This presentation will draw upon a recently completed, two-year-long undertaking in which I worked with sixteen highly regarded teachers from eight state-funded schools in a large, culturally diverse US metropolis. The study pivoted around two questions: What does it mean to be a person in the world today? and What does it mean to be a person in the role of teacher? The endeavor encompassed extensive classroom visits, whole-group discussions, and individual interviews. I cultivated an orientation in the inquiry that is best named bearing witness to teaching and teachers. The orientation calls upon the witness to heed teachers in their human singularity as they enact as well as speak of the role of teacher. This ethical heeding metamorphoses into fresh ground for addressing epistemic, policy, and political concerns regarding teaching. The presentation will fuse a conception of bearing witness to teaching and teachers with vignettes drawn from the intensive fieldwork that was part of the study.

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