

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

**Title of your research project.**

Using Autoethnography, Storytelling, and Metaphors to Explore the Traumatic and Transformative Journeys

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

The study was designed to address ethical concerns that typically arise when representing or appropriating others' traumatic experiences and vulnerable populations. It empowered my sisters-in-loss to give voice to their heartbreaking and often-stigmatized experience. A combination of a narrative inquiry and autoethnography were utilized.

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

No

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

n/a

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

The study was designed to address ethical concerns that typically arise when representing or appropriating others' experiences and vulnerable populations.