## Searching for the learning space: Illuminating the elephant in the room

Carol Whiteman Simon Fraser University

Awkwardly searching for the learning space In a room of others I prayed for the grace of a beginner's mind; The space in between was filled with shadows In an attempt to find the light To bridge the divide I heard myself trumpet I felt myself shudder I wasn't ready to hear the truth: *I am the Elephant in the room.* 

Facing mammoth learning curves With great effort I lifted up my heavy, wooly head Peering around, I felt alone I heard the click of impatience all around me.

Amid heaving sighs and waning hope I struggled with a trunk packed with emotional lessons learned Dizzy and blind I stumbled To see I am not the only Elephant in this room. Can such a herd be heard? I fear we may very well trample each other first. My fellow pachyderms frighten and inspire me We are not the same Yet I crave communion with them. Do I have the courage it takes to cross the expanse?

I remained lost in the dark Until I reached out and grasped the Other. In this loving light I could finally see Tale by tale If we follow each other In fellowship This whole herd can be heard.