How can we engage with stories and work with voices in innovative ways as social science and feminist researchers? Storytelling is a process in which bodies, discourses, and social relations of power collide.

However, many conventional methods of working with narratives do not do justice to this complexity or the multivocality of story performances. In this talk I introduce a set of narrative tools or ‘resistance methods’ which engage the multilayered resonances of stories in innovative ways.

Drawing on a mix of theories in the development of these ‘resistance methods’, I use my research on South African women’s birth stories to explore the complexities of working with intersectional and sociomaterially situated voices. Resistance methods aim to highlight moments of disruption and resistance rather than reproduce homogeneity or univocality. In this lecture, I explore the possibilities of poetic methodological tools as resistance methods which engage the politics of voice and storytelling in experimental ways.

Based on material from my book, ‘Bodies that Birth: Vitalizing Birth Politics’, I foreground birth narratives from a diverse array of racialized and socioeconomic locations asking how ‘resistance methods’ can enable us to remagine birth in ways which ensure that all birth-givers (regardless of race, class, ethnicity or gender) are respected, valued and affirmed during birth.