Enacting self-study as methodology for professional inquiry

Editors
Dawn Garbett & Alan Ovens
The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Layout and Design
Alan Ovens

Cover photo
“Self-portrait” by Marcin Turecki
http://www.deviantart.com/art/self-portrait-343602909
Used with permission

© 2016 Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices
Copies of the online PDF may be downloaded from www.castleconference.com

ISBN:
978-0-473-35893-8

This book has been published by the Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices (S-STEP) community. S-STEP educators work in a wide variety of practice settings and seek to make substantial contributions related to the theory in practice of teacher education, self-study research design/practice, and the professional development of educators through self-study of professional practice. For more information about the Self-Study of Teacher Education Practices community visit their webpage at selfstudysig.wordpress.com
## Contents

**Front Matter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part one: Enactment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Multiple layers of interactivity in self-study of practice research: An empirically-based exploration of methodological issues  
*Tim Fletcher, Déirdre Ni Chroínín and Mary O’Sullivan* |
| 2    | Polyvocal research jamming: A quartet enacting methodological inventiveness in self-study  
*Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan, Lesley Coia, Monica Taylor and Anastasia P. Samaras* |
| 3    | The tension-fraught enterprise of teaching self-study  
*Jason K. Ritter* |
| 4    | How do we improve our contribution to the professional development of educational practitioners by enacting a self-study methodology?  
*Marie Huxtable and Jack Whitehead* |
| 5    | “I, Teacher Educator”: Grappling with ethical responsibility, hybrid pedagogies, and neoliberal agendas in mangled educational spaces  
*Kathryn Strom, Linda Abrams, Charity Dacey and Tammy Mills* |
| 6    | Co-conspirators and critical friends: Navigating tensions in teaching research  
*Andrew L. Hostetler, Alicia R. Crowe and Geoffrey E. Mills* |
| 7    | Finding the missing methods in a methods course  
*Linda May Fitzgerald and Melissa Heston* |
| 8    | We can be heroes: Representation of research in self-study of teacher education practice  
*Chris North* |
9 Using modelling as a method of teaching a content course to pre-service teachers: Lessons learnt
Eunice Nyamupangedengu and Anthony Lelliot

10 Moving between the propositional and practical: A self-study in an adolescent development class
Stefinee Pinnegar and Mary Rice

11 The Developmental Physical Education Group: An emergent collaborative self-study
Mike Jess, Matthew Atencio and Nicola Carse

12 A gallery walk: ‘Drawing out’ understandings of collaborative self-study in teacher education
Jo Raphael, Shelley Hannigan and Peta White

13 The power of autobiography: Unpacking the past, understanding the present, and impacting the future while establishing a community of practice
Angela Branyon, Mark Diacopolous, Kirsten Gregory and Brandon Butler

14 Survivors’ oaths: Collaborating beyond survival memos
Dawn Garbett, Constanza Tolosa, Alan Ovens and Rena Heap

15 Sustaining self and others in the teaching profession: A group self-study
Cheryl J. Craig, Gayle Curtis and Michaelann Kelly

16 The man in the mirror: A self-study in reflection
Joseph C. Senese

17 Professional learning from the process of co-editing journeys of becoming
Judy Williams and Mike Hayler

18 Learning together as teachers and researchers: Growing shared expertise in a self-study community of inquiry
Janneke Geursen, Amanda Berry, Els Hagebeuk, Carmen Peters and Mieke Lunenberg

19 Networkism: Dialoguing about co-facilitating transdisciplinary self-study professional learning communities
Anastasia P. Samaras, Kathleen Pithouse-Morgan, Theresa Chisanga, Joan Lucy Connolly, Lynne Scott Constantine, Thenjiwe Meyiwa, Lesley Smith and Delysia Norelle Timm
Part two: Discovery

20 A constant state of beginning: Tensions between personal and programmatic agency and external demands and constraints
Laura Haniford and Penny Pence

21 A rhizomatic reading of becoming teacher educator
Alan Ovens, Kathryn J. Strom and Dawn Garbett

22 Snapshots: Teacher educator professional learning shaping teacher educator practices
Melissa Parker, Déirdre NíChróinín, Maura Coulter, Ciarán Walsh and Paul McFlynn

