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Palimpsest: Debunking the Myth of a Single Identity

Presentation format

1. Theoretical context: Practice based research
2. Social Political context : Largely UK but also Ireland
3. Arts context: Three case studies, NI European union & Middle East, UK
4. Summary

Palimpsest

From ancient Greek (palímpsestos, “scratched again”, “scraped again”)

A paper, manuscript or scroll where the original text has been scraped or cleaned in order for it to be reused again and again....Gordon, Robinson (1998)



Archimedes Palimpsest,
Middle Ages



Mohamed Mahmoud Street; Tahrir Square Cairo
(2014)

Identity Construction

Cultural Identity:

The group narrative

Personal Identity:

The autobiographical narrative

In 'identity wars' is the battle between cultural identity and personal identity

Johnston 2013)

- By personal identity, I have in mind.....positive marks of identity pegs, and unique combination of life history items that comes to be attached to the individual with the help of these pegs for his (her) identity. Goffman (1968: 74)



Cultural Identity

Cultural Identities are marked by a number of factors – race, ethnicity, gender, and class. Clarke (2011)

The very real locus of these factors is the notion of difference - ‘us’ and ‘them’, friend or foe, belonging and not belonging, in groups out groups which define us in relation to others and the Other. Clarke (2011)

Self and Other

- We define ourselves in relation to the other, constructing a sense of 'who we are' based on a select body of norms (normative behaviours) Foucault (1997).
- These 'norms' are imposed by and through power discourses and cultural hegemonies such as family, religion, faith, formal and informal education - pedagogised identities Atkinson (2012)

Imagined Communities Anderson (1983)

The way in which people imagine the world to be and imagine the ways others exist is central to the construction of identity. Clarke (2008)



Fear gives rise to the notion that the Other is not only a threat to 'cultural norms' or a 'way of life' but also a threat to our physical world and well being...such perceived threats feed into the discourse of extremism.

Is wearing fake fur even **WORSE** than the real thing? **LIFE & STYLE** STARTS PAGE 37



■ **Police fear a beheading by 'lone wolf' in shopping centre**

■ **Farmers told to lock up fertiliser to foil bombers**

JIHADI ATTACK ON UK 'INEVITABLE'

By James Slack and Chris Greenwood

BRITAIN is facing an 'almost inevitable' attack by fanatics who have been 'militarised' by Islamic State, according to police and security officials.

In speeches today, Theresa May and senior police will warn that the 'diverse' terrorist threat posed by jihadis returning from Syria and Iraq is one of the greatest this country has ever faced.

Potential attacks could range from a 'lone wolf' beheading in a crowded shopping centre or street, to a bomb plot using fertiliser stolen from British farms. One Whitehall official told the Mail: 'It is almost inevitable that something is going to happen in the next few months.'

According to Britain's most senior officer, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, police and MI5 have already foiled five major plots this year. Chillingly, there is normally only one major plot disrupted every 12 months.

Addressing a conference in London, Mrs May will unveil draconian new laws to try to protect the public and stem the flow of cash and recruits to Islamic State. They include a ban on the payment of any ransoms to terrorists and making it easier to track extremists on the Internet.

Internet companies will be forced to keep data which helps to identify the user of an individual mobile phone or computer. But the law stops short of making them log every website a person visits after the Liberal Democrats said the so-called 'snoopers' charter' was 'dead and buried'.

The Home Secretary's new Anti-Terrorism and Security Bill, to be presented to MPs tomorrow, also includes powers to:

■ Possibly relocate terror suspects, or put them into internal exile; allow border guards to seize

