Pedagogy of Kindness
Through Faculty Collaboration and Discussion

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#QCPOK
@RachelStern
Overview

● What is the Pedagogy of Kindness?
● Why is it important?
● Why this is applicable to our work?
● Moving towards a paradigm shift
“I needed to build relationships, not defensively prevent them from forming, and that trust was a vital part of creating the circumstances under which learning could happen.”

-Dr. Cate Denial
Key Aspects of the Pedagogy of Kindness

- Student-centered
- Accessible
- Trauma-Aware
- Humanized
- Flexible
- Community
- Transparent
- Collaborative
For best student success outcomes, we need to shift towards...
What does the pedagogy of kindness mean to you?

- being more flexible
- Meeting the students where they are.
- teaching with grace and empathy
- Meeting students where they are. Practicing forgiveness.
- Treat students like humans with whole lives. Give them autonomy to know how they learn best.
- Respect for students and their needs. Life happens to all of us differently
- Empathy and free from bias.
- Being understanding, giving students the benefit of the doubt.
- A syllabus built with kindness and respect as it’s central precept.

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What does the pedagogy of kindness mean to you?

- Empathy: student as humans
- Flexibility for the student to be successful. Less restrictive on deadlines. Record so they can attend at their convenience.
- Access! Crip time! Recognizing classism!
- Understand and teach individuals not generic “students”.
- When a student asks for an accommodation/extension, is it going to hinder their learning if I allow it? Most often the answer is no, it’ll only help.
- Pedagogy of kindness means I take students where they are and accommodate for their individual needs to allow for assignment extensions and additional days to be absent or late.
- Compassion, differentiation, learned-centered
- was highly influenced by the book Ungrading
- Similar to compassionate design idea
What does the pedagogy of kindness mean to you?

Empathy

Consider learner needs and circumstances before the course begins to check your assumptions and guide your decision making about course design and delivery.

our keynote today talked about “the rhetoric of rigor” reflecting our own trauma and deficits... so really questioning our assumptions and taking the learner’s perspective would be part of the pedagogy of kindness...

Spirit of generosity, compassion, and kindness at heart of learning experience.
Our Campus
Summary of our campus: Demographics

Student Demographics
- Commuter school (97%)
- Over 70% receive financial aid
  - Unsubsidized tuition is $7000
- Diverse student body
  - Asian-Pacific Islander - 27.1%
  - Black - 8.6%
  - Hispanic - 28%
  - White - 29.1%

https://datausa.io/profile/university/cuny-queens-college
Who we are | Pedagogy of Kindness Leaders

Joshua Barnes
Faculty, Biology
PoK Series Structure, Design, and Implementation.

Andrew Farrell
Candidate, School Psychology MSEd.
PoK Series Design, Coordination, Session Chair(s).

Rachel Stern-Lockerman
Instructional Technologist and Designer
PoK Pedagogy, Faculty Collaborations, Data Analytics
Faculty Collaborations:
Why and how does the Pedagogy of Kindness come into play?
Limitations

- Faculty prefer hearing from peers.
- Difficult to scale
  - 3:1600 Ratio.
Pedagogy of Kindness: Building a Community of Inquiry
Discussion Series Design

- Recruiting faculty discussion leaders.
- Structuring workshop.
- Planning assessment and impact.

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Structure of Pedagogy of Kindness: Building a Community of Inquiry

- **Session 1**: Building classroom community (Panel)
- **Session 2**: Setting boundaries in a classroom
- **Session 3**: Alternative assessments (Panel)
- **Session 4**: Encouraging mindfulness in the classroom
- **Session 5**: Trauma informed teaching
- **Session 6**: Building an international environment of collaborative learning
- **Session 7**: Caring in the classroom

http://ctl.qc.cuny.edu/pok/
Which practices will you apply in your class?
Enter three words that describe what caring looks like in a college classroom.
Results
Pedagogy of Kindness Discussion
Breakout Rooms

Advocating for widespread PoK policies
(Main room)

Embracing Pedagogy of Kindness ideals in the classroom
(Room 1)

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Debrief
Future

We need to focus not just on the theoretical concepts that allow the “Pedagogy of Kindness” to happen, but practical applications as well.

- Workshops
- Pedagogy of Kindness Continues Series

Departments are launching discipline specific Pedagogy of Kindness series and policies.

- Continued advocacy for PoK campus policies
Future:
The Pedagogy of Kindness: The Discussion Continues

- Session 1: Crowd-Sourced Learning Collectives
- Session 2: Building an Alternative Synchronous Classroom Environment
- Session 3: Vulnerability in the Classroom
- Session 4: “Breaking Out” of High Stakes Assignments
- Session 5: Inclusivity, Engagement, and Neurodivergence
- Session 6: Gamifying Multilingualism
- Session 7: Teach one, teach all: Supporting Multilingual Students
- Session 8: Breaking Up With Bossy/Boring Syllabi

http://ctl.qc.cuny.edu/pokcontinues/
Resources

Overall Resources:

● [https://hybridpedagogy.org/pedagogy-of-kindness/](https://hybridpedagogy.org/pedagogy-of-kindness/)
● [http://ctl.qc.cuny.edu/pok/](http://ctl.qc.cuny.edu/pok/)

Session Resources

● [https://t.ly/XDjn](https://t.ly/XDjn)
Questions