23 Leadership and on finding my way through self-study
Kerry Jordan-Daus

24 Thriving vs. surviving: Our journey to align our teacher education selves in contexts of leadership
Laurie Ramirez and Valerie Allison

25 From expert to novice: Studying a second discipline
Melanie Shoffner

26 Understanding our identities as teachers through “maker pedagogy”: A collaborative self-study
Andrea Sator and Shawn Bullock

27 Critical friends using self-study methods to challenge practicum assumptions and practices
Rodrigo Fuentealba and Tom Russell

28 Teacher, teacher educator, or both? A collaborative self-study of teacher educator identity
Adam Jordan, Todd Hawley and Christina Washell

29 Navigating the pre-tenure review process: Experiences of a self-study researcher
Brandon Butler

30 Teaching teacher educators: A self-study of our learning from experience
Petr Svojanovsky and Jan Nehyba
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>A self-study of two teacher educators responding to program change</td>
<td>Andrea K. Martin and Tom Russell</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Managing the visiting Assistant Professor role: A collaborative approach to self-study research in physical education</td>
<td>James Ressler and K. Andrew R. Richards</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>From pedagogical confrontations to pedagogical invitations: A self-study of teacher educators’ work</td>
<td>Robyn Brandenburg, Sharon McDonough and Wendy Moran</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>A journey of two teacher educators quest for professional growth</td>
<td>Jamelyn C. Tobery-Nystrom and Kristine McGee</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Realizing, recognizing and refining a mentoring relationship: A self-study of becoming and being an English language arts teacher educator</td>
<td>Elsie Olan and Jeffrey Kaplan</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Playing in tune: Reflection, resonance, and the dossier</td>
<td>Allan MacKinnon and Shawn Bullock</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part three: Inclusivity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Emancipatory pedagogy for inclusive practices, enacting self-study as methodology</td>
<td>Hafdis Guðjónsdóttir and Svanborg R. Jónsdóttir</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Family scholar lenses on professional opportunities: Gendered transitions, gendered narratives</td>
<td>Renée T Clift and Bryan C. Clift</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Trust in diversity: An autoethnographic self-study</td>
<td>Lesley Coia</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Narrating structures to support teacher education attentive to place</td>
<td>M. Shaun Murphy and Stefinee Pinnegar</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Beyond self and rural</td>
<td>Ann Schulte and Bernadette Walker-Gibbs</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning from place: Dwelling within practice-and-theory
Kevin O'Connor, Gladys Sterenberg and David Dillon

From disgust to action: Childhood sexual abuse and its ramifications in/for our work as teacher educators
Valerie A. Allison, Laurie Rameriz, Donna Allender and Jerry Allender

Leaning in: Theater of the oppressed as a transformative curriculum for teacher educators
Kimberly Dean and Foram Bhukhanwala

Heard and unheard voices in a multicultural teacher education environment
Judith Barak, Smadar Tuval, Bobbie Turniansky, Amnon Glassner and Adiba Arafat

Part four: Application

What have we learned from twenty years of teaching with cases?
Andrea K. Martin and Nancy L. Hutchinson

Toward a framework for reading lived experiences as texts: A four-year self-study of teacher education practices
Abby Cameron-Standerford, Christi Edge and Bethney Bergh

Desenredando (unknotting) the threads of our educator practice: Elucidating the drive and essence of our present teacher education curriculum and practice
Gayle Curtis, Jane M. Cooper and Leslie Gauna

Exploring written feedback as a relational practice
Signe Kastberg, Alyson Lischka and Susan Hillman

Learning about enacting a pedagogy of teacher education through the ‘beloved assignment’
Rachel Forgasz and John Loughran

Relinquishing and renegotiating control in an undergraduate methods course to improve engagement and learning
Lynn Thomas and Janneke Geursen
52 Enacting a relational approach as a teacher education administrator: A self-study
Julian Kitchen

53 Jokes, puns, and emoticons: The roles and functions of impromptu humor in our teacher education practices
James Muchmore, Tom Griggs, Deborah Tidwell, Maggie Mnayer, and Kristie Beyer

54 What is the role of the teacher educator in a world of alternative routes to teaching?
Melissa Newberry and Stefinee Pinnegar

55 All brain and still no body: Moving towards a pedagogy of embodiment in teacher education
Sharon McDonough, Rachel Forgasz, Amanda Berry and Monica Taylor