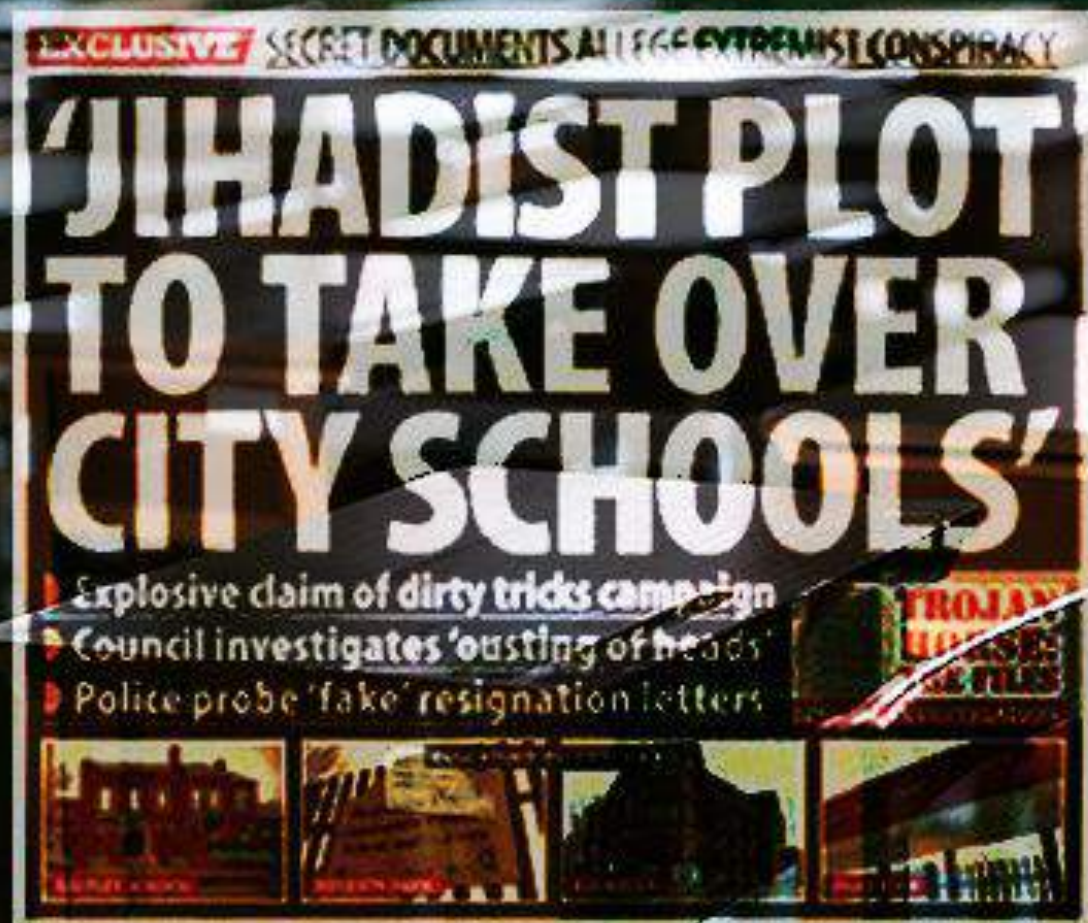
Turn to Page 4



Tense: Nicole Scherzinger at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix yesterday

Nail-biter for Nicole as Lewis Hamilton races to world title

SEE PAGE SEVEN



Now they're taking over our schools...



**SHARIAH
THE FUTURE
FOR UK**

**BRITISH
GOVERNMENT
TERRORIST
GOVERNMENT**

Now they're taking over our Laws
- Our way of life

Who will defend us



Imagination: Vygotsky

Imagination operates not freely but as directed by someone else's experience, as if according to someone else's instructions. (1930 :17)

Imagination "becomes the means by which a person's experience is broadened, because he can imagine what he has not seen, can conceptualise something from another person's narration and description of what he himself has never directly experienced." (1930:17)



