

Taking a walk on the Royal Mile

Discovering and deconstructing identities through place-based education

Place = space/environment upon which my attention alights; to which I attribute significance; which is affective.

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Places are involved in identities and therefore in citizenship:

- 'places' are material-social environments in which we invest significance
- · for example, we can feel 'out of place' where others feel 'at home'

The role of 'place' is under-estimated:

- in definitions of citizenship that are rooted in the 'nation state'
- in definitions of citizenship that are rooted 'community' or 'society'
- in definitions of citizenship that are rooted in 'the global'
- in the classroom

'Place-based education' situates learning in places, but is diverse:

- Experiential outdoor education (e.g. paddling a river)
- Local 'sense of place' work (e.g. exploring the community)
- Socio-scientific outdoor action (e.g. watershed management)
- Socially critical place-based education (e.g. learners' actions in their commons)



This session aims to bring 'place' (the material-social environment) back into our discussions of citizenship:

Walk around the Royal Mile in groups of 2-3 of different nationalities.

Collect an individual record of the place by photographing (or noting):

- something that makes you feel at home
- something that makes you feel alien
- · something that makes you feel like a global citizen
- something that makes you feel political
- · something that makes you feel national
- · something that makes you feel confused
- Find out how the other members of your group respond to what you are photographing
- COME BACK! by **1355 hrs**