56 Enacting self-study methods to explore critical engagement in synchronized online learning spaces
Charlotte Frambaugh-Kritzer and Elizabeth Petroelje Stolle

57 Strengthening teacher identity through development of professional working theory
Svanborg R. Jónsdóttir and Karen R. Gísladóttir

58 Going against the grain
Arlene Grierson

59 The blended course design: The role of agency in a pedagogical shift
Chinwe Ikpeze

60 A self-study of unschooling and student choice
Adam Jordan, Jordan Hall, Falyn Tansky and Amelia Lancaster

61 A self-study of leading the development of professional and intercultural learning for pre-service teachers through international practicums
Libby Tudball
From pedagogical confrontations to pedagogical invitations: A self-study of teacher educators’ work

Robyn Brandenburg¹, Sharon McDonough¹ & Wendy Moran²

¹Federation University, Australia
²Australian Catholic University

For teacher educators, ethical dilemmas, tensions and ‘pedagogical confrontations’ (PCs) often arise in day-to-day teaching practice. Education research reveals that self-study researchers usually have a heightened awareness of their obligations to both identify and subsequently act on these dilemmas, tensions and confrontations (Berry, 2007; Bullough & Pinnegar, 2004; East, Fitzgerald & Heston, 2009; LaBoskey, 2004; Loughran, 2006; Pinnegar & Hamilton, 2009, 2015; Samaras, 2011). This self-study research focuses on the identification, categorization and analysis of ‘pedagogical confrontations’ (PCs) and asks what they mean for teacher educators. Through self-study and analysis of these ‘pedagogical confrontations’ we have come to understand more about the sophisticated and complex nature of teaching. Furthermore, we explore the way in which the use of PCs as a lens for researching practice, has subsequently led to new insights and led to an ‘enactment in practice’ (Loughran, 2006).

Context of the study

As teacher educators we are interested in self-study research as a means to discover more about our own work and about the field of teacher education. This chapter builds on our previous research that has focused on the analysis of critical incidents in our practice as teacher educators (McDonough & Brandenburg, 2012; McDonough, 2014). The analysis of critical incidents led to an enhanced understanding of our work prompting changes to our practice. During a recent conference, we discussed recent calls in the Australian and international context for a larger scale research basis for examining teacher education. We were cognisant of the critiques levelled at self-study – that it should move beyond individual accounts – and yet at the same time, were interested in exploring how the experiences of other teacher educators might connect to our own work. This led to the genesis of this particular self-study where we are seeking to uncover the way we experience PCs and the implications of these for our practice. In developing this understanding we are then

R.Brandenburg (✉)
e-mail: r.brandenburg@federation.edu.au

© 2016, S-STEP
Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license, http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/
employing this self-study as a platform for wider scale research that examines the PCs of other self-study teacher educator researchers.

Pedagogical confrontations

We are using the term ‘pedagogical confrontations’ (PCs) to signify incidents, interactions or events in learning and teaching which cause us to pause and critically examine our practice. These PCs are unexpected, grounded in everyday practice, and may be philosophical, political, ethical, emotional and/or organisational in nature. Our use of the term ‘pedagogical confrontations’ has its origin in the identification and examination of critical incidents, a widely used research approach in education (Brandenburg, 2008; Brookfield, 1995; Shapira-Lishchinsky, 2011; Tripp, 2012; Woods, 1993). Critical incidents have been defined in a number of ways, but generally they are seen as incidents to which there is no immediate resolution. Our framing of incidents, interactions or events as PCs draws from this body of work, but is distinguished by its pedagogical focus and has direct synergies with the most recent self-study research related to learning about teacher educator identities from experiences of non-personhood (Rice, Newberry, Whiting, Cutri & Pinnegar, 2015). Through examining these confrontations, we seek to come to an understanding of the complex interplay of factors involved in these moments.

Aims of the self-study

The aim of this self-study research is to understand more about the sophisticated and complex nature of teaching and learning in teacher education. We examine the nature and type of PCs teacher educators experience as they seek to design and implement meaningful learning opportunities. Through learning more about these confrontations and the way teacher educators respond to them, we generated an understanding of the challenges facing teacher educators, and the implications for the field. In undertaking this study we examine the following questions:

- What pedagogical confrontations do we experience in our work as teacher educators?
- How do we respond and how does this influence pedagogical practice?
- How has using pedagogical confrontations as a lens in self-study informed and impacted our practice?

