Just Practice a framework for social change

Gavin Rennie, Craig Tunnicliffe

grennie@unitec.ac.nz
ctunnicliffe@unitec.ac.nz
introduction

• Our backgrounds

• What the purpose of today’s presentation is about?

• An offering
Just “community work” practice in Aotearoa New Zealand

• Historical antecedents

• What’s in a name?

• Centralised by a focus on social justice and transformative social change.

• One could say that these individuals and groups are “just” practitioners.
What is Just Practice?

• In one manifestation it is the final paper in a 3 (soon to be 4) year social practice degree.
  – A capstone for the Degree:
    • Counselling, Social Work, Community Development.
    • uniting and reweaving the threads of the Bachelor of Social Practice

• Our guest speakers

• Reinvigorating students for their original passion for social justice and social change.
Origins of JP as course

• Social practice at Unitec

• Theory before practice?/Practice before theory?

• Writing up the experience of the course led to the discovery of a model (Finn and Jacobson)
What else is just practice

• Above all else it is the concept that social justice should inform our practice.
• It is a model of analysis.
  – Has the potential to be a model of change.
• It has the potential to inform a community development process
Our adaptation

Possibility

Meaning

Power

History

Context

Critical Reflection

Adapted from Finn & Jacobson, 2008
Critical Reflection

Context

Power

History

Possibility

Meaning

Adapted from Finn & Jacobson, 2008
An awareness of power

Power

Possibility

History

An awareness of structure

Context

Meaning

An awareness of community meaning and an awareness of self

Critical Reflection

Adapted from Finn & Jacobson, 2008
Just Practice is an ongoing journey
Brain storm ideas of application