

Metaphoricity and Provocation

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ABSTRACT

Taking as its starting point Ralph Waldo Emerson's recommendation that pedagogy is about "provocation" rather than "instruction", this workshop considers the role of metaphor in the construction of provocative teaching and learning practices. In a brief address, the metaphor of the bridge will be employed to ruminate on the various spaces of intellectual engagement, spaces of suspension, connection, communication and monumentality; moreover it will be regarded as a self-reflexive device to assess the ways in which our conceptual frameworks predispose or prepossess creative thinking and scholarly arousal. This workshop will also consider the idea of a metaphorical ethics: if our working metaphors as teachers implicate us in the community of learning in particular ways, then we have an obligation circumspectly to assess how our critical discourses might operate to include or exclude, empower or disempower, enable or disable, those whom we seek to provoke.