

The Medals All 'Round Research Initiative (MARRI)

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Medals All 'Round Research Initiative

Project Aims

- Seek out underrepresented communities
- Engage community response to the First World War
 - Personal Narratives
 - Variance from official narratives
- Build confidence in community groups and individuals within
- Encourage cross-pollination of community response

The Medal in the Drawer
by Dr. Brenda Winter-Palmer



The Medal in the Drawer
(2014)

The Medals All 'Round Research Initiative (MARRI)--Methodology

- Project conducted in partnership with Lyric Theatre, Belfast
- Each group assigned facilitator and shown excerpted version of *Medal in the Drawer*
- Group members collect family and local stories and return with personal responses
- Group engages in writing and/or performance-based devising period with facilitator
- Performance/film developed with facilitator
- MARRI Research Associate (Michelle Young) monitors process and conducts interviews throughout and at end of process leaving documentation of process and record of group experiences

The Medals All 'Round Research Initiative (MARRI)

- Participants:
 - Resurgam Trust (6-16 yr. olds)
 - Rathcoole Youth Group (teenagers)
 - Omagh 'Live and Learn' Group (retired men and women over 50)
 - Hydebank Wood College for Young Offenders
 - Bobosh (teenagers and young adults with disabilities)
 - Tonagh Women's Group (women of a 'certain age')

<https://youtu.be/zGyJzDzdKkM?t=672>









Results and Findings

1. Greater knowledge of and interest in the war
2. Increased confidence among group members
3. Greater willingness to accept alternative points of view
 - Throughout project, but especially after showcase
4. 'Co-production' of research (PaR)
5. Challenge to official narratives and commemorative practices