Research design

This research draws on self-study methodology, described by Samaras (2011) as “a personal, systematic inquiry situated within one’s own teaching context that requires critical and collaborative reflection in order to generate knowledge” (p. 10). As self-study researchers, we not only conduct the study but also study ourselves (LaBoskey, 2004). In this way, we examined our own practice in order to generate an understanding of PCs. We were also curious as part of this self-study to see if other teacher educators experienced these PCs. However, for the purposes of this chapter we focus only on the findings from our own pedagogical confrontations.

Data collection and organisation

The process of inquiry into the confrontations was adapted from Kosnik’s (2001) ‘Critical Incident Analysis’ and aimed to provide us with the opportunity to examine the nature of the confrontations and the values underpinning both the confrontation and the response to it. Each of the authors recorded her own PC responding to a set of questions designed to interrogate the context, nature, and meanings of our PCs.

Data analysis process

We independently read through all PCs to gain an overall sense of the data, and then re-read the responses taking notes, highlighting key concepts, words and phrases, and making interpretative comments (Lankshear & Knobel, 2004). Collectively, we shared our individual analyses and identified points of convergence and dissonance in order to enhance trustworthiness in the analysis.
process (LaBoskey, 2004). For the purposes of this chapter we are going to focus on one theme that
derged in each of our PCs, that of professional roles as teacher educators.

**Analysis and discussion**

The theme of professional role was identified in each of our recorded PCs, with this referring
to how we understood and/or enacted our professional role as a teacher educator. Our PCs were
related to tensions within our role and a questioning of our actions and their outcomes. In this
section of the chapter we provide an overview of the context of three PCs examined in this chapter
and the learning we identified from them.

**Context of each pedagogical confrontation**

“Closing the loop” – Robyn

Robyn had been invited to present a Learning and Teaching Masterclass at a northern Australian
University, titled Transforming Learning and Teaching: Enacting a Vision. Thirty staff from multiple
disciplines attended and the initial tasks were to identify the participants’ needs and wants from the
session, together with the identification of two assumptions each person held about learning and
teaching. These responses were to be revisited at the conclusion of the session.

The group worked together for almost two hours, covering topics such as assumption hunting,
identification and categorization; social and professional network analysis; critical incident
identification and analysis; freewrites; Roundtable Reflective Inquiry; and approaches tools and
strategies for reflecting in and on practice. Robyn was aware that the session was ‘fast-paced’ and
at times, she was feeling frustrated as she was modeling teaching practice that she aims to desist.
Robyn found herself apologizing for the pace, and recalls asking the participants to ‘join the dots’
as they progressed. With five minutes to go, Robyn asked the participants for feedback, comments,
questions. One person asked, “Can we close one of the loops, like Roundtable Reflective Inquiry or
Assumption Hunting?” Robyn asked her to explain the request, knowing that time was limited. The
participant said, “you have presented so much and I feel that we haven’t closed the loop on learning.
I think we need to, as much for me is still open’: Robyn had overheard one participant say, “The key
thing for me has been that we need to be able to identify our own paradigm and only then can we
begin to understand where our students are at .. we then work from there”.

“Walking the tightrope” – Sharon

Sharon was mentoring Rob, a preservice teacher (PST) who was regarded by his mentor teacher
as making satisfactory progress but who was not engaging in any discussion or critical reflection
about what he was learning about himself, his students, or the process of learning and teaching.
Sharon was concerned that his teaching practice reflected this lack of critical reflection and
engagement, along with a lack of awareness about levels of student engagement and progress in the
classroom. She attempted to raise this with both Rob and his mentor teacher, but without success.
His mentor teacher said he had improved in the way he commenced lessons and Rob was unwilling
or unable to engage in any deeper reflection about his progress, saying that things were going okay
and he felt he was getting better.

Sharon felt that perhaps the lack of critical reflection she was witnessing may have been
considered normal practice and she questioned herself in the mentor role asking “How willing am I
to challenge mentor teachers who are happy with PST progress when I can’t see the same evidence
of growth?” She wondered how to open up a line of dialogue with a mentor teacher asking “How
do we present in someone else’s classroom and ensure that we don’t appear judgmental of them
when having discussions about PST progress?” Sharon noted “this is something I’ve experienced
as challenging in mentoring and I’m yet to find a fail safe way to deal with this situation”, as she
continued to reflect on the challenges of trying to navigate the different stakeholder relationships
and foster critical reflection among PSTs in order to improve teaching and student learning.

