

Social Pedagogy for Building Sustainable Resilience with Dispossessed Communities



Vivek Venkatesh
McGill University

Thursday, April 10
3:30 - 5:00 P.M.

In Person and Live Webinar

Location: FIU Modesto A.
Maidique Campus, MANGO
222

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GUEST SPEAKER

Vivek Venkatesh

Dr. Vivek Venkatesh is Dean of the Faculty of Education and a James McGill Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Since 2017, Vivek has held the UNESCO co-Chair in Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism. Vivek is a filmmaker, musician, curator and applied learning scientist whose research and research-creation programs focus on community resilience and pluralism through a resolutely public pedagogical approach. His feature films include documentaries about underground cultural scenes including *Blekkmetal* (2015), *Where in the hell is the Lavender House?* (2019) and *Enslaved 25* (in post production). Vivek's research-creation projects engage the multiple challenges of xenophobia at their roots through the development of four unique participative artistic projects: *BANAL*, *Halka*, *Landscape of Hate* and *Landscape of Hope*. All four projects expand knowledge mobilization activities far beyond traditional academic paths, and include film and music production, and curation of live performances by musicians, visual artists, filmmakers, and writers. These projects have reached more than 6,500 people at festivals in Canada, Norway, Mexico and Iceland.

In this presentation, I advance the foundations of a theory of social pedagogy within a framework grounded in humanism and community co-creation. I will outline my pessimistic unease surrounding the accelerating impact of identity politics on an uninspiring, narcissistic, and vapid form of social justice. Our collective apathy to the deleterious effects of structural and systemic societal imbalances has exacerbated existing intolerances and increased polarizations. Partisan politics that thrive on highly divisive debates catalyze the abuse and erosion of public trust through various disinformation campaigns, resulting in the dismantling of the democratic functioning of our shared society. Nevertheless, by standing with and amplifying the voices of our highly capable community allies, my team of researchers, community organizers, artists, and policy experts at Project SOMEONE and the UNESCO Chair in Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism seek to refocus and reimagine the humanistic ideals of social cohesion. I will present examples of a range of arts and community initiatives that enable our partners to own and revolutionize their own understanding - as well as our collective understanding - of what it means to create pluralistic platforms for dialogue to combat the rhetoric of division and pave the way for restoring the principles of an inclusive society.



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