Propositions

Cultural hegemony in Medical Education
Exploring the visibility of culture in health professions

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1. We sell our Med Ed
Must do it like we do it!
A culture of no culture  

2. The assumption that classroom discussions should be ‘objective’ and limited to the content or task leads to an absence of cross-cultural exchanges and thus minimizes opportunity for critical reflection and transformative learning.

3. Educational culture is steered by the needs of the dominant class; for example, western cultures tend to pay less emphasis on cultural backgrounds and discussion pertaining to culture. This educational cultural hegemony leads to a ‘culture of no culture’ in which learners do not share unless specifically asked to do so.

4. Critical consciousness coupled with an orientation toward pragmatic action leads to emancipatory education.

5. “One cannot expect positive results from an educational or political action program which fails to respect the particular view of the world held by the people. Such a program constitutes cultural invasion, good intentions notwithstanding.”
— Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

6. “The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story. . .”
— Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, The Danger of a Single Story

7. “We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced.”
— Malala Yousafzai, I Am Malala: The Story of the Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

8. “It’s important that everyone have the tools to understand you don’t have to choose between the identity that your parents have and being a full citizen of Canada.”
— Justin Trudeau