Universidad Francisco Marroquin

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Synthesis essay #4

After an entire week of complete rest, reading by the pool, soaking in the sun, the good vibes, breathing in the ocean, I can say it has been the toughest week at the MPC for me. It was very hard to keep up with the work and to maintain motivated during the dialogues. One dialogue I enjoyed very much was the metadialogue we had on Thursday. But, this doesn’t mean I didn’t learn anything new or made any connections at all. Serendipity at the MPC just keeps on happening every week.

On Monday on our usual dialogue of Fire in the Equations we had a very difficult conversation that probably didn’t went as it should have. There was a desertion between members of the group that didn’t agree with the concept of objective truth and the majority, which did agree on. Later on members of the group felt not understood by the rest and had no intention of understanding the other group’s idea. The end of our dialogue was not successful, there was a lot of crying and misunderstandings, but we never have had an experience like this and I think we should take a lot from it and learn how to handle the one’s coming up. On Wednesday we had our dialogue of Difficult Conversations, which was the chapter about “Abandon of blame”, we learned so much from this chapter and could now use it for our dialogues. When we focus on blaming someone, it inhibits our ability to learn what’s really causing the problem and to do anything meaningful to correct it. This also connects with a conversation we had with Roberto Blum about “epiphenomenon” (the brain and mind) which is during a dialogue, we are creating something else rather than the dialogue itself, we can be observers from the outside and then localize the problems in order to improve them, so the dialogue can grow and become richer in content. So what I learn the most in this chapter was that instead of finding whose blame is it, we should focus on the contributions everyone gave to the conversation and notice the things we could have done to improve the dialogue. It is also to look within ourselves and become responsible for our actions. It’s amazing how all by ourselves we encountered a problem and days later by our readings we are faced to the solution to that problem. This is an example of learning by experience definitely.

That being the highlight of the week, I proceed with the other connections I have made these two weeks. Another very important lesson learned this week was that of understanding what the others are trying to say rather than assuming and creating our own false believes about something or someone. With Armando de la Torre we were discussing the 4 causes of the Greeks, and how with the advancement in science, little by little we entered the modern world and stopped thinking as the Greeks. In consequence their causes were eliminated except efficient cause, and the final cause only when trying to explain the behavior of the conscious mind of the human beings. We are here in this universe to discover the human intellect and try to understand each other. In our world and during the last centuries, many bad decisions have been taken and many bad actions made, that in some ways it has affected the world we now live in. Instead of trying to understand each other in dialogues, human being tend to follow their own personal interests and act as they wish to, rather than having a share meaning or come in to terms to have a better dialogue hence better decisions. According to the book On Dialogue by David Bohm, the world’s peace is in the art of knowing how to have a dialogue. It’s amazing how this very complex but simple tool can help us in our everyday life and have better conversation and acquire greater knowledge from the people we talk to with almost everyday. Dialogue helps us have a wider understanding of our surrounding, many new ideas emerge in dialogues and it opens up the mind of others. It’s all up to us to apply this skills wherever we go and whoever we talk to, we should strive for the discovery of new and different ideas.

This educational system is forth trial and error education, and you could easily appreciate it in our camera obscura project. Where many of my peers tried different materials to work on, and realized later that the materials used didn’t work correctly. But it is not until you come up with the project yourself and put your hands on that you realize if you succeeded or if you failed, therefore you need to keep on trying until success is reached. This week I saw a lot of collaborative working amongst our classmates, even on Friday that we came to make up last semester work. That helps immensely in the learning environment because you motivate others to give their best and just by sitting there quietly many will imitate and advance in their work.

A topic that was discussed a lot was objective truth, that Kitty Ferguson talks about in her book Fire in the Equations, and the concept we had troubles in Monday’s dialogue. An objective truth is independent of the subject and their believes, it is just something that is, like the laws of gravity, the concept that the earth rotates around the sun etc. It’s amazing that because there are many humans that has trouble believing new theories others tell them is the established one, that wakes up the spirit of curiosity and gives them wings to want to discover by themselves their own understanding of something, here they ask questions about their ground believes and come up with new theories, new ideas that help revolutionize the world and what we believe in.