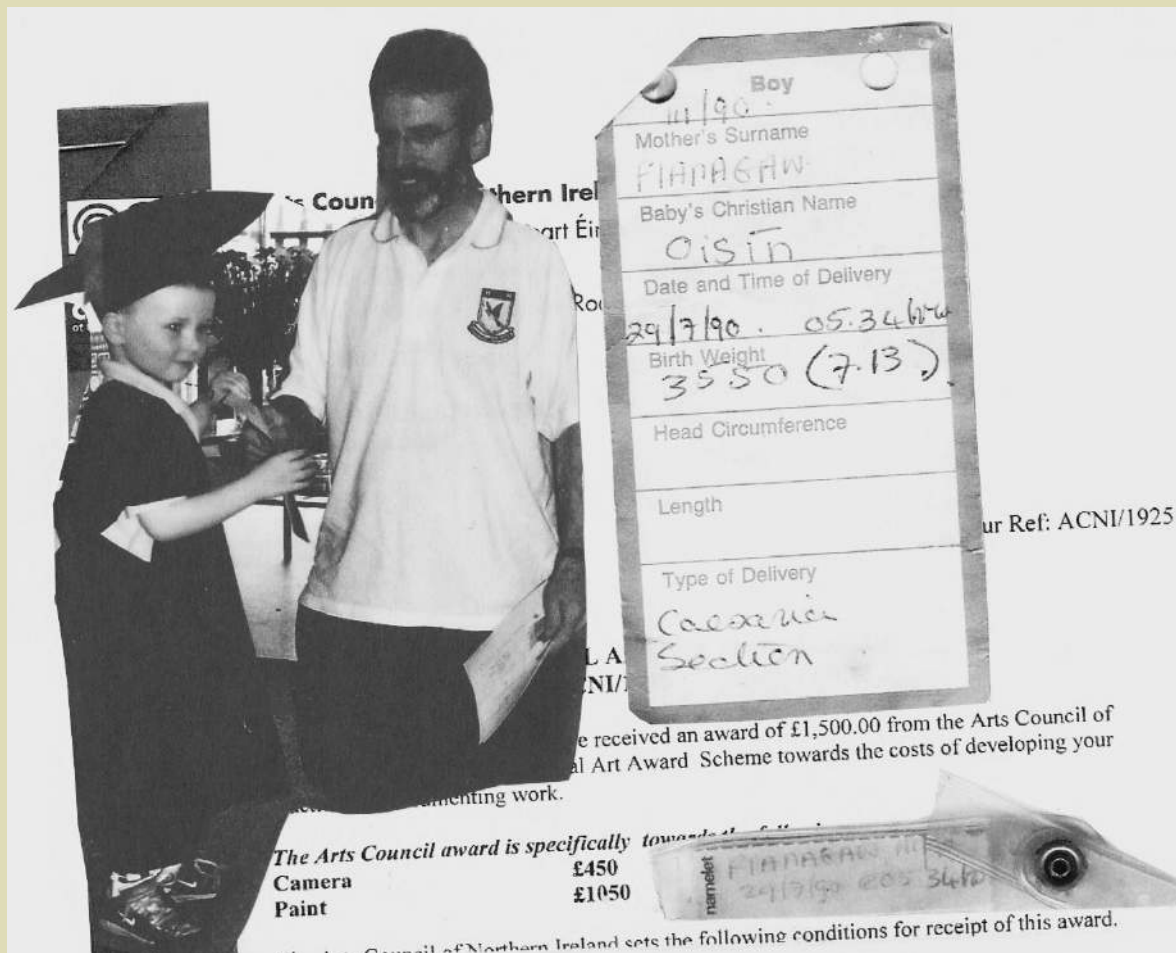
Yukinori Yanagi Pacific 1996

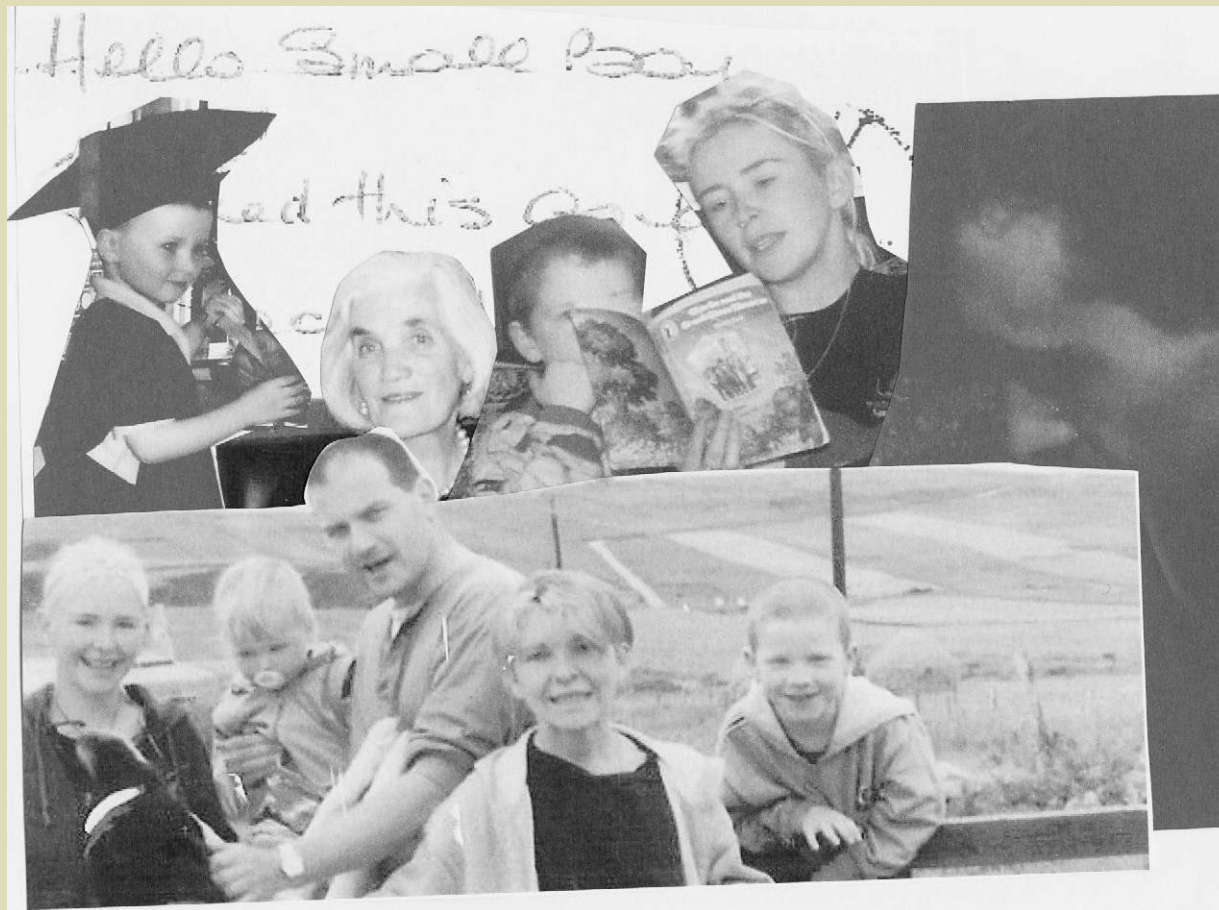
de with people: SEAP

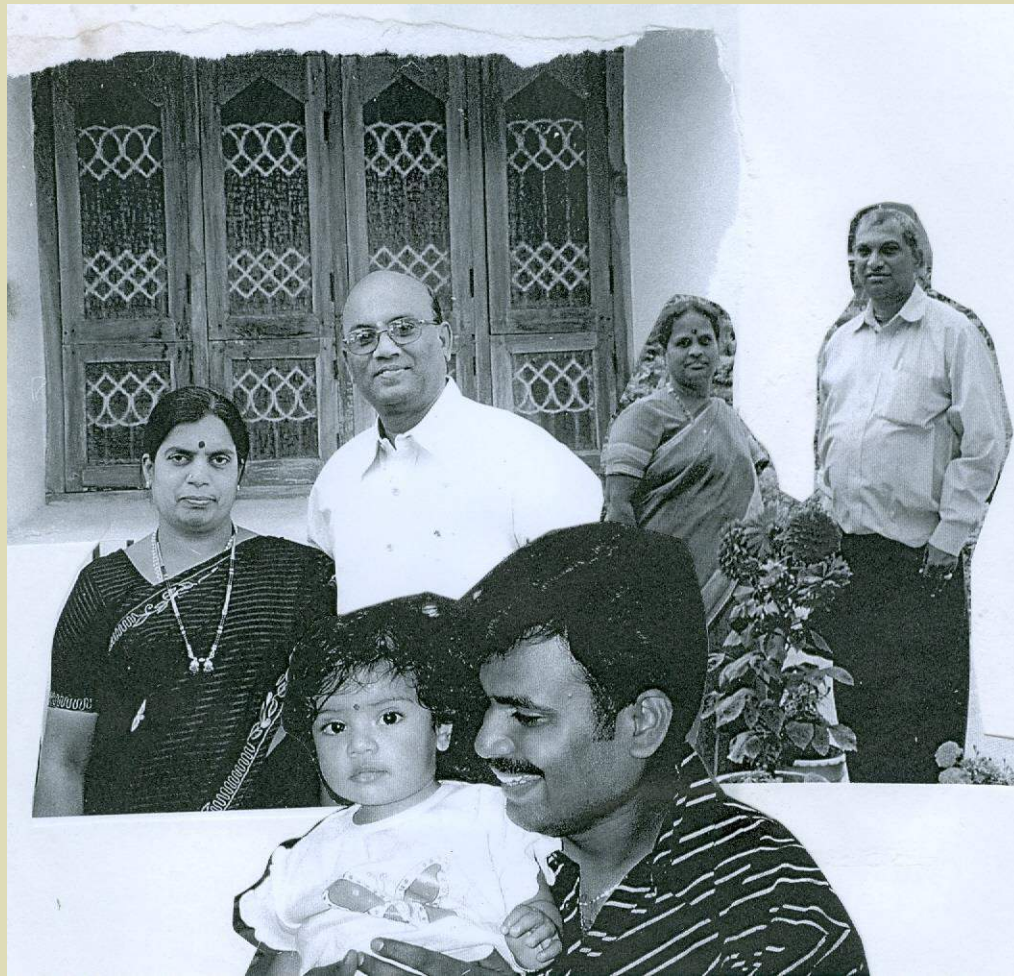
The artist becomes the ant – taking with him/her the residue of the journey - engagement



Case study one: Identity Box















Tandoori D

ERIC WAS BORN

C.R.S.S.

M.M.O.
Embossed
Stamp



Particulars

JOHNSTON

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

- (1) Surname.....
- (2) Christian or First Name.....
- (3) Date of Birth.....
- (4) Place of Birth.....
- (5) Colour of (a) eyes..... (b) hair.....
- (6) Complexion.....
- (7) Height.....
- (8) Distinguishing Marks.....
- (9) Nationality—see Panel A.....

THUMBS—PLAIN IMPRESSIONS
LEFT
RIGHT

LEFT-HAND FINGERPRINTS
(Plain impressions of four fingers)





Case study two: Palimpsest (i): The killing of Michael Mcilveen
Northern Ireland (2006)



Goffman (1969) Clarke (2008) *The projected identity: Inside Out*
How do you think you are perceived by the other?



