

IAP Proposal

I would like to work on the ideas of theatre of the oppressed and performance ethnography with a group of James Madison students. This project would involve an introduction to Augusto Boal's ideas as expressed in *Theatre of the Oppressed* as well as experiences of Boal's methods, including forum theatre and image theatre. As a group, we would focus on how theatre can become "rehearsal for revolution" and help people recognize and work toward overcoming oppression. We will engage in readings by Boal and others who do performance work in development and engage in active theatre practices ourselves to understand the experience. We will also read several pieces of performance ethnography dealing with topics including education, health, homelessness, and discrimination. We may also watch some of Anna Deavere Smith's work such as *Twilight Los Angeles* and *Fires in the Mirror*. The purpose of the group interaction would be to explore the extent to which theatre and performance ethnography work as critical pedagogy and create the possibility of transformation.