

Hermeneutic Archival Research & Artistic License: Exhuming Dispossessed Sauk Voices through Creative Nonfiction

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Abstract

This poster session uses Leavy's 'Method Meets Art' techniques to journey through a survey of the John Henry Hauberg papers at the Special Collections Thomas Tredway Library, Augustana College. Hauberg (1869-1955) was a Rock Island County Illinois researcher and philanthropist with a devoted interest in the patrilineal Thunder Clan, the first nation Sauk who had been relocated from their summer home of Saukenuk, near the sacred confluence of the Mississippi and Sinnissippi (Rock) Rivers (N 41° 28.872 W 090° 36.945), to the Iowa Territory in 1825 and again to Stroud, OK. The writing-as-research conceptual approach combines hermeneutic phenomenology, narrative research, autoethnography, and the artistic license and conventions of creative nonfiction to acknowledge the unheeded voices of the female descendants of the Sauk warrior Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak (Black Hawk, 1767-1838).

Keywords: dispossessed land, Sac/Sauk, hermeneutic phenomenology, writing as inquiry, coherence, Black Hawk, moral injury

Archival & Arts-Based Research

Synthesis of Conventions

- Feminist narrative research
- Autoethnography
- Writing as inquiry
- Artistic license of Creative Nonfiction

THE HEURISTIC MODEL: A STEPWISE ARTS-BASED RESEARCH PROCESS

<i>Moustakas heuristic process</i>	<i>Other stepwise creative processes</i>
Initial engagement	Preparation (Wallas, 1976) Finding, recognizing, refining (Nickerson, 1999)
Incubation	Incubation (Wallas, 1976) Moving through, seeking solutions (Nickerson, 1999)
Illumination	Illumination (Wallas, 1976) Evaluating alternatives (Nickerson, 1999)
Explication	Verification (Wallas, 1976) Settling (Nickerson, 1999)
Creative synthesis	Reflection (Nickerson, 1999)

Figure 1. Heuristic versus academic models of the creative process (Throne, 2015)



Figure 2. "Mary Kakaque Piquanna", 20 November 1918, Image 27.1-B.gp.2.3, in MSS 27 Hauberg (John Henry) glass plate images, Special Collections, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

Writing-as-Inquiry

This writing-as-inquiry conceptual approach combines the conventions of hermeneutic phenomenology, narrative research, autoethnography, and the artistic license and conventions of creative nonfiction to acknowledge the unheeded voices of the female descendants of the Sauk warrior Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak (Black Hawk 1767-1838). Hermeneutic archival research techniques were utilized to explore Hauberg's narratives and images of these female generational descendants of Black Hawk as they were relocated from Illinois to Iowa and then to Kansas and Oklahoma following a failed 1804 governmental treaty. Hauberg was an amateur yet prolific Rock Island County historian and philanthropist in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the papers include personal correspondence and journals; scrapbooks; family and local history research on topics such as the Black Hawk War, Native Americans in the Quad Cities area, early settlers of Rock Island County, and Camp McClellan; records of Hauberg's involvement in social and charitable organizations; and tens of thousands of photographs in a variety of formats. Archival data were gathered onsite in September-November 2017. Synthesis of these data occurred using Leavy's coherence to compare and contrast the paucity of voice of Black Hawk's great great granddaughter, Mary Kakaque Piquanna Mack (1897-1941), who lived amid an era of continued and intentional cultural annihilation and assimilation.



Figure 3. Sacred confluence: Mississippi River & Sinnissippi (Rock) River

Leavy's Coherence

Coherence

Aesthetic quality of the essence of the issue in a coherent form to achieve *aesthetic power* (Leavy, 2017)

Narrative Coherence

Form and content must be closely aligned to achieve *narrative coherence* (Leavy, 2013)

Land, Culture, & Voice

- Responsibility of curator vs. owner
- Principles of land tenure
- Relationship of self to land, property, acquisition, dispossession, moral injury
- Sacred and public sites
- Voice/persona of the dispossessed

Next Steps

- ❖ Autoethnography to refine creative nonfiction voice to depict the continued challenges with land/voice dispossession amid a turbulent 19th century
- ❖ Creative nonfiction of voice as persona to depict the life of Black Hawk's great-great granddaughter, Mary Kakaque

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