“Acting as a teacher or being a teacher” – Wendy
In supervising Nina, a secondary PST on a 10-week professional experience it became apparent to Wendy that Nina was imitating good teaching rather than truly understanding the teaching and learning process. Nina's lesson reflections were shallow and she appeared to make random pedagogical decisions unable to explain their appropriateness. Wendy spent significant time discussing concerns with Nina, asking her to explain her thoughts behind her lesson plans, and outlining what she needed to do to improve. By the end of the 10 weeks Nina had not developed the capacity or skills needed to be a competent teacher despite glimmers of apparent development, and Wendy felt unable to pass her. However, the university claimed this decision should have been made earlier in the teaching block and that it was too late to fail Nina now. Wendy found herself asking: "How could I have taught Nina to critically reflect so that her pedagogical decision-making was meaningful not just imitative? Why is it that after nearly 20 years as professional experience coordinator in teacher education, I am unable to find the key to triggering critical reflection skills in Nina?" She concluded "I feel really frustrated ... and I feel that I have not done my job well in letting Nina get to this point without bringing about the change needed to develop her into a sound teacher. I just can't pass her now".

Robyn's PC questioned her role in facilitating learning for experienced educators. What structures, approaches and preparations must be considered for presentations about reflective practice to have more than a 'surface impact'? Both Sharon and Wendy questioned their professional role, perceiving they 'failed' to enact their role in facilitating PST understanding of the learning process and reflective skills, and in gatekeeping for the profession (Koster, Korthagen, Wubbels & Hoornweg, 1996).

**Author reflection on their pedagogical confrontations**

Examining their own PCs, each author reflects here on the values inherent within and the reasons why they found them confrontational.

**Robyn**

As educators, we need to 'close the loop' on learning and teaching. Too often, learners and teachers can feel frustrated by a lack of closure, and this lack of closure can only be addressed once it has been acknowledged. I speak about being explicit in practice, and the value of 'talking out loud'. Frustration can and will build if too many loops are left open and students/learners don't make the connections with their own experience. As a teacher educator, I now endeavour to ensure that I am more explicit about closing loops and assisting learners to identify and connect in their own ways with concepts, learning from their own experience, not mine. Less is more.

**Sharon**

Mentoring PSTs during placement is a complex and demanding role (Cuenca, 2012; McDonough, 2014, 2015) and Sharon's confrontation highlighted the challenges of different expectations between mentor teachers, PSTs and university staff. In reflecting on her PC, Sharon could see the way her own belief in the value of critical reflection informed her approach to mentoring, but she also became aware of her own tendency to try and find a "fail safe" solution. Part of her learning in examining her PC was a growing awareness that mentoring, like other forms of teaching and learning situations, cannot draw on a formula, but requires an understanding of each situation and the individuals involved. Sharon also identified that developing a relational trust with all members involved in the mentoring relationship is something that is crucial to building the opportunities for meaningful discussions and critical reflection.

**Wendy**

Wendy was willing to expend a lot of extra time in assisting Nina believing everyone capable of critical reflection. She believed it was simply a matter of utilising the time available to unlock Nina's capacity, and that with her own significant experience in teacher education Wendy should have been able to effect the growth needed in Nina. Yet, teaching is a highly complex profession; experienced teacher educator supervision doesn't necessarily mean that all PSTs will develop a mature understanding of the teaching/learning process. Upon reflection, Wendy realised that many
of the strategies she had used to try to help Nina were quite didactic. She noted “I was doing too much telling and not enough letting her discover for herself”. It is possible that Wendy took too much responsibility for Nina’s growth and inadvertently impeded the process. Perhaps if Nina had experienced a critical incident in her own practice it would have triggered the much needed change in Nina’s understanding of teaching (Meijer, de Graaf, & Meirink, 2011). Maybe Nina was incapable (at least at that point) of recognising the complexity of teaching demands and decisions and mentored intervention was not the answer.

For each of the authors the confrontations were important as they contested their beliefs around the way in which they mediated their professional role in their work.

