

Jack Whitehead's second responses to the 8th May 2020 session of the University of McGill School of Continuing Studies on 'Introduction to Action Research: Self-Directed Professional Development Pilot: Live Online Mini-Conference.'

18th May 2020

Dear Louise, Cheryl, Michael, Bryan, Jill, Julia, Afrouz, Anne and Sarah (Judy, Michael, Sarah and Yuan-Jin hong).

Here are some further reflections on the session of the 8th May.

Using the free application download helper I have downloaded to my desktop the video of the meeting from:

<https://youtu.be/LjJnKBMXWik>

Moving the cursor backwards and forwards along the 2:48 hour video gives me an overview of the individual presentations, the individual and group responses and the chat contributions. If you click on your image you should be able to access your individual presentations. The video helps me to develop my initial reflections from the 9th May that I sent round and that you can access from <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/mcgill/mcgill080520jwreponse>.

If clicking on your image doesn't connect to your individual presentation please try:

<http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/mcgill/mcgill8may2020urls.pdf>



I do hope that you will invite me into your next gathering where you might have moved on your inquiries using an action-reflection cycle of the form: 1) What do I want to improve? 2) What am I going to do? (your action plan) 3) What data will I need to collect to make a

judgement on the educational influences in learning of my actions? 4) Evaluating my educational influence. 5) Who will form a validation group to help me to evaluate the validity of my explanation of my educational influences in learning? 6) Modifying my concerns, ideas and actions in the light of my evaluations.

As I listen to and watch your presentations again I feel that you all expressing what I call a 'life affirming energy with values of human flourishing'. As I see myself in the group videos I experience myself existing within a network of relationships that flows with this 'life affirming energy with values of human flourishing'. As your research, into your professional development, continues you may enjoy clarifying to yourself and each other the unique constellations of values that you use to explain your educational influences in your own learning and in the learning of others. For example you could see how Judy describes her value of a relational métissage of solitude, intimacy, and community, and the liminal spaces between, in her living-poster at <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/judy20.pdf> . You might also enjoy accessing the 2020 homepage of living-posters at <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/posters/homepage2020.pdf> and creating an individual and/or group poster to add to the 2020 homepage.

As your inquiry continues you might like to strengthen the evidence of your educational influences in the learning of your pupils/students. I was very impressed with the way Joy Mounter did this in her master's writings on, Can children carry out action research about learning, creating their own learning theory? (see <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/tuesdayma/joymounterull.pdf>).

It might be too early in your inquiries to make the following points about the significance of what you are doing for doctoral and post-doctoral enquiries into contributing to professionalism in education through developing and sharing your own living-educational-theories of your own professional development. I was inspired by both your presentations and the ZOOM recording so I want to make the points anyway !

Marie Huxtable and I have explained why we think that it is vital for enhancing professionalism in education to create and share our living-educational-theories in:

Whitehead, J. & Huxtable, M. (2016) Creating a Profession of Educators with the living-theories of Master and Doctor Educators, *Gifted Education International*, 32(1) 6-25. See the pre-publication draft at <https://www.actionresearch.net/writings/gei2015/jwmh.pdf>

Our latest paper has just been accepted for publication in *Educational Action Research*. This might be of interest to Judy, Michael, Yuan-Jin Hong and Sarah as they research their pedagogical influences in each others and your own professional development.

Huxtable, M. & Whitehead, J. (2020) Enhancing educational influences in learning with a Living Theory approach to Pedagogical Action Research in Higher Education. See the pre-publication draft at <http://www.actionresearch.net/writings/jack/mhjwEAR180520.pdf>