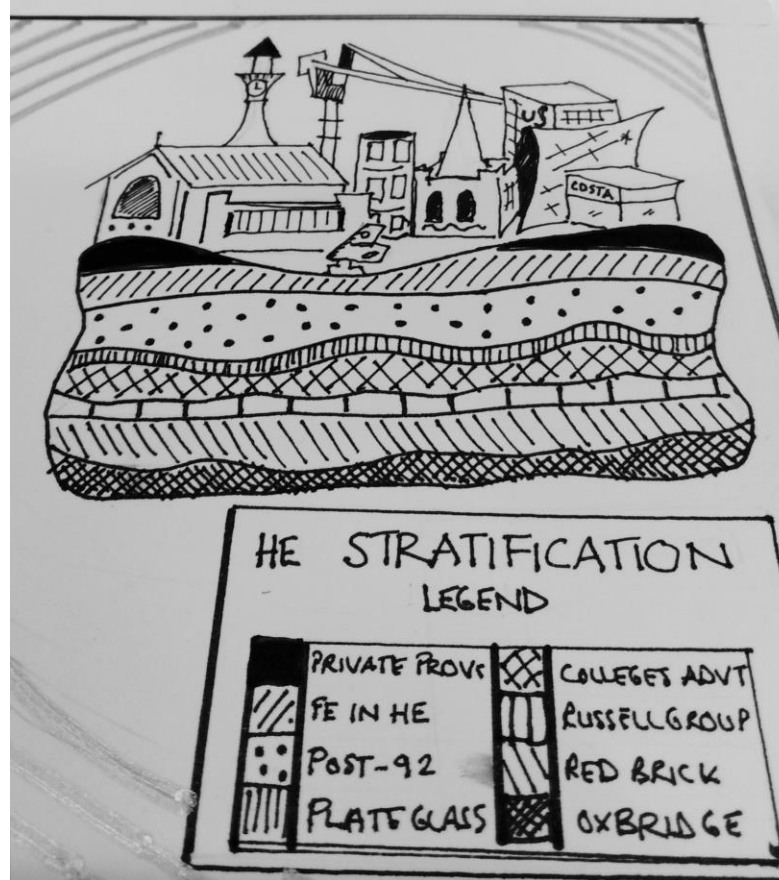


# research as process, researcher as embodied, visible



- the act of research - focus, spotlight, illuminate
- positionality
- 'insider' researcher, embodied
- theoretical 'baggage'

how?



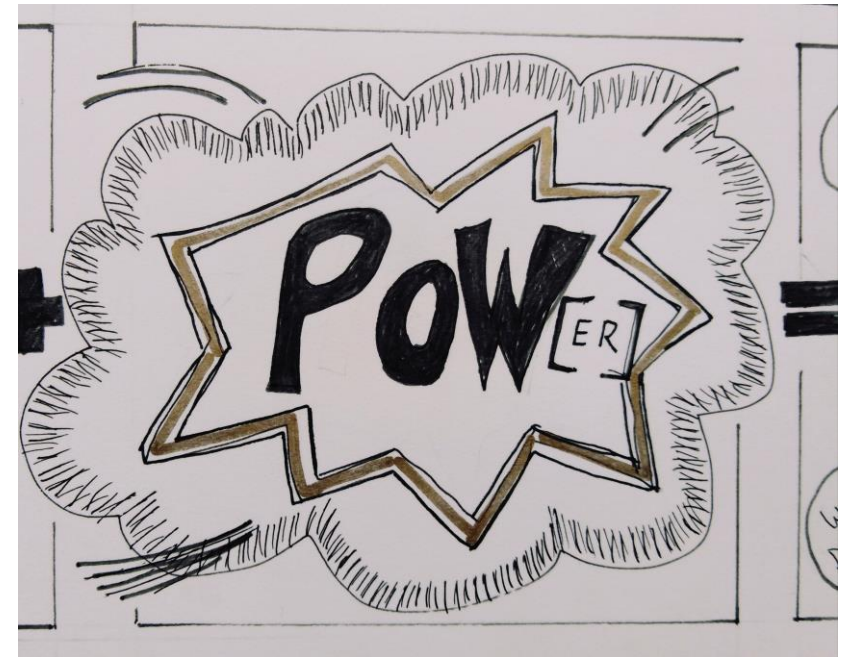
context-setting – the stratified HE sector



