Observe and explore: empirical studies about learning in creative writing and the visual arts

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I was familiar with participant observation and observation in life drawing classes, but observational learning was new to me when I started working on this research project in September 2006. I had little experience with experimental, quantitative research and writing processes. I am glad that Gert, Tanja and Huub introduced me to this research area. First I want to thank my promotor, Gert, for his support and trust. I guess it was not always easy to coach me, but you were always positive, warm and helpful. Without your support and feedback this dissertation would not have been finished. You were involved in every part of the research process: you and Tanja developed the research plan, you gave me helpful feedback and valuable advice concerning the experiment design, the intervention, data collection, data analyses and the resulting papers. I would also like to thank Tanja who was always very quick in reviewing my documents, I am grateful for the advice and feedback. I would like to thank Huub, who was indispensable for the analyses and who was always prepared to answer my endless number of questions. The Shadish, Cook, & Campbell reading club would have been nothing without you!

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