

Developing a critical approach to student preparation for international mobility experiences: Moving beyond the practical

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- * Background – mobility activities and research
- * Preparation for international mobility
- * ‘Critical’ perspective
- * An approach to critical preparation
- * The Intercultural Learning eBook

Social Work Mobility @ JCU



Research Activities

- **‘Local-Global’** project
- Kelsey Halbert, Peta Salter
- “Local Global Learning engages diverse learners with 'glocal' citizenship through service learning or field placement experiences in local or international intercultural environments”
- **‘Going Places’** project
- ”Facilitating good practice in international social work student exchange in Australia and the Asia Pacific”
- www.goingplaces.edu.au

Preparation for International Mobility

- Practical preparation
- Cross-cultural preparation
 - Cultural etiquette
- Language preparation

Social Work and the ‘Critical Perspective’

- Historically, radical and critical perspectives have been a significant force in social work theory and practice
- A reaction/alternative to individualised, ameliorative approaches
- Included Marxist, socialist, feminist, post-colonialist, structural, critical post-modernist, green perspectives.
- *“a group of approaches to social work that are diverse but share a common commitment to both personal and structural change”* Pease & Nipperess (2016, p. 4) ß

Social Work and the 'Critical Perspective'

- *A commitment to work towards greater social justice and equality for those who are oppressed and marginalised within society*
- *A commitment to working alongside oppressed and marginalised populations*
- *An analysis of power relations which serve to marginalise and oppress particular populations in society*
- *A commitment to question taken-for-granted and dominant assumptions and beliefs*
- *An orientation towards emancipatory personal and social change.*
(Allan, 2009, p. 59)

Our Realisation...

- Our own preparation process lacked a critical orientation
- Our research found a lack of critical orientation in student preparation processes
- Host organisations bemoaned ‘social work tourism’...linked to a lack of critical understanding of the cultural and socio-political context

Critical Preparation at JCU

- Online modules delivered through the LMS
- Looking at a number of topics:
 - Culture
 - Imperialism and cultural diversity
 - Racism and privilege
 - Critical reflection and culture
 - Intercultural practice.

Critical Preparation at JCU

- Assessable critical reflections
 - Peer engagement
 - Fully facilitated travel
 - Purposeful debriefing
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- A commitment to reciprocity and sustainability in our international relationships

The Intercultural Learning eBook

An open access resource

- Soon to be published as an open access eBook by UTS ePress <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au>
- Like to be notified when publication is finalised?
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Thank you