Learning in the Palaver Hut: the ‘Africa Study Visit’ as Teaching Tool

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SHORT HISTORY AND RATIONALE
FOUR CATEGORIES

PURPOSE, ACCESS & POSSIBILITY
or how to construct a meaningful schedule?

APPROPRIATENESS & SCALE
or how to behave and how not to behave?
FOUR CATEGORIES

COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP
or how to work with multi-national groups in Africa?

ATTITUDES AND CONTROL
or when to fight with stereotypes and when to allow students to discover things for themselves?
PRE-CONCEIVED IDEAS

- Application of months of desk learning to the actual environment
- Individual aspirations
- ‘Palaver Hut’
WHEN THEORY MEETS REALITY

‘TRADITIONAL’ BELIEFS

Perception:
African ‘traditional’ beliefs are anachronistic and on their way out or conversely set in stone

Discussion:
Crossing theoretical boundaries of religion, modernity, ‘tradition’, identity and politics
WHEN THEORY MEETS REALITY
CORRUPTION

Perception:
Amorphous understandings of corruption

Discussion:
Crossing theoretical boundaries of the idea of the state, political culture and societal perceptions and ambivalence to corruption
WHEN THEORY MEETS REALITY
DEFERENCE

Perception:
Image of particular official often determined by media

Discussion:
Crossing theoretical boundaries of political leadership, neopatrimonialism, ‘big-man’ politics
WHEN THEORY MEETS REALITY
AID INDUSTRY

Perception:
Aid will work, it just needs refining

Discussion:
Crossing theoretical boundaries of peacebuilding, universalism, liberalism, the African state and society, and ‘extraversion’
ACADEMIC WRITINGS & KEY PROBLEMS

- Fusing evidence and theory
- Identifying deeper structural factors
- Difficulty and preparation
INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION

How did the ASV change your idea of Africa?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL0F46HRxTU