

From November 10, 2009 to November 24, 2009 I had the opportunity to visit the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta through the THEN/HiER Visiting Doctoral Student Program Award. The primary purpose of my visit was to collaborate with scholars in the Faculty in considering the possible implications of my work with human rights groups in Argentina within a Canadian context.

In this regard, Dr. Kent den Heyer organized a panel presentation with the Curriculum and Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series focusing on possible intersections between my work and the work of Dr. Claudia Eppert and Dr. Dwayne Donald. Specifically, my paper examined the ways that different groups within Argentinean society take up a past that “remains as an open wound” as they work to reconstruct – repair – a “we”. In collaboration with Dr. den Heyer I situated the questions of focus in the paper within a larger set of concerns and interests within the Faculty about the new provincial program of social studies which, in calling on teachers to include Aboriginal and Francophone perspectives, might be understood as implicating teachers, teacher educators, student-teachers, and students in the difficult work of encountering the past as an open wound. Dr. den Heyer’s introductory remarks framed the broader aim of the panel within concerns about the “crisis of witnessing”, thus naming history learning as a difficult process involving the interplay of desire, anger, sadness and hope as people move between returning to and leaving behind an “imagined” notion of belonging to a particular “we”. Dr. Eppert’s paper focused on questions of responsibility and ethics in responding to another’s experiences of suffering and pain while Dr. Donald’s paper grappled specifically with the call to include Aboriginal perspectives in the social studies program beginning with the question, “how is remembering different when you are asked to remember something you have never known?”.

Working with Dr. den Heyer, Dr. Eppert, and Dr. Donald on the presentation as well as participating in the ensuing discussion with faculty and students from the Faculty of Education provided me with new insights into my research which I have found productive as I continue to work on my dissertation.

In addition to this presentation Dr. den Heyer invited me to participate in planning meetings for the Advanced Professional Term course that Bachelor of Education students are required to complete. This experience provided me with a deeper understanding of the questions and concerns that teacher educators in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta face as they grapple with the new provincially mandated program of social studies. More specifically, this experience allowed me greater insight into how these questions and concerns are situated and taken up within the larger context of the Bachelor of Education program. I was also able to participate in Dr. den Heyer's graduate course "Research in Social Studies Teaching and Learning" where I was able to learn about the diverse research that students in the Faculty are involved in and to share ideas and questions with students about my own work. Lastly, I was fortunate to also meet and share ideas with Dr. Sharon Rosenberg in the Department of Sociology and Dr. Susanne Luhmann in the Women's Studies Program, both of whom are working on research projects that intersect with my work in Argentina.

I would like to thank THEN/HiER for providing me with the opportunity to visit and collaborate with scholars in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. This has been an invaluable experience for my dissertation work and for my future career as an academic as I continue to think about the responsibilities of a scholar to engage in the collaborative work of producing, interpreting, and sharing knowledge. I would like to express my gratitude to the faculty and students in the Faculty of Education who provided an environment for stimulating

discussion and thought. Thanks particularly to Dr. den Heyer, Dr. Eppert, and Dr. Donald. I am especially grateful to Dr. den Heyer for organizing the presentation and collaborating with me on my paper, for introducing me to faculty and students, and for offering insightful feedback on my work.