

Section 2

Preparing the ground for inquiry with others

The three chapters in this section mark a transitional phase of my inquiry. Each is concerned with an aspect of conceptual reframing associated with a shift in my inquiry stance. Each constructs a new position from which to enact the next phase of inquiry.

In chapter 6 I map generative and degenerative patterns in workplace dynamics between women in a range of organisational settings and explore similarities with patterns that I enact in my interview discussions. In chapter 7 I show how I learn to enact generative forms of belonging and how this sustained me through my inquiry practices. In chapter 8 I draw from selected feminist texts to conceptualise how women construct and enact gender difference within relationships.

These chapters mark a shift in focus from the structures of inequality and discrimination, towards the dynamics of enacting power. This shift was enacted on a number of levels, in response to ontological and political challenge. Through it I construct the basis for developing and conceptualising a different approach to feminist consultancy practice.

In the third section of my thesis I show how I take this up within my consultancy interventions, and how this challenges the culture and equal opportunities practice of my client organisations.