

SESSION #22

Presentation to Graduate Student Section
Adult Education Association of the U.S.A.
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Research Dissertation for Ed. D. Degree in Administration
and Supervision,
Specialization in Adult Education,
School of Education,
Boston University,
Boston, Massachusetts

TITLE: Malcolm S. Knowles: His Contributions to the Theory and
Practice of Adult Education.
Major Professor: Dr. Eugene E. DuBois

TYPE OF RESEARCH: A combination of the case study and contemporary
history.

PURPOSE OF STUDY: An area of this emerging field of adult education in
need of development. The area of philosophical
undergrounding that inspires and causes a leader of
the field work the way he does.

- PITFALLS:
1. It is a suspect type of research. History is usually studied after it is a long time past. i.e. at least 50 years after one is dead.
 2. One becomes the butt of a n attack from members of the profession that can cause one to lose his perspective if not careful.
 3. One does not have a neat package with a ribbon tied on it - it is dynamic, slippery and (amoebic) changeable.
 4. One may not be able to find a faculty to go along with it o.k. it for completion. (i.e. I have just finished the second draft of my study. I may never get it finally O.K.ed. That remains the question at this point. I would be disappointed if that were the case. But I have internally decided if that would be the case it still would be mine and I have learned much in the process.)
 5. One has to continually up date contemporary research as one does it so it remains contemporary.

- BENEFITS:
1. The desire and area of pursuit needs to come right up out of ones guts. Interest in one's subject is a necessity.
 2. If one can find a supportive committee (one that is willing to swing) it is an exciting, dynamic ego-expanding experience.
 3. It can deeply influence ones practice as an adult educator. (It has mine. The changes have been amazing, gradual and sure.)

4. One must give himself enough time to let it become part of him - organic integration. (I have been at mine for about $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. It has been an exhilarating experience.)
5. It is a movement on the frontier of Qualitative research. (Our field needs it. That's my opinion)
6. One gets the feeling of the texture of events in contemporary historical research. He could not possibly get this when it is twenty years past.
7. It would be exciting to watch our field grow if more of this risky kind of research were allowed. (This is my speculation.)

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