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—~~The~~ A Possibility for Light

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Community of Scholars Proposal, 2018

Daniel Burmester

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Title

The A Possibility for Light

Abstract

How can an educator help young people feel a reverence for and connection with the world? I asked myself this three years ago as I began thinking about how, as an educator, I could better the world. I believe that harmful action on our world can occur when reverence for and connection with it erodes, or has never given a chance to flourish. Researchers in cognitive psychology have suggested that experiencing the emotion awe allows people to feel greater connections with elements of our world. (Keltner, 2016; Shiota, Keltner, & Mossman, 2007) My work at Lesley focuses on the emotion awe and its possible pedagogical potential. One day, I hope to use the components, elicitors and effects of awe as tools to create pedagogy/curriculum theory and method that may help young people feel a reverence for and stronger connection with knowledge, and ultimately their/our precious existence. Recently, I completed a draft of an ethnodrama titled, *The A Possibility for Light*, created from a phenomenological and auto-ethnographic research project titled, *Awe within Human Experience*. The aim of the study was to gain a deeper understanding for how people experience the emotion awe. By creating an ethnodrama from data about awe I hope that all individuals, specifically educators, who witness the performance will think about awe within the context of their life and work, perhaps inspiring them to seek awe, understand its place within their identity, revere and connect with life, and lead others to do the same.

Description

The A Possibility for Light is an ethnodrama created from a research project titled *Awe Within Human Experience*. The purpose of the study was to provide the researcher with a deeper

understanding for how people experience awe in their lives. I transformed my original data into an ethnodrama so that the impact of the experience of awe could be received more fully and immediately.

Presenter names

Daniel Burmester

Actors will be necessary for this presentation. When notifications are given regarding a proposals acceptance status Daniel Burmester will obtain actors to help with presentation.

Presentation format

Performance (A reading of the play). My senior advisor, Caroline Heller, and I are hoping that a public reading of this ethnodrama might serve as the finale to the Community of Scholars day that is planned, for we believe it holds the values of Lesley University and will inspire audience members to become leaders, Lesley leaders, who remind us to view education as a place of wonder.

References

- Keltner, D. (Producer). (2016). *Why awe is such an important emotion*. [Video File] Retrieved from <https://youtu.be/ysAJQycTw-0>
- Shiota, M. N., Keltner, D., & Mossman, A. (2007). The nature of awe: Elicitors, appraisals, and effects on self-concept. *Cognition & Emotion*, 21(5), 944-963. doi: 10.1080/02699930600923668