

A Forum for Exploring Intercultural and Development Education Issues with Pre Service Second Level School Teachers

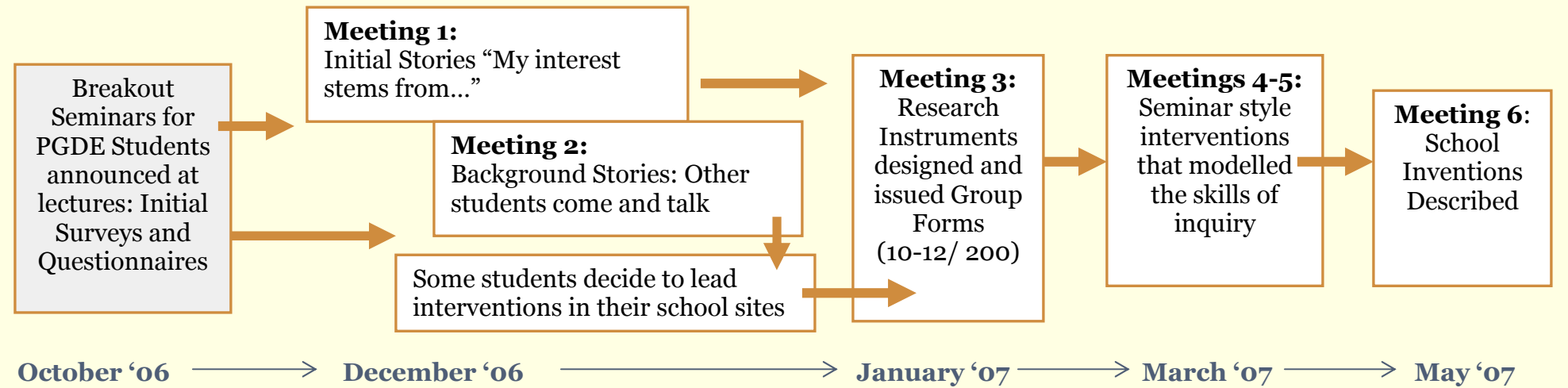
Authors

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Purpose

- To provide a support structure in the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) that enables student teachers to explore and make **links** with DE/ESD and multicultural issues
- To build **links** with schools involved already in DE/ESD projects or those willing to get involved
- To build a shared understanding with staff of the Department on Ubuntu themes

Timeline for our intervention 2006-2007



Inner PGDE Experience

←.....Linking with.....→

Outer World Experience of Students

- 5 schools involved, 10-15 Students involved out of a cohort of 200 on a voluntary basis
- **New Pedagogies in Schools**
 - 2 schools ran a Cultures day or week
 - Stories of the Immigrants featured in lessons
 - Visual aids used in (language) teaching helped (general) communication
- **New pedagogies for PGDE Students/Lecturers**
 - Shared reading of Cristina Igoa to help conceptualise
 - More interaction with parents of immigrant children at staff-parent meetings-more engagement with issue with others
 - Ongoing leadership by PGDE students. Intervention leads to new identity –PGDE student viewed as 'expert/leader'
 - Listening as a new pedagogical intervention for lecturers

Maeve: "School took place under a tree every morning for about 3 hours (depending on the heat). There were up to 80 children at school every day. They were from ages 0 to 15...with the permission of the elders I performed first aid on minor cuts and infections, conjunctivitis, scabies and impetigo after school everyday. I was only there for 3 months."

Cathy: "I taught for six months as a volunteer in St Lucia, West Indies...I knew before I went that all my students would be coloured but I wasn't as prepared as I thought and I was taken aback by the black faces looking at me. I was so white and they told me so!"



Michael on Navopache Reservation: "What will their children learn at school? Will it be an Indian history of education...or will there be token acknowledgement of Indian culture?"

Siobhán writes: "I was a gaijin, a foreigner in the school amongst Japanese pupils and teachers. I felt, in essence, like a fish in a fishbowl."

UCC Multiculturalism Research Group March 2007 consisted of Dr Fiachra Long and Dr Anne Rath, Lecturers in Education with the interventions of Siobhan Cahalane, Cathy Cole, Aedamur Kelly, Clodagh O' Rourke and Michael Twomey, PGDE Students and occasional narrative inputs from Maeve Cummins and others



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