



Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy

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Troubling Place: Urban Native Youths' Perspective of Place and Implications for Education

In this presentation, I discuss the paradoxes and possibilities of learning in 'place' for urban Native youth in an era of multiculturalism, cultural revitalization, and growing ecological threat. Place remains imminently important to Indigenous peoples in Canada, linked as it is to matters of sovereignty and processes of identity construction. In this critical race inquiry, the perspective of urban Native youth reveals the limits of existing place-based education theory for attending to the particular challenges youth face in urban contexts. I argue that exploring a shift in thinking about place-based curriculum and instruction from notions of 'place makes people,' to 'people construct place,' serves to challenge hegemonic conceptualizations of knowledge and human-nature relationships. This research is founded in an epistemology that seeks to privilege the voices of Native youth and a methodology that aims for greater collaboration in the research process.

Monday, November 17, 2008 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, Scarfe Room 310