Theory and Methods for Public Pedagogy Research

Public pedagogy is a field of study that examines the ways in which education can be used to promote social change. It is based on the belief that education is not simply a neutral process of transmitting knowledge, but rather a powerful tool that can be used to shape people's values, beliefs, and actions. Public pedagogy research seeks to understand how education can be used to create a more just and equitable society.

The roots of public pedagogy can be traced back to the early 20th century, when progressive educators began to argue that schools should not only focus on academic achievement, but also on developing students' critical thinking skills and their commitment to social justice. In the 1960s and 1970s, public pedagogy was further developed by critical educators, who argued that education should be used to challenge the status quo and empower students to take action for social change.

- Public: Public pedagogy is concerned with education that takes place in the public sphere, rather than in private institutions. This includes education that takes place in schools, universities, community centers, workplaces, and other public spaces.
- Pedagogy: Pedagogy refers to the methods and practices of teaching.
 Public pedagogy is concerned with developing pedagogical approaches that are responsive to the needs of the public and that promote social change.

 Social change: Public pedagogy is ultimately concerned with using education to create a more just and equitable society. This includes challenging oppressive social structures, promoting democratic values, and empowering people to take action for social change.

Public pedagogy research draws on a variety of methodological approaches, including:



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by Christopher Williams

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- Qualitative research: Qualitative research methods are used to collect and analyze data that is not easily quantified, such as interviews, observations, and focus groups. These methods are particularly well-suited for studying the lived experiences of individuals and communities, and for understanding the complex ways in which education can shape people's lives.
- Critical pedagogy: Critical pedagogy is a type of qualitative research that is explicitly focused on social change. Critical pedagogy researchers seek to understand how education can be used to

challenge oppressive social structures and empower people to take action for social justice.

Participatory action research: Participatory action research is a type of research that involves researchers working in collaboration with community members to identify and address social problems. Participatory action research is particularly well-suited for public pedagogy research, as it allows researchers to engage with the public in a meaningful way and to ensure that their research is relevant to the needs of the community.

Public pedagogy is a vibrant and growing field of study that is committed to using education to promote social change. Public pedagogy research provides a valuable lens for understanding the ways in which education can be used to shape people's lives and to create a more just and equitable society.



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