

# **MAKING MEANINGS, NOT FRIENDS: EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BULLYING AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING**

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*AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION*

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## **ABSTRACT**

Bullying is a prevalent problem in today's society across a variety of contexts, but especially within secondary and even post-secondary educational institutions. The negative effects of bullying have been extensively studied; however, the investigated effects it has on learning/education is minimal by comparison, and the effects on transformative learning is virtually non-existent. According to Mezirow (1978; 1991), Transformative Learning (TL), is a perspective transformation involving a period of critical self-reflection which usually begins with a disorienting dilemma or other life changing event. Being bullied can be both disorienting and life changing for the victim due to the lasting negative impacts it can have. This interactive presentation will examine the impact that bullying has from a TL perspective and specifically relate it to emancipatory TL. This presentation will also offer some ideas and implications for future empirical research, while also welcoming discussion and questions from the audience.

## **SELECT REFERENCES**

Freire, P. (2018). *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA.

Mezirow, J. (1978). Perspective transformation. *Adult Education Quarterly*, 28(2), 100- 110.

Mezirow, J. (1997). Transformative learning: Theory to practice. *New directions for adult and continuing education*, (74), 5-12.

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