Values versus conflicts as an artist-teacher-researcher in ACL

Catherine Ross
PhD by Fine Art Practice Researcher, School of Arts, Oxford Brookes University
Introduction

Values versus conflicts through a liminal lens

- Question identity changes
- Liminality as meaning-maker
- Understanding values and conflicts

‘Subway Series I’, 2020 by Catherine Ross
Aim

What ways can an art-based exploration of liminal phenomena redefine values and conflicts?

‘Subway Series I’, 2020 by Catherine Ross
Objectives

• To decontextualize experience in multi-sensory interpretations of liminality

• To embody psycho-physical liminal states in practice

• To challenge identity and values in heterotopias

• To examine conflicts through liminality

‘Tunnel Series XIV’, 2020 by Catherine Ross
Definition of Liminality

• ‘limin’ Latin for threshold
• Anthropological term relating to tribal rites of passage (Van Gennep 1909 cited in Turner 1967)
• Indicator of transformations, spatio-temporal, psychological and cognitive (Turner 1967)
• Affective, ambiguous, paradoxical, unknown, boundary crossing, shapeshifter
• Liminality is essential to the mind/brain’s anatomy (Turner 1974)
• Hegemonic disruptor, damaging and productive (Thomassen 2014)
• Seen in multi-disciplinary knowledge expansion (Elliott 2015)
• Pedagogic/performative agent; ‘a realm of pure possibility’ (Turner 1995/1967:97)
Definition of Values, Conflicts and Identity in ACL

- Values are beliefs which guide actions and attitudes (Mintz 2018)
- Conflicts indicate disagreements due to mismatched goals
- Identity refers to
  - a) a social category (rules, attributes, behaviours and characteristics)
  - b) socially distinguished features or unchanging views
  - or a) and b) dignity, pride and honour (Fearon 1999)
- Artist values may conflict with teacher values (Day 1986; Sayers 2019)
- Explore through an art-based investigation into liminality
Methodology and Methods

- Methodology visual autoethnography
- Record my embodied experiences in liminal spaces
- Methods with liminal characteristics
- Digital photography, social networking, sound and walking
- [https://echoesintime.wordpress.com](https://echoesintime.wordpress.com)

‘Tunnel Series I - Exit’, 2020 by Catherine Ross
Audience Feedback

Values, identities and conflicts

- Association
- Atmosphere
- Consciousness
- Imagination
- Memory
- Self-knowing

‘Subway Series I’, 2021 by Catherine Ross
Conclusions

• Obstacles; age, confidence, cognition
• Locus impact creativity/self-awareness
• Spatio-temporal locations evoke liminality
• Oscillations ‘out there’ and ‘in here’
• Boundary crosser; performative/pedagogic
• Phenomenological awareness of being
• Self-knowing, reflecting and re-envisioning

‘Passageway Series II – Configuration’, 2022 by Catherine Ross
References

Cousin, G. ‘An introduction to threshold concepts,’ *Planet* 17, 1: 4-5  
https://doi.org/10.11120/plan.2006.00170004


Elliott, B. (2015) *Art as a neuronarrative of liminal experience* (online). Available at:  

Fearon, D.J. (1999) *What is identity (as we now use the word)?* (online). Available at:  

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org

https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-004-6779-5

Mintz, S. (2018) *What are Values?* (online). Available at:  
What are Values? - Ethics Sage


