

Research Project: Social Spaces for Egalitarian Participation in Education – Focus on Gender



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Overview

- Project purpose
- Theoretical background
- Process and intended outcomes
- Structure, timeline, progress to date, and next steps
- Types of projects
- Conclusion
- Q&A

Project Purpose

- To explore ways to understand and improve gender inclusion in Austrian classrooms within the context of each Pädagogische Hochschule
- To support gender equity in Austrian education

Gender Equity in Education

- Examples of approaches
 - Critical reflection as an attitude in education
 - Women's and Gender Studies and Critical Theory show critical reflection is not enough: which alternatives can be offered?
 - Quality of the discussion of "gender" at different levels
- History
 - Turn of the century: Helene Lange, Adelheid Popp
 - 1980s: Intersectionality debate
 - Currently: Decolonization strategies

Projektidee, Intention

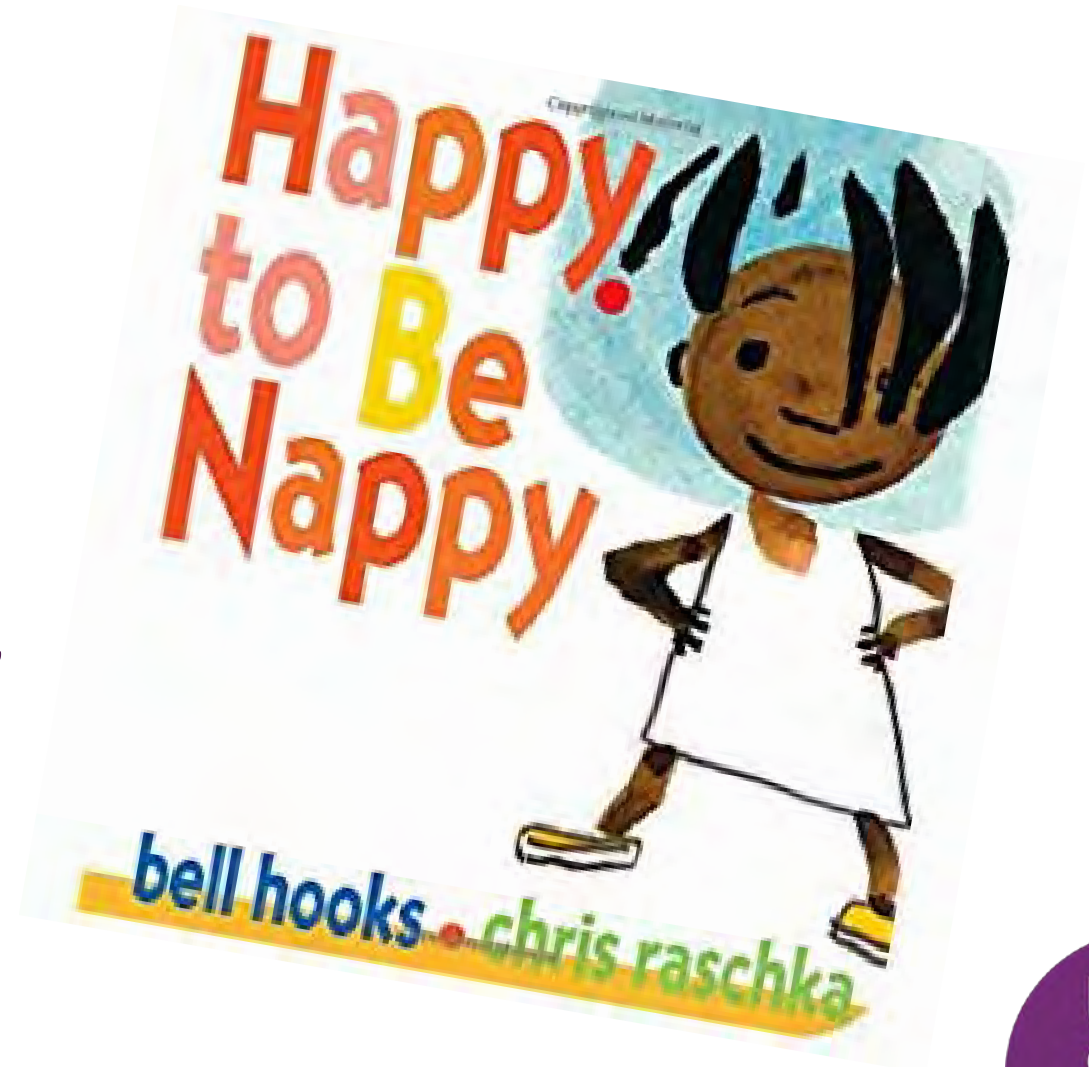
Example 1

hooks, b. (1999).

Happy to Be Nappy.

New York: Jump at the Sun.

„Girlpie hair is soft like cotton,
flower petal billowy soft,
full of frizz and fuzz“



Projektidee, Intention

Example 2

hooks, b. (2002).

Be Boy Buzz.

