The talk will focus on doctoral research that investigated the phenomenology of traumatic bereavement. Six traumatically bereaved women were interviewed, the data was analysed using a Husserlian (1931) phenomenological approach and five main themes emerged which highlighted the existential journey a traumatically bereaved person embarks on. The findings from this study, which the talk will highlight, illustrated that the experience of Traumatic Bereavement plunged most of the co-researchers into a mode of being that resembled Heidegger's (1961) being-towards-death. All of the co-researchers reported that their life had become more meaningful as a result of their traumatic bereavement. The study proposes that it was their ability to engage authentically with the existential givens of their life that helped them establish a meaningful life. The talk will detail how traumatic bereavement has a profound impact on the traumatically bereaved person's meaning-making process and will propose an Existential-Phenomenological model for therapeutic work with traumatically bereaved clients.

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