The role of assumptions in pedagogical confrontations

In our analysis we identified the role of assumptions underpinning these. Referring to the work of Brookfield (1995, 2012) we then engaged in a deeper analysis of each confrontation by identifying and classifying the assumptions as causal, prescriptive or paradigmatic. The analysis of data indicated to us how embedded the assumptions are that structure and “frame the whole way that we look at the world” (Brookfield, 2012, p. 3) and ultimately, the ways in which these deeply held, and often not immediately apparent paradigmatic assumptions impact our daily work as teachers and teacher educators. Paradigmatic assumptions are the most difficult to uncover, and they are only “examined critically … after a great deal of resistance to doing this, and it takes a considerable amount of contrary evidence and disconfirming experiences to change them” (Brookfield, 2012, p. 11). The analysis of the PCs revealed the identification of firmly held paradigmatic assumptions.

When we initiated this self-study we were seeking to identify the pedagogical confrontations we experience and how they might connect with others’ PCs and the impact on teaching practice. Analysis of the data highlighted we all had role assumptions, in particular paradigmatic assumptions, in both the PCs and our responses to them. This was an unexpected outcome of our self-study research and although we have previously used ‘assumption hunting’ as a lens to examine our practice (McDonough & Brandenburg, 2012), we were surprised by the power of paradigmatic assumptions in our work and practice as teacher educators. In returning to our own PCs, each of us considers the role of assumptions reminding ourselves that “assumptions are rarely right or wrong [sic.], they are best thought of as more or less contextually appropriate” (Brookfield, 2012, p. 15).

Robyn

Robyn has reflected on the ways in which her own paradigmatic assumption related to teaching about critical reflective practice with academics from multiple disciplines has been challenged and questions now whether indeed, this skill can be taught. There is an ongoing professional tension relating to improving practice through reflection and working with other professionals to do the same. A key aim is to know more about the complexity and sophistication of what we do as teachers (and other professionals) and how this impacts on learners, regardless of the context.

Sharon

In reflecting on her PC, Sharon identifies that she holds a paradigmatic assumption about the value of critical reflection in the teaching and learning process. Sharon’s decision to refrain from challenging the mentor teacher about her professional role in developing critical reflection skills in the PST could now be validated as appropriate given the high-stakes of school placement shortages (i.e. the context), and the challenges of developing trusting relationships in time pressured situations. Sharon also identified a prescriptive assumption in her PC that related to her feeling that she should have been able to identify a “fail safe” response to make the mentoring situation successful and effective, regardless of context. Engaging in the self-study process has enabled Sharon to make explicit the factors that had influenced her PC and her response.

Wendy

Wendy’s reflection illuminated that she held two assumptions: one paradigmatic – that with the right guidance PSTs are capable of learning how to critically reflect and develop deep and complex understandings of the teaching and learning process; and one prescriptive – that as an experienced
teacher educator Wendy should have been able to bring about the requisite skills and depth of understanding in Nina. Both of these assumptions led to Wendy's time-consuming emotional and professional investment in trying to develop Nina's immature understandings. Yet, using the tool of PCs, Wendy now realises that her refusal to challenge her beliefs led to a didactic approach in her mentoring rather than giving Nina the opportunity to experiment, self-discover and draw conclusions for herself. It also led to a unnecessarily prolonged process. This PC led Wendy to think about the extent to which mentoring and supervision are able to influence over-simplified or uncomplicated understandings of teaching in PSTs.

Implications and conclusions

Through our self-study we identified that pedagogical confrontations are informed by the assumptions we hold, are mediated by the contexts in which we operate, and for each of us were related to how we view our professional role as teacher educators and the actions we take in our practice. Through engaging in self-study we have identified the value of PCs as a means to further understand the sophisticated and complex nature of teaching. Each of us has been able to come to a deeper understanding of our own practice and been able to modify it. When embarking on this self-study we sought to generate a collective understanding of PCs however, we now view these as not only as confrontations but rather as a pedagogical invitation to engage in deepening our knowledge of the influence and impact of assumptions on practice. We extended this pedagogical invitation to the self-study community as a means to build on existing research and have generated early findings about common assumptions and PCs. These will be shared in a future publication. We now invite other teacher educators to participate in this dialogue to extend and develop our shared understandings.

References


