Enhancing the Observation Skills of Adult Learners: Lessons from Post-Intentional Phenomenology

How “To Do” Post-Intentional Phenomenology

1. Identify a phenomenon in its multiple, partial, and varied contexts.
2. Devise a clear, yet flexible process for gathering data appropriate for the phenomenon under investigation.
3. Make a post-reflexion plan.
4. Read and write your way through your data in a systematic, responsive manner.
5. Craft a text that captures tentative manifestations of the phenomenon in its multiple, partial, and varied contexts.

How to Post-Reflex

Consolidated from a variety of sources and activities (see References and Recommended Readings):
1. Take (and refer back to) notes constantly.
2. Ask yourself “wondering” questions.
   a. What is happening here?
   b. What is the purpose of the activity here?
   c. What conversations take place here?
   d. What practices take place here?
3. Pay attention to the cultures - macro (Montessori) and sub cultures of the classroom/community - to the everyday practices and routines.
4. Pay particular attention to:
   a. Moments when we instinctively connect and disconnect with what we observe
   b. Assumptions of normality
   c. Bottom lines - beliefs, perceptions, perspectives and opinions that we refuse to shed
   d. Moments in which we are shocked by what we observe

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