Engaging with difference: disruptive becomings

culture conflict creativity

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Disruptive becomings

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culture, conflict, creativity, international students, Australia, diversity, group processes, reflection, healing, ‘respectful confrontation’, personal freedom,

‘empowered collaborative engagement’
Types of conflict

- Intrapersonal- within the person
- Interpersonal- between two or more persons
- Intragroup- occurs within the group
- Intergroup- between two (or more) groups
A typology of causes of conflict

- styles
- roles
  - values
  - world-views
    - symbolic
    - structural
      - habituated-ritualized
      - symbiotic
        - displaced external
        - displaced internal
          - territorial
          - individual dysfunction
            - group dysfunction
              - stress related
          - change
Negative responses to conflict

- denial (for example suppression, repression, blocking)
- withdrawal (physical, emotional psychological)
- submission (for example with resentment, anxiety, or depression)
- immobilization (for example freezing)
- displacement (for example into family or work)
- internalization (for example self-blame, guilt or anxiety)
- projection (for example blame of others emnification)
- addictive behavior (for example obsessional thought)
- drugs and alcohol
- violence (threat or coercion, either physical or psychological)
1. Conflict is inevitable and pervasive in the world and (to varying degrees) in all our lives

2. Conflict is essentially based in perceptions (rather than reality) and feelings (rather than facts). It can mainly be resolved by dealing with perceptions and feelings.

3. As a part of their Australian experience international students may have to face conflict based on cultural or religious difference at varying levels in and out of the classroom.

Are they prepared to deal with it?
This workshop explores:

- how conflict can have positive outcomes
- creative ways that teachers can harness student creativity to build knowledge and skills to better handle conflict across cultures
Introduction(s)

1. Why did you choose this session?

2. Tell me about any experience you have in conflict resolution or peace work?
Stories

Engaging with Difference
Syria

Conflict and migration: Displacement now on such a scale not seen since 1918 and 1945
Mosque and tomb complex of Ibn 'Arabi, Damascus
Grand Ommayad Mosque –Damascus said to depict paradise- dreams of a life without conflict
‘The world is a bridge. Therefore cross it; do not dwell on it.’

attributed to Jesus of Nazareth
Inscription on the gateway to the mosque Fatehpur Sikri in India built by Sultan Akbar

The Jama Masjid in Fatehpur Sikri is a mosque in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, completed in 1571-5 by Sheikh Salim Chishti.
Stories of the journeys of international students

Using narratives as tools to understanding
“Can a man be other than himself?
How would a night seem without revelry
Could a true poet live without feeling?
How does a face appear when it is put on?

Dearest friend
I’m tired of travelling from place to place;
I’ve criss-crossed the world
From oasis to oasis
To shelter my soul; from stares of hate.
All eyes, oh my friend, reject me with a look which says:
“Alien go home!”
Context (s)- research
Friere - Peace and Conflict Studies – Conflict Resolution Network- Human Rights Commission-
International Mediation Centre-
Respectful Confrontation

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Our thought this month on building a culture of nonviolence:

War does not determine who's right.
It can only determine who's left.
In the end, whoever is left will have to negotiate.
International Mediation Institute
Mediation Role-plays

https://imimediacion.org/mediation-roleplays
Simon Fraser University in Vancouver put this resource together a while ago. It’s still worthwhile:

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/subject-guides/diversity/intercultural/training
Here’s the clip that uses humour to explain how media influences our perception!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPAhZaxKGoU

and the free app on everyday racism.. suggest you download and try http://alltogethernow.org.au/news/campaigns/everydayracism/
Australian Human Rights Commission


What you say matters

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Fostering peace in the... individual. relationship. organization. community. world. The path to lasting peace passes through each one of us. Workshops.
Joe Weston’s approach

- What is not realistic is a utopian society that exists in a state of perpetual balance. This would be an artificial state that denies the possibility of growth.

- A healthy society is one that is dynamic, where struggle and differences of opinion do exist, but where respectful resolution of such issues stimulates growth and change. When companies, leaders, partners and friends understand this, then real creativity, peaceful interactions and new solutions can occur.

- The path to a healthy society begins with the empowerment of the individual. To be empowered means having a healthy relationship with power, confrontation and assertiveness.
Small Group Activities
Simulated classroom activities
devising role-plays
Task

- Form a small group and choose a leader to help guide the activity

- Brainstorm critical incidents where conflict due to cultural or religious difference was a factor for you as a teacher or for international students you have known.

- Choose one (or two) and devise, design and produce a
  - cartoon/dialogue sequence of (a minimum of) 4 slides
  - a poem
  - a play/film script featuring a scene

- Prepare characters and rehearse a performance of the encounter
Whole group activities

Performance and debriefing
Creative ideas for classroom practice
Kolb’s Experiential Learning Curb
Journaling
“Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.”