

Oral Defense Announcement

University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

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M.Ed., Creighton University, 2010

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Convening the Counter-Conversation: Critical Participatory Action Research Against Real-Time Repression

Date: April 20, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Place: Remote

Abstract

This dissertation outlines an antifascist Critical Participatory Action Research (CPAR) dissertation process and findings of three English/ELA educators/doctoral students with varying experience in public and private education at the middle school, high school, and collegiate level. Playing upon the theoretical/methodological frameworks of CPAR, Critical Pedagogy, and the theory of Communicative Action and implementing a collaborative, polyvocal-autoethnographic approach, this research project discusses the convergence over the authors' shared concern of in flux (macro and micro) fascism and the formation of their in-process research collective. Together, the collective discovered a desire and need to dialogue about the educational implications of the authoritarian ascendancy and embedded nature of fascism and considered how an emergent CPAR process might provide insight into their experiences in educational spaces to identify, counter, and emancipate rather than reiterate this repression. Seeking to put theory into practice, the research collective engaged in the dialogical-centered work of enacting the emergent, people-powered possibilities of CPAR in-process as a counter to fascism. Looking to the collective's own recorded conversations and their experiences in their own local professional contexts as the source for their analysis, findings reveal two Freirian-inspired umbrella themes: Fascist Necrophily and Anti-Fascist Biophily—the “problem” and its “counter”. Honoring the theoretical groundwork, as well as implications for further action for educational stakeholders and beyond are discussed.

Defense of Dissertation Committee

Thomasina Hassler, Ph.D. (Chairperson)

Shenita Mayes, Ph.D.

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