Getting at the heart of the matter: Critical and contemplative praxis at the cornerstone of teaching, research, and community collaboration & transformation

Tracey Lavoie is a social worker, PhD candidate in the McGill University School of Social Work and Continuing Instructor at the University of Victoria School of Social Work. Her doctoral research, an arts-informed critical hermeneutic phenomenological study, explores social work educators’ lived experience of the intersection of mindfulness and anti-oppressive practice (AOP) in their pedagogical philosophy and practices. This research has emerged from vast social work practice, teaching and field education experience from a critical and AOP lens. Tracey’s experience includes child welfare social work with individuals, families and groups. In university settings, she has collaborated on developing student support services affiliated with an educational equity initiative.

Tracey is committed to educating social workers in practices that further the goals of social justice. Her pedagogical innovation, including creative and expressive arts methods; contemplative practices and technology enhanced learning, has been demonstrated in her classroom and online teaching, research and other scholarly activities.

Tracey’s presentation will highlight her experiences with a critical contemplative praxis that has evolved in her own teaching and research as the cornerstone of her pedagogical philosophy and practices. Examples of social justice-infused experiential exercises that reflect the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of this praxis, that strives toward transformative social change and ultimately supporting the individuals, families and communities with whom we work and the global environments in which we all live, will be included. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of the implications for teaching, learning and social work practice, as well as her future program of research and vision for university-wide partnerships and community collaboration.