

ABSTRACT

Many teacher education programs, like those in BC, depict good teaching as an epistemological concern, one that can be addressed by acquiring propositional and procedural knowledge during on-campus teacher education courses and, in turn, applying this knowledge in field settings (e.g., the practicum). Such a perspective marginalizes the knowledge and insights gained from the direct experience of teaching and depicts good teaching as an application activity situated in a *theory-into-practice* paradigm. In an attempt to better understand the contribution of direct experience to good teaching, this study explores the international field placement component of a Bachelor of Education program for six pre-service teachers. Specifically, it examines how the pre-service teachers understand and act on their ideas about what it means to be a good teacher as a result of a four week placement in BC Offshore Schools in Asia. This hermeneutic qualitative study draws upon Hans-Georg Gadamer's (2004) notion of *Erfahrung* – an experience that interrupts understandings.

An analysis of the pre-service teachers' experiences suggests that international field placements, such as those at BC Offshore Schools, can be a distinctive form of direct experience where the context provides both familiarity and strangeness – a relationship that both challenges and contributes to the participants' thinking about the practice of good teaching in ways that may not be possible in regular BC field placements. Specifically, this study demonstrates that the pre-service teachers problematized three important dimensions of teaching: embedded Western values; universal applications of "good" pedagogy/"best practice"; and the pre-service teacher position within the field placement. These results have implications for the purpose and value of international field placement in teacher education.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Academic Studies: B.A. York University, 1994
P.G.C.E. University of London, 1995
M.A. Michigan State University, 2002

Current Position: Professor and Advisor, Faculty of Education
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GRADUATE STUDIES

Field of Study: Teacher Education (international, experiential, and comparative)

Courses

EDST 601A First Year Doctoral Seminar

EDST 593A Ethics in Educational Leadership

EDST 508A Research Methods 1

EDST 577 Social Contexts of Educational Policy,
Politics and Practice

EDST 508B Research Methods 2

EDST 582 The Study of Educational Organizations

EDST 580 Directed Study

EDST 602B Second Year Doctoral Seminar

Instructors

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PUBLICATIONS

de Nooij, M., & Riedel, M. I. (2010). Cultural differences in cognitive learning at international schools. *International Schools Journal*, 29(2), 36-41.

Riedel, M. I. (2009). Success in a sense of self. *Canada Hong Kong Exchange*, 4, 21-22.

PRESENTATIONS

Riedel, M., & Clarke, A. (2016). Surfacing Understandings of Educational Practice with International Field Placements in Initial Teacher Education. Paper presented at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) conference, Vancouver, British Columbia. (32 pages).

Riedel, M., & Moll, R. (2015). Interpreting the Experience of International Field Experience Placements in Initial Teacher Education. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE), Ottawa, Ontario.

(25 pages).

Riedel, M. I. (2014). Flying by the Seat of my Pants: The Hermeneutic Process of being a Doctoral Student. Oral presentation at Lunch and Learn, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Riedel, M. I. (2013). Continuing a Complicated Conversation: Exploring International Field Experience at Vancouver Island University. Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education (CSSE), Victoria, British Columbia.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

PROGRAMME

The Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION
(Educational Leadership and Policy)

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“Experience Matters: Understanding Good Teaching in an International Field Placement”

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