Joe Kie























LY

COM

APPARENT



SECTARIA

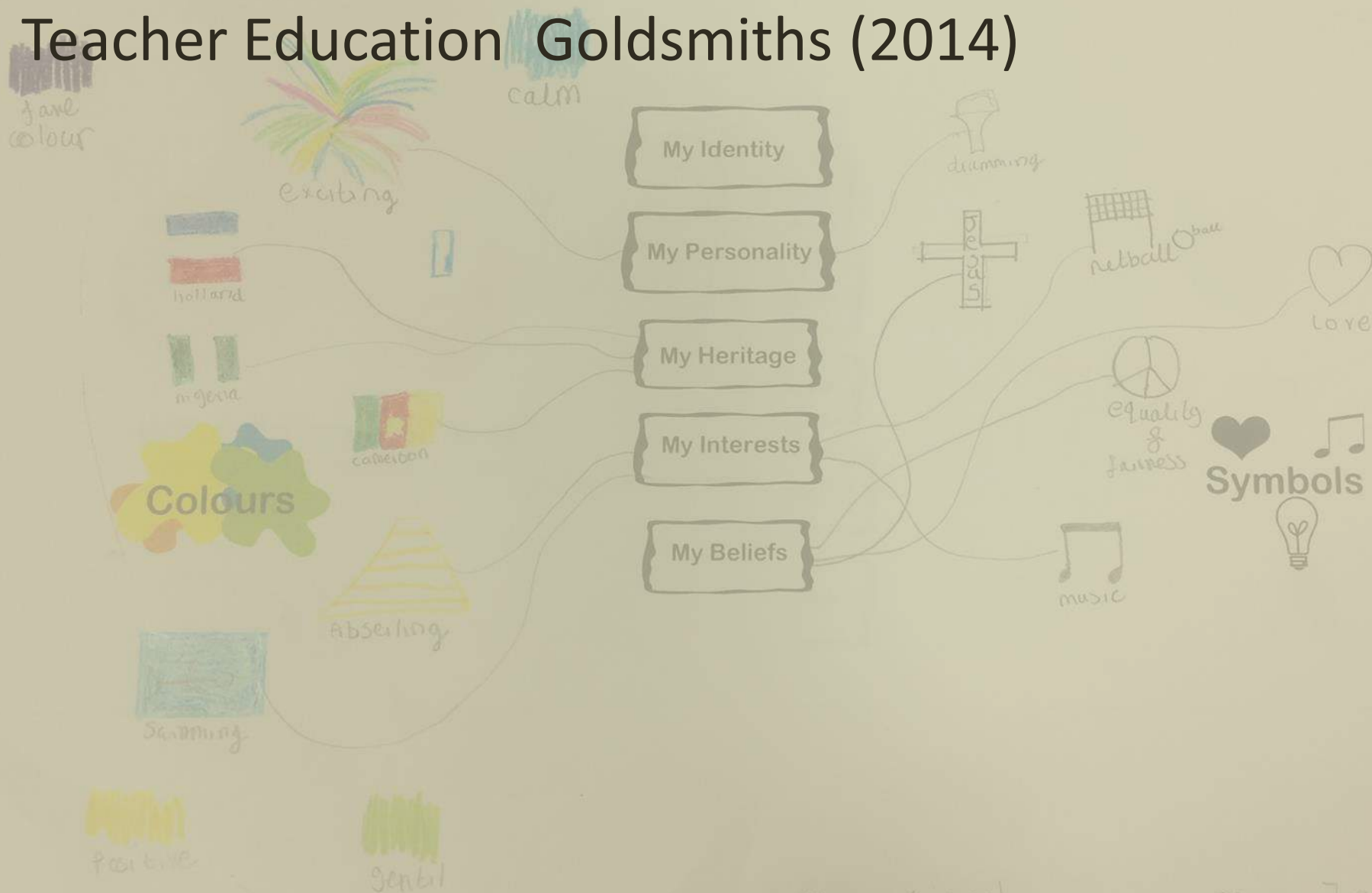




Case study three:

My Identity: Colours and Symbols

Palimpsest – exploring values in Initial Teacher Education Goldsmiths (2014)



Name: Sinmi

Class: 756



Palimpsest:



To Summarise:

Process

Phenomenology *(from the Greek to appear)*

In its most basic form phenomenology attempts to create the conditions for the objective study of topics usually regarded as subjective: consciousness and content of conscious experiences such as judgements perceptions and emotions. Hegel (1807)

By acknowledging our values and ‘giving’ these same values material form we have entered a process of critical engagement and reflection. We give form to the unconscious.

Those who can do, and those who can't teach

GBS man and superman (1903)

This is where I deviate from current thinking on SEAP. I believe the product of the engaged process is of equal if not more value. However, only if activated through a critical conscious Freire (1970), to form praxis between pre and post production. This would require artists to see their work within a pedagogical paradigm....and this presents a significant challenge!!!