TEACHING-LEARNING-RESEARCH: DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTS

• Paper / Proposal Title:
'Purple mapping' - between the school, the city and ourselves – to learn the neighborhood, to learn in the neighborhood

• Author(s) Name:
Arnon Ben Israel

• University or Company Affiliation:
Kay College of Education

• Abstract (300 words):
Referring to a metaphor from the children story 'Harold and the Purple crayon', in this paper I argue two following main theoretical claims. The first, rooted in the critical geography thought, calls for re-understanding maps and mapping. While traditionally maps and mapping represent modernist-formal spatial epistemology and served the political hegemony, it should be now be an empowering tool through which socio-cultural power is distributed for the benefits of the voiceless. The second point comes from the world of critical pedagogy and mainly criticizes the modern education system, which in the name of progress, universalism and achievement tends to ignore the needs and challenges of individual communities, particular places and immediate environments. With this in mind, in the third part of the paper, I introduce new insights from teaching-students' course at the Kaye College of Education at Beer-Sheva. Within the pedagogical frame of 'Place-Based-Education' the students experienced a period of teaching in schools of different socio-economic backgrounds in the region. Under the guidance of students, the pupils went to an in-depth learning journey in their own neighborhoods. They used 'purple-mapping' as their basic tool of getting knowing better both, the urban external space and the pupils' internal-reflective place.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr. Arnon Ben-Israel received his PhD in 2009 from the Department of Geography and Environmental Development at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel. He is a senior lecture and the Head of The Center for Place Based Education, Kay Academic College of Education, Beer Sheva. As a cultural geographer his fields of interest and research are structuration of space and place by peripheral groups in the Israeli Negev in toponymical, sensual and cultural landscape aspects, specialized on the Bedouin semi-urban settlements, post-socialist rural Jewish settlements, and in the last decade on the spatial dimension of education including pedagogy of place-based education.

https://www.kaye.ac.il/academic-programs/centers/the-center-for-place-based-education