

**WALKING THROUGH UNKNOWN TERRAINS: A MULTI-LAYERED
APPROACH OF BEING AN OUTSIDER QUALITATIVE RESEARCHER ON BOTH
ENDS**

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ABSTRACT

I did not really fit into the villages where I did a deep insider research. This appeared uncharacteristic given that the villagers' native language was the same as mine and I was studying the culture that I already knew in part and had experienced. Despite being part of the Western PhD practice at Deakin University (Australia) where I still maintained primary residence in Botswana, I was not fully acculturated to Australian academic culture-I still was not Western. Premised on this multi-layered experience, this paper is devoted to discussing the processes and outcomes of doing a deep insidersocial constructionist research by a researcher who is an outsider on both ends. Written in the first person narrative, the main objective of this study is to share methodological insights, challenges and other related experiences of being an "outsider" doing a deep insider PhD qualitative research and offer advice to other researchers who may find themselves in the same situation as I was.

Keywords: Deep Insider Research, Insider Researcher, Outside Researcher, Qualitative Research.