Transformational Pedagogy
Enhancing Learner Agency

ACPE Conference, May 2017
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What is the relationship between practicing critical self-awareness and providing spiritual care?
Supervisor Use of Self

- My Story (personal, historic)
- My Otherness
- My context
- My social locations
- My world view
- My theology
- My bias-prejudices

Modeling and Inviting

“Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity.” — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
“I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain.”
— James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time
Feeling - thoughts

- Identify
- Experience
- Explore (curios)
- Express
- Integrate
Healing is

- The process of becoming healthy
- Resistance & Transformation
- A therapeutic experience
- Transcendence of suffering

"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."
― Anaïs Nin
Awareness

• Confronting/owning their story, feeling their feels, developing/strengthening understanding of self in relations to others/ “the other”

Acceptance

• Exploration of: feeling-thoughts, internalized familial, religious, societal messages and constructs

Agency

• Re-engaging beliefs, affirming, releasing or reconstructing, making decisions on how to be in the world

“Discomfort is always a necessary part of enlightenment.” — Pearl Cleage
Worldview …

- Way of being
- Way of seeing
- Way of caring
- Way of knowing
Worldview Transformation

Ontology

Perspective

Epistemology

Praxis

- Way of being
- Way of seeing
- Way of knowing
- Way of caring

Critical awareness of reality

Taking responsibility for reality

Transforming reality
Sources of knowing?

- Way of knowing

Epistemology

- parents
- grandparents
- teachers
- tradition
- Scripture
- reason
- intuition
- internet
- books
- information
- data
- gut

Experience ...
- Critically reflected upon ...
Ontology: bodies matter ...

- Way of being

Ontology

- Social location
- Family of origin
- “Givens” and chosens
- Context
- Stances
- Commitments
- Temperament
- Family of choice
- Personality

**Ontology...**
- Shapes your experience
- Shapes where you see from
- Shapes what you can see ...
  - Which shapes *what you can know*...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>race</th>
<th>gender</th>
<th>class</th>
<th>sexual orientation</th>
<th>age</th>
<th>ability</th>
<th>religion</th>
<th>education</th>
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Social Location Characteristics
Who’s got the power?

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<tr>
<td>white</td>
<td>male</td>
<td>high</td>
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<td>Protestant</td>
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<td>wealthy</td>
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How do I stack up?

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Entrenched oppressions …

race | gender | class | sexual orientation | age | ability | religion | education

white | male | high wealthy | heterosexual straight | middle | able | Christian Protestant | more

racism | sexism cis-sexism | classism | heterosexism | homophobia | cis-heterosexism | ageism | ableism | intolerance | elitism
Resistance/liberation movements

race | gender | class | sexual orientation | age | ability | religion | education

white | male | high wealthy | heterosexual straight | middle | able | Christian Protestant | more

racism | sexism | classism | heterosexism | homosexuality

anti-racism | cis-sexism | anti-poverty

feminism | womanism

anti-poverty | allies

gay pride

ageism | ableism | intolerance | elitism

AARP | intergen | disability | ecumenism

rights | ADA | interfaith

deaf culture | education rights

public school | tuition grants

valuing vocations
Who tends to be in charge?

- race: white
- gender: male
- class: high wealthy
- sexual orientation: heterosexual
- age: middle
- ability: able
- religion: Christian Protestant
- education: more

- racism
- sexism
- classism
- heterosexism
- homophobia
- cis-heterosexism
- ageism
- ableism
- intolerance
- elitism

- anti-racism
- feminism
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- AARP
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- education rights
- public school
- tuition grants
- valuing vocations
But who has the **knowledge**?

**Inverse relationship between social privilege and epistemological privilege.**
Shifts in responsibility and power

**People with social power**
- Take more responsibility
- Shift to followership
- Share power
- Become accountable in relationships

**People experiencing oppression**
- Take more power
- Shift to leadership
- Share responsibility
- Hold socially powerful accountable
Impact on pastoral care (education)

- **Caregivers (educators)**
  - How do we manage the impact of oppressions on *us*?
  - Institutional power vs. societal power (or disempowerment)

- **Careseekers (learners)**
  - How do we learn about the emotional and spiritual impact of oppressive realities we don’t share?
  - What resources and strengths might be present that we miss?

- **Caregiving relationship (learning relationships)**
  - Our lived realities are different; how can we nuance our care (supervision/learning) accordingly?
Future of interdisciplinary care

• Who on the team attends to socially determined realities?
• Material impact of oppressions on access to resources, including health care and support after hospital discharge?
• ED utilization?
• Readmission rates?
• Management of chronic illnesses?
• Congregational partnerships with health care institutions?
Social location and self-care

*Increasing understanding about social location and power helps*

- Increase compassion for self and others
- Increase cultural competencies and power-awareness
- Increase awareness of societal/cultural impacts for self and others
- Deepen quality and potentially widen scope of care
- Key to living into the love and justice mandates of many spiritual and religious traditions
Ritual

- Education days
- Covenant Group
- Mid-Unit
- Final Eval
- Graduation

- Centering/Community
- Relationship with Divine/Humanity
- Mutuality/Vulnerability
- Covenant/Boundaries

We need ritual because it is an expression of the fact that we recognize the difficulty of creating a different and special kind of community. A community that doesn’t have a ritual cannot exist. A corporate community is not a community. It’s a conglomeration of individuals in the service of an insatiable soulless entity.”

-Malidome Some
You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.

– James Baldwin