

CHALLENGING THE WESTERN PEDAGOGY:

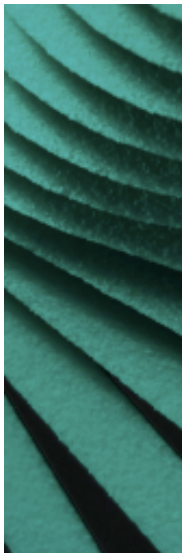
A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF COMMUNAL THRIVING THROUGH TERTIARY EDUCATION AND STUDENT COLLABORATION

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- ◆ Introduce selves and reason for attending
- ◆ Background context
- ◆ A brief look at our pilot study and its findings that challenged our expectations
- ◆ Main roundtable discussion

Today's Activities



Background to Discussion

- ◆ Universities have traditionally emphasised individual achievement—a pedagogy strongly aligned with a western worldview.
- ◆ Some universities have begun to embrace collaboration as a component of teaching and learning; particularly within interdisciplinary programmes.
- ◆ Despite the move to more cooperative learning, the majority of university assessments are still undertaken individually.
- ❖ Is there a need to rethink this trend?
- ❖ Would some *students* prefer more collaboration?



Curiosity

Would students' worldviews influence their attitude toward collaboration?

Research Aims

To explore the perceived value of engaging in collaborative learning, as possibly influenced by one's worldview

Expectation

That students from collectivist cultures would have a greater interest in collaborative learning opportunities



Findings

Students had a strong wareness of the dominance of the western ideology in academic settings, even as it contrasted with their personal ideology.

Initial experiences of working collaboratively (e.g. in a “shared” class that required a wiki-project) had a strong (mostly negative) influence on subsequent feelings about collaboration.

Collaborative learning and assessment are favourable when self-perceived levels of academic competence were low and unfavourable if self-perceived levels of competence were high.

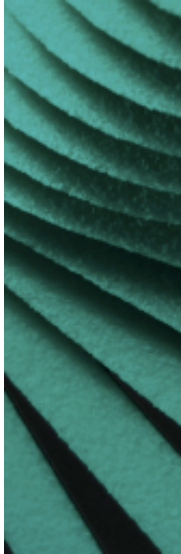


Specifics of our pilot study

- *Participants*
 - Seven female; one male (mean age = 30 years; range = 19-51)
 - 3 Kiwi, 2 Asian, 1 Maori , 1 No’American, 1 Middle Eastern
- *Conclusions*
 - Students were open to the idea of working with others
 - Like the social aspects and enjoyed sharing ideas
 - Worry about relying on other for marks/grades
- *Limitations*
 - Despite diversity (+), all participants were high achieving and competent; mostly female; all psychology.
 - In future, we need a range of academic competence levels; a greater diversity of disciplines



Roundtable discussion questions



- ◆ What collaborative activities do people currently utilise in their classrooms?
 - ◆ What are your ideas of the benefits?
 - ◆ What are the downsides or challenges to collaboration in the classroom?
- ◆ Can we expect collaborative learning in a system that ultimately judges individual achievement?
 - ◆ If so, what would that look like?



Bibliography

<http://teachpsych.org/ebooks/pse2011/vol1/>

