

St. Francis Xavier University

Preliminary Research Plan

By

Kevin Van Lierop
201703750

AE520
Research Project

Dr. Nancy Peters
Advisor

London, Ontario
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Goal: To investigate if *place* has played a role in shaping the learning experiences most influential in developing myself as a community leader.

What: An autoethnography rooted in critical incident analysis supported by: review and comment from individuals who have informed or witnessed the incidents; review of journals and other documentation created by myself; and an evaluation of existing research on the topic.

Who: Myself, and specific community members who have intimately informed/witnessed my critical incidents.

Where: London, Ontario

When: February–August, 2019

Why: To better understand how different learning experiences—specifically sites of learning—have resonated so deeply with me, and how these experiences have shaped myself as a leader in the communities I have contributed to. Connecting my experiences and understanding to the broader social, cultural, and political contexts, I am interested if what, if any, similar learning experiences can be designed to effectively engage, educate, and empower members to become leaders in their own communities.

How: 3 critical incidents, documented, analyzed and contrasted against the adult learning frameworks such as: Brookfield's lenses for becoming a crucially reflective practitioner, and Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle (written question & answers); review and/or interviews with 3 individuals regarding the critical incidents—people who hold a critical, outside perspective on the incidents (written question & answers/recorded & transcribed); document review of personal journals, public writing, and correspondence from 2007+ (where available); review of relevant existing scholarly literature on informal and experiential learning, community leadership, and place.