

**Dr. Gina C. Whalen**  
**Assistant Teaching Professor**  
**Business**

**Title of your research project.**

Bonded from Brokenness: A Collaborative Autoethnography on Maternal Bereavement

**Description of research. Please provide a few sentences that explain the question and the methods employed in this research project.**

The purpose of this study is to explore the experience of maternal bereavement. As scholar practitioners the authors offer their personal narratives to bring awareness to the multifaceted aspects of grieving the death of a child. Using collaborative autoethnography as the study's methodology enabled the authors to explore their connection to the sociocultural context of maternal grief.

**Did this project include Penn State students as researchers?**

No

**If yes to the above question, please state where it was published.**

Illness, Crisis & Loss which is a peer reviewed international scholarly journal.

**What problem do you address with your research?**

As scholar practitioners, we decided to exercise agency over our grief by adding our voices to the scholarly discussions surrounding child loss with the hopes that our observations may offer insight to others. Hence, the purpose of this study is to explore the experience of maternal bereavement by means of collaborative autoethnography. Using a collaborative autoethnographic approach enabled us to explore our connection to the sociocultural context of grief to provide meanings to our experiences