Developing socially just pedagogy: What might be the role of learner agency and creativity?

Dr Amelia Hempel-Jorgensen

Centre for Research in Education and Educational Technology
The Open University
Learner Agency for Social Justice

Learners as **meaning-makers** and **knowledge constructors**

Learners **co-imagining** socially just pedagogies AND **co-transforming** unjust pedagogical practices
Learner Agency in socially just pedagogies

1. Validating ‘disadvantaged’ learners identities and local knowledge
   Funds of Knowledge (Gonzales, Moll)
2. High-order intellectual engagement with learning
   Productive Pedagogy (Lingaard)
3. Critically analysing pedagogical power relations
   Critical Pedagogy (e.g. Giroux, Apple)
Learner agency, social justice & creative pedagogy

Possibility Thinking (Craft 2000)

What is this? ➔ What can I/we do with this?
Possibility Thinking, learner agency and social justice

Learners co-imagining socially just pedagogies

Giroux (2013, 6): ‘an imaginative vision [of a socially just education system] which takes us beyond the common place world’ using ‘the language of possibility’

Imagination: ‘going beyond the obvious’ and ‘offering unexpected and unusual interpretations or responses envisaging novel potential’ (Cremin et al 2013, 8)
Possibility Thinking, learner agency and social justice (II)

Learners co-transforming pedagogical relationships and practices
References

