Presentation Abstract

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Applying Process Model of Supervision in Phenomenological Research: Methodological Reflections from Research on Anti-Gender Movements in Croatia

Abstract
This presentation reflects on the use of Process Model of Supervision as a methodological tool in phenomenological qualitative research. Drawing on research on anti-gender movements in Croatia—movements shaped by conservative views on gender and opposition to reproductive and LGBTIQ+ rights—it argues that, in politically charged and ideologically polarized research encounters, phenomenological methodology benefits from a more explicit operational framework for observing subjectivity, relational dynamics, and parallel processes.

The study draws on a phenomenological research design in which anti-gender movements and the research encounter itself were treated as interconnected phenomena. The methodology combined discursive analysis, non-participant observation of anti-gender events, and in-depth interviews with women participating in these movements. A key methodological innovation was the translation of the supervisor's role into a facilitator role within the research process, introducing second-order phenomenological observation as an additional analytic layer. Within this design, Process Model of Supervision informed multi-level observation across seven related dimensions: the phenomenon itself, research instruments, participant–researcher relationships, researcher process, facilitator–researcher relationships, facilitator process, and the wider social and political context. It was used as a reflexive framework to support bracketing and the observation of embodied and affective responses, boundary negotiations, and possible parallel processes.

Preliminary observations suggest that politically polarized research encounters make it difficult to maintain an OK-OK position in dialogue. Emerging methodological challenges include managing affective responses, recognizing power asymmetries and struggles, and sustaining reflective openness under social and political pressure.

Because Transactional Analysis is grounded in phenomenological philosophy, qualitative phenomenological research design is particularly consistent with its epistemological and relational foundations. This study aims to contribute to the operationalization of such methodology in TA research practice by exploring how Process Model of Supervision can support the observation of subjectivity, relational dynamics, and parallel processes in complex research encounters.

Professional Picture

