The UnLeading Project

A call to reclaim and redefine leadership

Visit UnLeading at: *https://www.yorku.ca/edu/unleading/*

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Reflecting...

- What might it mean to *undo* and *unlearn* practices and ideas that promote hierarchy, individualism, compliance, power over, silence, and a culture of fear?

- What is leadership? Who can be a leader? What informs how we enact leadership?

Questioning...

How might we...

- trouble taken-for-granted assumptions about leadership, learning, safety, success, as well as students, families, and staff?

- acknowledge and resist traditional leadership discourses that reinforce the status quo?

- center and enact theories and approaches to leadership that have been silenced and marginalized?

- reclaim and imagine future possibilities for leadership that create radically different possibilities for schooling?

UnLeading...

- A commitment to holding multiple truths, troubling common-sense assumptions
  - Looking for leadership in unfamiliar places
  - Challenging the notion of the individual leader
  - Sitting in the complexities and ambiguities of complex ideas such as leadership, schooling, and society
- Praxis of leadership, a continual interplay of action towards systemic change and deep, inner reflection
  - Continually re-imagining of education systems that center the needs, values and aspirations of students most underserved by schooling
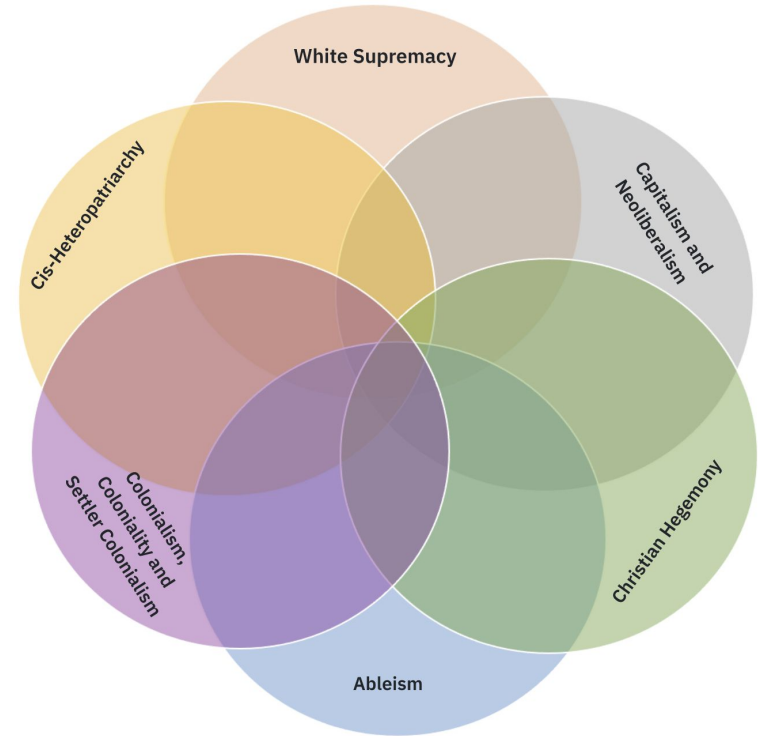 - Engaging in a consistent process of becoming, with no final destination and no finite goal

Focusing On...

- Naming the logics of discourses and intersecting systems of oppression that have been used to oppress, dispossess, and dehumanize

- Centering approaches to leadership based in knowledge systems that have been silenced under dominant conceptions of leadership

Making Strange...

- All systems of oppression are interconnected
- We aim to make strange the constructed logics that allow their persistence
- We aim to expose how dominant ideologies impact leaders

White Supremacy

Capitalism and Neoliberalism

Cis-Heteropatriarchy

Colonialism, Coloniality and Settler Colonialism

Christian Hegemony

Ableism

CREATING SPACES...

Decolonizing & Uncolonizing Leadership

Community Centered Leadership

Queering Leadership

Critical Spirituality in Leadership

Culturally Relevant and Anti-Racist Leadership

Reconceptualizing Leadership...

Leading as:

- self-reflection, journeys home and journeys to wholeness
- interconnectedness to all life, including ancestors and future generations
- relational accountability
- re/creating community
- restoring our capacity to lead
- questioning, partiality, tensions, contradictions, complicities, complexities
- disrupting, dismantling, and abolishing systems of power

Reframing Roles...

- Academic not the "expert", academic as space-maker, academic as leveraging power
- Not filtered through our voices
- Impact in community to hear voices in community
- Part of a lager movement
- Ego/humility/decentering the place of the academic
- Importance of relationships, trust
- There is no "original" knowledge (contextual, specific), creating knowledge *with* - using the relationships to co-create knowledges

Generating Tensions...

- From the top and the bottom
- Inside and Outside
- Critique and Creative
- Reform and Abolition
- Love and humanity
- Leaders and Leadership