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**The Art of Appreciation as Curriculum**

By **Mayra Garcia-Diaz**, Georgia Southern University

In education, we often focus on standards and outcomes  
But what about affection, connection, and gratitude?  
Appreciation is not sentimentality  
It is a radical stance, a practice of care.

Hooks (2014) asserts, "Love is an action, never simply a feeling."  
To appreciate is to listen deeply  
to students, to stories, to silences.  
It is curriculum lived, not just taught.

Schubert (1986) reminds us, "Appreciation  
involves entering into the lived meanings of others."  
Appreciation in curriculum studies  
Is a place of possibility with care that uncovers.

Pinar (2019) emphasizes, "curriculum is a complicated conversation."  
A space of hope where the personal intersects with the political.  
To appreciate, in this sense, is to engage fully with texts,  
With students' stories that hurt, but you help to heal.

Greene (1995) suggests, "Imagination is what, above all, makes empathy possible."  
Imagination illuminates the crossing space  
Between the "other" and a shared place.  
It lets us see through strangers' eyes  
and hear through their ears.

Through my doctoral journey, I have learned that  
The smallest acts of care are the most enduring lessons.  
Thank you for teaching beyond content  
for embodying a curriculum of love, imagination, reflection, and liberation.

Your transcendentalism helped me engage not only critically,  
But also tenderly, with education, with others, and with myself.

Thank you for teaching beyond content  
for embodying a curriculum of love, imagination, reflection, and liberation.



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, "It means dancing with difference. It means confronting something or someone that you didn't know existed before, and with a healthy mixture of curiosity and skepticism, allowing them/it to transform how you know yourself and your perception of the world". Dr. Daniel Chapman (personal communication, 2022).*



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, "Facilitating student exposure to diversity in ways that encourage appreciation and respect for differences" (Ross, 2014, p. 871).*



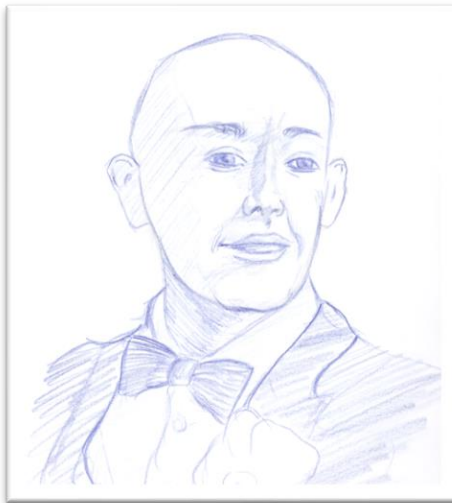
*Curriculum Studies is, to me, “To dive into curriculum studies is to cultivate humanity and thrive in liberation as I learn to inspire optimism over despair, love over hatred, and possibilities over impossibilities”. Dr. Ming Fang He (personal communication, 2025).*



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, “Education is an inherent right. Education is more than acquiring knowledge and developing critical thinking skills. “Education” cultivates respect and acceptance among individuals and throughout our society”. Dr. Alma Stevenson (personal communication, 2023).*



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, “It can include how the process of learning often requires dealing with the ambiguity of uncertain interpretations. A learner’s tolerance for ambiguity involves the degree of willingness to accept or adapt to unfamiliar, unpredictable, or uncertain situations and ideas. Educators encounter ambiguous situations every day in dealing with student needs and new information. The ways that educators deal with these ambiguous situations have crucial implications for both the teacher and the students. By understanding their own ambiguity tolerance, educators can consider their many possible reactions to unpredictable situations and how such reactions and associated choices might differentially affect their students. Dr. Kent Rittschof (personal communication, 2025).*



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, “Why wait for today or tomorrow when you can get it done yesterday?” Dr. Antonio Gutierrez de Blume (personal communication, 2022).*



*Curriculum Studies is, to me, "Perspective, Paradigm, and Possibility", Dr. William Schubert (1986).*

## References:

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