


Story telling for social justice:
Action research with the Alevi
community and its impact on
critical pedagogic practices.

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Telling the story of our use of story-telling as a research and pedagogic device

- To explore student dis-engagement
- To introduce story-telling as a pedagogic and research device to promote social inclusion
- To think about ways of engaging students through telling stories (ours and theirs)
- To provide examples of story-telling from our research and teaching.

Story-telling in our Alevi research

- Alevi community requested our help to counter negative identity of Alevis
- We asked Alevi youth to tell us their stories and they spoke of being marginalised, especially in RE lessons at school
- We collaborated with local schools to get Alevism included in RE lessons
- Stories spilled out from pupils, parents and wider community.....



Pedagogic impact on our teaching: An example at Level 4 ‘Migrant Lives’

- In groups, produce a poem in which you explore an aspect of lived religion and migration from either a migrant’s experience or from the perspective of someone in the country of settlement (could be from a faith group for example).

A Poem produced by a group of level 4 students

A Fish on the 24th, meat on the 25th — Ruby
B ^{Paisover} ~~Chankelka~~, Aficomer gift.

A I eat Coloumba, you eat an egg. — Marta
B For Rosh Hashana, I eat apples & honey at the end.

A I'm catholic, and your Jewish — Andrius
B And together we've moved to a country that's newish.

No one is lost & no one is found ← Ruby ← Marta
~~that~~ We are migrants of different backgrounds and that's
how we're bound.

↑
Andrius

Story-telling as a pedagogic device to enhance student engagement

- Students experience university as separate from the rest of their lives
- SMEs express disconnectedness through complaints that core theory/methods modules are boring, irrelevant, meaningless....
- Academic staff complain that students are not like they were as students despite trying to reproduce their excitement for the students.

Conclusion....

- Gives students/ research participants a voice and embraces diversity
- Uses students' experience to connect with broader social structures and context
- Story-telling as route to exploring injustices and developing strategies for change.
- Any questions?
- Tell us your stories of story-telling.....