Using participatory image-based research to inform teaching and learning about inclusion in education – a pilot course

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What is participatory photography?

- A form of enquiry-based learning

- Groups or individuals take their own photographs, or are involved in the decision making process of what to photograph in relation to their own lives and experiences – participants’ own interpretations of their images is key to this approach.

- This is one of a range of arts based methods of engagement.

- Participatory photography approaches have been around at least since the 1960s, and have more recently been adopted for use in social science research under an action research paradigm.

- We were influenced by the work of Michael Schratz and Ulrike Steiner-Löffler who have worked with pupils in Austrian schools to take photographs as part of a ‘self-evaluation’ process.
• 12 students (MEd Special & Inclusive Education, and PhD in Education)

• 15 hours teaching time

• Group tutorials

• Repeated regular written feedback from students (open-ended)

• Regular meetings of EBL project team (with student reps)

• 7 students choosing to be formally assessed as part of a 5 credit module
Understanding inclusion – course structure

Venue: CEEBL

Taster session - part of MEd course unit “Understanding the Development of Inclusive Schools”

Session 1
– diamond ranking exercise on problematising inclusion
- initial photography exercise (‘an image of inclusion’)
- input on ethics
- student development of assessment criteria
- extended participatory photography activity

Interim Task
- preparation for the presentations

Session 2
- further discussion of ethics
- presentations of group task & critical commentary

Assessment – presentation and essay
Problematising inclusion – 30 minutes
an image of inclusion

Framing, timing, lighting, meaning… ‘dramatize inclusion or exclusion by means of a single photographic image’ – 10 minutes to take the image
extended participatory photography activity

Pairs of students were given two hours to take a series of pictures which related to a theme related to inclusion and exclusion.

They could go anywhere and invite anyone to participate.
presentations of group task & critical commentary
...THE MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER
Ongoing activities

Preparation of poster ‘Talk with your eyes’

Dissertations

10 credit module: B.A. in Language, Literacy and Communication