Emergence: Reflection & the Creative Global Citizen

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21st Century societies are increasingly seeing the need for creative, flexible, adaptive and innovative educational programs that are able to disrupt and shift learners from conformity to innovation as a means of dealing with the rate and complexity of change. Drawing on recommendations from UNESCO's World Conference on Arts Education (UNESCO, 2006), this research explores the development of teacher’s critical and creative thinking through reflective theory and experiential practices in active learning environments. Experiential programs such the Professional and Community Engagement Program (PACE) at Macquarie University, recognise the need to scaffold reflection for learning as experience outside a formal academic setting.

The paper discusses and evaluates a new conceptual framework, emerging from the literature and from the findings of Phase I of an intercultural Participatory Action Research study (PAR). Phase I of the research involved four experiential workshops with teacher education students at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia and at Justice Liebig University, Giessen, Germany in 2017. The framework is a synthesis of a collaborative reflection on action, designed to raise awareness of critical reflection both in and on practice.

Phase II reports on the findings of a PACE case study of subsequent workshops conducted in extended education settings in Australia and Germany in early 2018. A comparative analysis of the key themes emerging from an extensive literature review and the study's findings based on an analysis of samples, multimodal data collection techniques and discourse analysis, will provide recommendations for fostering the emergence of the creative global citizen.