I wish to begin by acknowledging the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nations, the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered today. We pay our respects to the local people for allowing us to have our gathering on their land and to their Elders: past, present and future.

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY
Project Visibility:
Revealing Systems at Work / Institutions and Ideology

Dr Terrie Fraser: Artist, Language and Learning Advisor, Academic and Peer Support, Division of Student Life, Burwood Campus, Deakin University.

Ross Coulter: Artist, Lecturer in Art and Performance, Unit Chair ACI202, Lecturer ACI203, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Faculty of Arts and Education.
Thought experiment for the audience:

What do you find difficult to articulate about the work that you do?

Looking for meaning....
Overview: What’s the story?

Working Collaboratively

1. Academic, Language and Learning Adviser (LLA) and Students

2. Language and Learning Adviser (LLA), Academic and Staff

Invitation

Project Visibility
ACI203
Darkroom Practices
T2 2019

Writing in the Creative Arts

Dr Terrie Fraser
Academic Study Support
Language and Learning Advisor
Academic and Peer Support, Division of Student Life

Ross: What does this mean for the Academic?

Being vulnerable ...
‘All knowing’...
Trust and respect...
Terrie: What does this this mean for the LLA?

- Clear expectations
- Reflexivity
- A sense of FUN
- Respect
This successful collaboration raised questions for the LLA that are both personal and professional.

For years, collegial conversations have interrogated themes of the LLA agency and identity:

As an LLA:

- *Where is my voice, identity, power and being under the dominant ideological paradigms?*

- *Why is this work not considered important by many academics, students, and the university?*

- *Why is it so difficult to communicate with academics about academic literacy?*

- *Why do we stay silent, hidden and invisible?*
These questions raised further ideological ones and led to setting up a staff professional development research project.

- How might it be possible to **make visible these ‘forces’** through another means?

- What might critiquing look like through the **language of art**?

- What **ideologies** are we working with? What truth claims are we underpinned by?

- How can we make these **hidden ideals explicit** so that we understand the social, political, epistemological and ethical ideologies we are working with?
Thus the seeds of the ‘Project Visibility’ were born….

- **Our roles reversed:** Ross was invited to collaborate with LLA staff using *art* as a language to *make visible* the issues that were arising in the LLA’s workplace:

- Opportunities

- Arts capacity to *translate through materiality*.

- This project sought to address concerns of visibility:

  *The problem of being *invisible* and being able to name why this is so.*
Project Visibility

• The second collaboration developed
• There is reciprocal value
• The collaboration also sets an example
This art project is *not* art therapy...

It is not a place for a winge fest

It is a space to tease out **workplace issues** that we share in response to the *neoliberal ideology* we all work under and to understand what that means for us as advisors - both individually and as a team working with academics, students, pedagogy, and our workplace - the university - operating under a corporate business model.
Consider: What is your quandary?

Some emergent themes included:

• Disruption
• Working with neoliberal internal structures
• TIME constraints
• Valuing the work that we do
• Managing relationships with stakeholders
• Visibility
Presentation Day Agenda:

- Art as a form of social realism
- Ross’ artist talk
- Drawings, collages. Painting on paper scroll
- LLA and student mock scenarios: Video / film
June Planning Day

Early sketches and collage responses
June Planning Day: Early sketches and collage responses
June Planning Day: Early sketches and collage responses
June Planning Day: Early sketches and collage responses
Early drawing warm ups led to LLA and Student scenarios: Filming and recording

LLA and Student VIDEOS:

https://www.coultercoulter.com/lla-deakin-university

2 scenarios – 3.43 mins

Art is always in translation... it is materiality realized ideas (Macleod and Holdridge, 2006, p.8).
Scoping the project...
First critical showing: Burwood Pods Exhibition

• A number of staff are keen to develop and refine their ideas. This has led to an informal showing.

• We used the Pods in H Building at Burwood, for staff to set up and speak about their work.

• You can see the development of ideas beginning in the following works...
What do you find difficult to articulate about the work that you do?

Rather than providing answers, we have engaged in a collaborative discourse through creative practice to articulate some of the complexities of our work environment.

This is leading to unexpected material outcomes that do not measure up to traditional KPIs. Rather the project offers empowerment by interrogating, grounding and articulating ourselves in the workplace through the complex visualization of ideas.
Possible outcomes and benefits of collaborating

- To develop and refine artwork for exhibitions:
  - 2020 Waterfront Gallery
  - Deakin Downtown to coincide with T and L Conference in 2020.
- Possible group conference papers and journal articles.
Thankyou
References

Articles:


Websites:

Ross Coulter Website: LLA Deakin Project: [https://www.coultercoulter.com/lla-deakin-university](https://www.coultercoulter.com/lla-deakin-university)