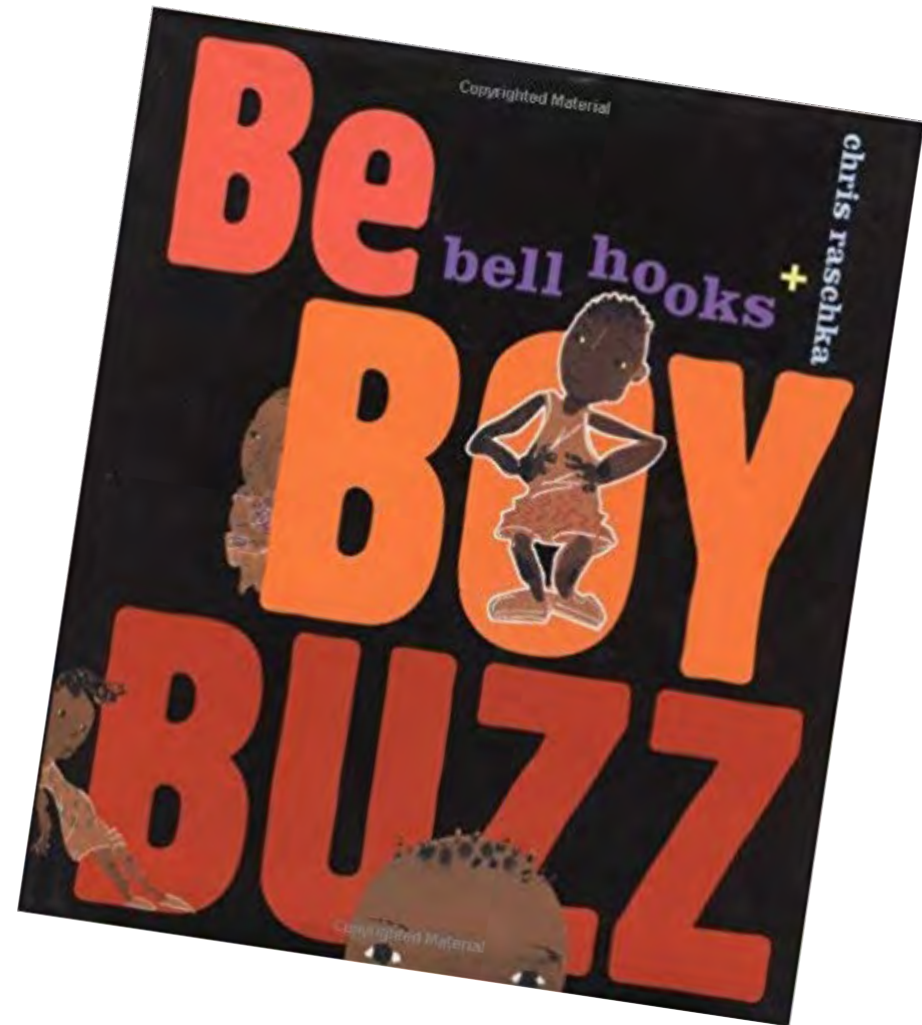
New York: Jump at the Sun.

„I be boy.

All bliss boy.

All fine beat.

All beau boy. Beautiful.“



Structure

- Each team or individual project identifies & describes their own research topic or problem
- All projects engage with theory experts to discuss details and to specify the framing process
- Projects use a framework from the book that was made available and the basic theory text
- Projects focus on a level where gender inequality occurs
- The results will be shared in a monograph as well as through conferences. The project seeks to implement performative "safe social spaces."

Theorie Experts

- Researchers from the Pädagogische Hochschule Salzburg
- Helped participants develop projects
 - Selecting theoretical frameworks
 - Determining level of analysis
 - Identifying existing literature/situating the study in the body of knowledge
- Intended to save participants time

Theoretical Framework

- Gender awareness and gender inclusion
 - Intersectionality: Gender associated with other difference categories (e.g., Cho et al., MacKinnon)
 - Analysis of power and inequality (e.g., Knapp, Ahmed; at different levels)
- Educational-theoretical positioning (multi-perspectivity, diversity sensitivity)
- Reflectiveness as a requirement for effective educational spaces (e.g., hooks)
 - Critical Theory (e.g., Shor, Burbules)
 - Critical Pedagogy, Teachers as Critical Intellectuals (e.g., Giroux)
 - Deliberative Democracy in which positions are negotiated (e.g., Benhabib)
- Safe spaces
 - From feminist gender theory and research (e.g., Ali)
 - In educational research (e.g., Meyer, Arendt, Levinas)

Levels of Gender Inequality

- **Identity:** Trans, cisgender, queer, heterosexual; class; body performance
- **Interaction:** ♀ ♂, ♀ ♀, ♂ ♂; Didactics and media; Planning of educational situations / lessons
- **Institution:** School as a social & educational space; Atmosphere of difference / egalitarianism; social functions of educational institutions
- **Society:** Hierarchy of the sexes
- **Knowledge:** Who decides what knowledge is?

Timeline, Progress, and Next Steps

- ✓ 5. Mai 2017: Project Kick-off (Salzburg)
- ✓ Sept 2017: Email updates
- ✓ Mai 2018: Meeting in Salzburg
- Dec. 20, 2018: Email updates: Drafts due
- Jan. 15, 2019: Peer review Prozess
- March 31, 2019: Final articles due
- Ende Mai/Juni 2019: Conference in Salzburg
- ~ Juli 2019: Project end

Examples of Projects

- 1 Theory chapter for each level
- Identity: 3 research projects
 - The role of future elementary school teacher images
- Interaction: 3 research projects*
 - A workshop as a safe space to raise gender awareness in teacher education students
- Institution: 2 research projects*
 - The influence of the Physics hall on the self-empowerment of students
- Knowledge: 1 research project
 - Art education approaches to designing safe spaces with a focus on gender

Conclusion

- Exciting and useful project – participants are engaged, projects are underway, chapters are coming in
- We're exploring options for publication, dissemination
- Developing a final chapter: How was “safe space” implemented in this research project and what recommendations do we have for replication?
- We're looking forward to seeing the project outcomes

Questions or Comments?

Vielen Dank!

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