

student as producer

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Conference 2013 – June 26th – 27th

Session 2.3

The Body Politic: Social and Ecological Justice, Art, Activism. 6 iterations of a horizontalist course

Jane Trowell, Platform

Abstract

This 60 minute session takes as its starting point an examination of the pedagogical intent of this transdisciplinary course which was directed at people concerned with the following questions, mirroring Platform's own concerns:

1. Do you have an interest in or are you working in the arts, community activism, campaigning, environmentalism, human rights, cultural work, policy making or education ?
2. Are you concerned about the state of world politics, its power imbalances and economics, and how to further social and ecological justice ?
3. Do you want to learn more about interdisciplinary working ?

The course - which had an outline framed up by Platform but fleshed out and reshaped by participants - mainly attracted artists, creative and direct action activists, NGO workers, teachers, community campaigners, environmentalists, researchers, students. Over 120 people did the course in total. A bibliography last updated in 2009 is here (and students also made their own each course). I have extensive amounts of participants' materials including self-evaluations, artworks, writings, my own reflective journey which I will refine to address the concerns of Students-as-Producers. After we stopped running the course, a 7th women-only iteration of The Body Politic took place autonomously in Nottingham, Summer 2011, convened by Dr Sara Motta. I attended the feedback/evaluation session for that.

Reading

The Body Politic: Reflections on a pilot course

Chapter for New Practices/New Pedagogies, emerging contexts, practices and pedagogies in art in Europe and North America, Ed. Malcolm Miles, Swets and Zeitlinger (ND)

<http://platformlondon.org/p-article/the-body-politic-art-activism-course-jane-trowell/>

Presenter details

Jane Trowell

Jane Trowell is an educator in the arts, committed to liberatory pedagogies. She works with London-based arts, social and environmental justice group Platform and has initiated many pedagogical experiments there, including the latest, a youth programme called 'Shake! Young voices in arts, media, race and power'

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She also teaches in the Art, Design and Museology group, Institute of Education, University of London on their PGCE and MA programmes

