101. News from Dodoma

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The paper will present excerpts from a Performance Ethnography that was co-written in Africa with students of qualitative inquiry. The play scaffolds narrative data, told or collected by the students. It was developed in 2010 as part of a short, postgraduate-level course in qualitative research, at St John's University, in Dodoma. The data is presented as a meta-drama. It is a montage of autoethnographies and interview data, which addresses questions about local, university life in Dodoma. Buoyed with powerful Tanzanian tradition for the incorporation of art and story in learning, the play muses on the courage and passions of some twenty, adult university students, who choose physical and emotional sacrifice in pursuit of the ultimate privilege of education. The conference presentation will link readings of the stories from the text with an academic discussion about the implications of oral tradition in research.