

Once Upon a Time: Creating Spaces for Beginnings in Activist Utopian Education

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For education to be truly based in a transformative pedagogy, geared toward preparing our minds and bodies for creating more realized futures, we as educators must act as facilitators by providing spaces for activating and energizing the growth of our political and moral imaginations. Within such spaces, possible futures can be prefigured, that is, played and practiced toward. We want to consider in this workshop how such spaces as playgrounds for our imagining, for each of us and together, can be created, allowing for flights of fancy and daring, the gradual creation of narratives and stories that call us toward those futures.

We will suggest that the process featured here brings together play and seriousness, performance and authenticity, as we pursue the development of our capacity to bring into being futures previously only dreamt of. To set out such spaces for invention, for bringing 'once upon a time' into presence, we will ask how such imaginative journeys which enable us to be transported -- to be moved, to transcend, to transgress, to prepare ourselves as embodiments of radical change -- can be brought into being.

This initial workshop thus asks all of us as participants to consider, to play seriously, with how such spaces can first be enabled to emerge. We will ask those participating to prepare for our collective discussion suggestions for how such beginnings can be facilitated. Ideas and models, modest proposals and daring possibilities, can be drawn from any discipline or field of study, from each participant's own teaching or from paths not yet taken. In sharing these proposals, we hope to enrich our collaborative process of building new teaching models in these yearly meetings and our journeys of education and imagination in our practice and the lives of our students.