



University of North Carolina at Asheville
Informed Consent for Participation in “Social Justice Oriented Learning”
Dr. Amanda Wray, UNC Asheville

Introduction

- You are being asked to be in a research study about the practices of and risks involved with enacting a social justice pedagogy in a space of higher education.
- You were selected as a possible participant because you teach in an institution of higher education and you lead classes that address topics of social (in)justice.
- We ask that you read this form and ask any questions that you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Purpose of Study

I am gathering research data about social justice oriented learning. I consider a “social justice pedagogy” to include teaching students about one or more of the following: intersectionality of power and privilege; the socially constructed nature and intersectionality of identities; the processes by which individuals, organizations, and institutions create, perpetuate, and/or challenge inequality; the fluid nature of social and individual critical consciousness; and the practices and/or histories of social activism.

The researcher is interested in the risks and administrative support educators have in executing a socially just and diverse curriculum as well as the practices through which they approach social justice oriented learning. This research aims to do three things in particular: elucidate the perceived (and materially embodied) risks involved when teaching in racialized social contexts, to study the levels of institutional support and mentoring that facilitate and sustain a “diversity intensive” university/college mission, and gather a set of concrete practices for engaging in social justice work in the classroom.

Description of Study Procedures

Eligible participants include teachers at all levels of higher education and all fields of specialty. Participants will be asked to complete an eighteen-question online survey and, if willing, to share with the researcher an assignment that has proven effective in helping students think critically about social justice issues. The survey can be completed in twenty minutes or less. If you wish to continue the conversation with a follow-up interview (in person or via Skype), please provide your email address at the bottom of the survey. All participant information will be kept confidential and no teaching materials will be used without written consent of the participant.

Risks to Being in Study

There are no reasonable foreseeable (or expected) risks. There may be unknown risks.

Benefits of Being in Study

Potential benefits of this research for participants includes enhanced personal and professional consciousness about one’s own teaching methods and pedagogical intents. Such increased reflection about teaching praxis can improve teaching effectiveness and, potentially, encourage individuals to produce their own scholarship on teaching and learning.

Payments

You will not receive payment/reimbursement for your participation.

Costs

There is no cost to you to participate in this research study.

Confidentiality

The records of this study will be kept private. In any sort of report we may publish, we will not include any information that will make it possible to identify a participant. Research records will be kept in a locked file. Access to the records will be limited to the researcher; however, please note that sponsors, funding agencies, regulatory agencies, and the Institutional Review Board may review the research records.

Voluntary Participation/Withdrawal

- Your participation is voluntary. If you choose not to participate, it will not affect your current or future relations with the University or the researcher.
- You are free to withdraw at any time, for whatever reason.
- There is no penalty or loss of benefits for not taking part or for stopping your participation.

Contacts and Questions

- The researcher conducting this study is Dr. Amanda Wray. For questions or more information concerning this research you may contact her at awray1@unca.edu or 828-251-6412.
- If you believe you may have suffered a research related injury, contact Dr. Amanda Wray at awray1@unca.edu who will give you further instructions.
- If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact the UNC Asheville Institutional Review Board at 828.251.6313 or irb@unca.edu.

Copy of Consent Form

A copy of this form will be made available to you digitally in order to keep for your records and future reference. If you need a paper copy, please email the principal investigator at awray1@unca.edu.

Statement of Consent

I have read (or have had read to me) the contents of this consent form and have been encouraged to ask questions. I have received answers to my questions. I give my consent to participate in this study. I have received (or will receive) a copy of this form.

Signatures/Dates

Participant Consent

(Print Name) : _____

(Signature): _____

Date _____