Jasmine Scarf Abstract

Title: Navigating the Space Between:
Searching for the Role of a Creative Facilitator in Arts Education

This thesis is informed by my experience working with a group of grade eleven students to build an emergent, arts-based curriculum. In considering the question “What is the Role of a Creative Facilitator?” I inhabit, explore and reflect upon this dynamic position in an effort to understand how one might best navigate the space between teaching and learning. Drawing from Performative Inquiry, Youth Participatory Action Research and Arts-based Research I set out to involve the students as artist-researchers, de-center power relationships, and create a positive environment where an emergent curriculum could develop. In my findings I consider how a creative facilitator might open a space for meaningful collaboration and critical engagement, as well as identifying some of the key attitudes, attributes, and skills required to be effective in this role.

Key words: creative facilitation, arts education, critical pedagogy, performative inquiry, YPAR, arts-based research, creative collaboration.