From Theory to Praxis
Reframing Adult Learning Theory Through Professional Development

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Purpose & Method
Theoretical Framework

Transformational
Jack Medrow

Psychodynamic/Social Constructivist
Learning is how adults make sense of their experience in order to guide future action.

Narrative
Marsha Lines & M. Carolyn Clark

- Storying the curriculum
- Autobiography
Andragogy
Malcolm Knowles

Andragogy - The art and science of how adults learn.

Pedagogy - The art and science of how children learn.

ADULT LEARNING THEORY
IS SO HOT RIGHT NOW

Findings

Adult Learning Theories in Use
Initial Skepticism

"All of the models (about self-directed learning were developed pre-widespread use of the Internet. I wonder how technology has changed our ways of achieving self-directed learning...."

..."
Adult Learning
Theories in Use

Identify with the Theories

"Once we read and discussed the articles on applying the adult learning ideas, I could see that many of the activities we were already doing were the exact same things mentioned in the articles. The adult learning ideas were not something FAR OUT THERE that we didn't know about and were not already applying to our teaching repertoire."

Adult Learning
Theories in Use

Student-centered

“I see myself as a facilitator, coach, and mentor as I try to create authentic learning opportunities in my reference and instruction work.”

Worked with this semester, allowed them to dictate the direction and flow of the class based on their own involvement and interest in the subjects covered. Since these students were more engaged and understood the implications of what they were learning, they were making connections and discovering ideas on their own, that I would normally have to present and explain in other classes.

Adult Learning
Theories in Use

Transformation in Information Literacy

"Transformational learning and growth can be uncomfortable, difficult, and scary! Could there be situations when we’re creating positive, comfortable environments that are stunting authentic learning? Do we place blame on faculty and others who may be putting students in this disoriented dilemma with unclear assignments and activities? Are we too concerned about making students happy (emotions) and not enough about authentic transformational learning?"
Learning Theory Applied to All Adults on Campus

Intentional Teaching

The majority of the students that I teach are in the first year of college so they are used to having pedagogical techniques applied to their learning. They are transitioning to being ready for higher forms of learning and taking charge of their own learning and mastery of skills. I can apply more of the pedagogical techniques to my more advanced classes or when working with graduate students.

Learning Theory Applied to All Adults on Campus

Faculty Collaboration

"The first class was quiet and didn't seem very engaged in the lesson. The second class was really engaged and got right to work finding articles and asking questions...I discussed the two sessions with the teacher later and found out that in the first session, the majority of the students were taking the class earlier in the sequence. The second class was full of seniors...Looking back on that experience and others really highlights the developmental changes seen in students over the course of their 4-5 years of undergraduate education."

Implications for Practice
Implications for Practice
Now what?

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References
Questions?