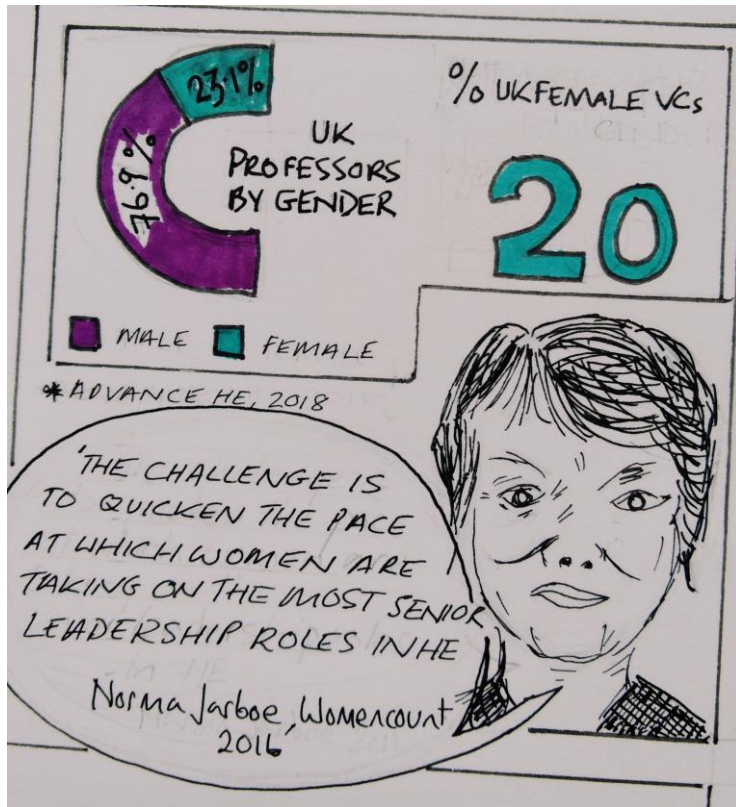
THE LITERATURE IS SIGNIFICANTLY  
WEIGHTED TOWARDS FEMALE  
ACADEMICS AND THEIR DISADVANTAGE  
- FOR OBVIOUS REASONS...



BUT THE UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER  
HAS BECOME MORE FLUID, BEYOND  
BINARY, MORE CONTESTED, MORE  
COMPLEX...



visual metaphors: show, tell, analyse, interpret, challenge...



DGREEN MASSEY  
RADICAL GEOGRAPHER

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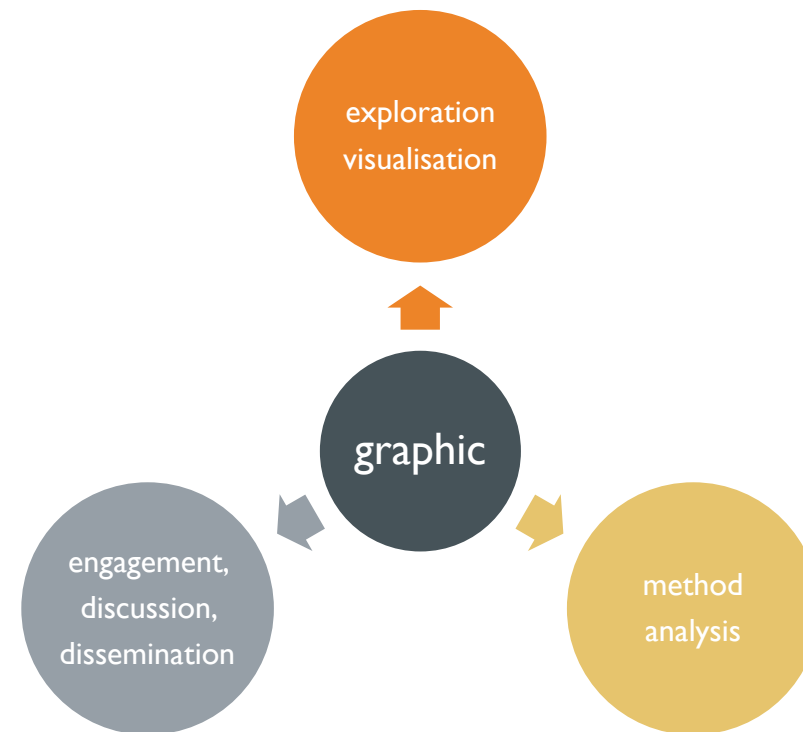
'talking heads' – making women theorists/influencers literally visible

# the career metaphors: glass ceiling, escalator, cliff



# getting graphic

- opens up different ways of thinking and representing experience, data and ideas in my research practice
  - as a **way in** to concepts/questions/projects
  - as a **research method**
  - as an **analytical tool**
  - as a means of **dissemination**



## getting graphic with research ...

- extending the dimensions of the research process
- disrupting expectations - dislodging habitual responses?
- being 'differently' academic?
- questions of status and legitimacy

so  
what?





# Thank you

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University

# RESOURCES

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