

The Development of a Novel Pedagogical Framework: Climate Kind Pedagogy

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Overview

This project strives to synthesize a diverse body of educational knowledge into a comprehensive pedagogy geared towards addressing the pressing need for both educators and learners to reconceptualize their relationship with one another and the planet. To achieve this, we examined 11 distinct educational frameworks, grouped into two broad categories: climate pedagogies and kindness pedagogies. These educational bodies of knowledge have guided and informed the development of our own framework, the Climate-Kind Pedagogy (CKP).

Creating the CKP Framework and Toolkit

The process of combing such rich bodies of pedagogical knowledge into a single, comprehensive framework is proving to be an ongoing challenge. We have selected 7 broad, foundational values to further guide the process:

Kindness | Trust | Justice | Resilience | Equity | Interconnections | Relationships

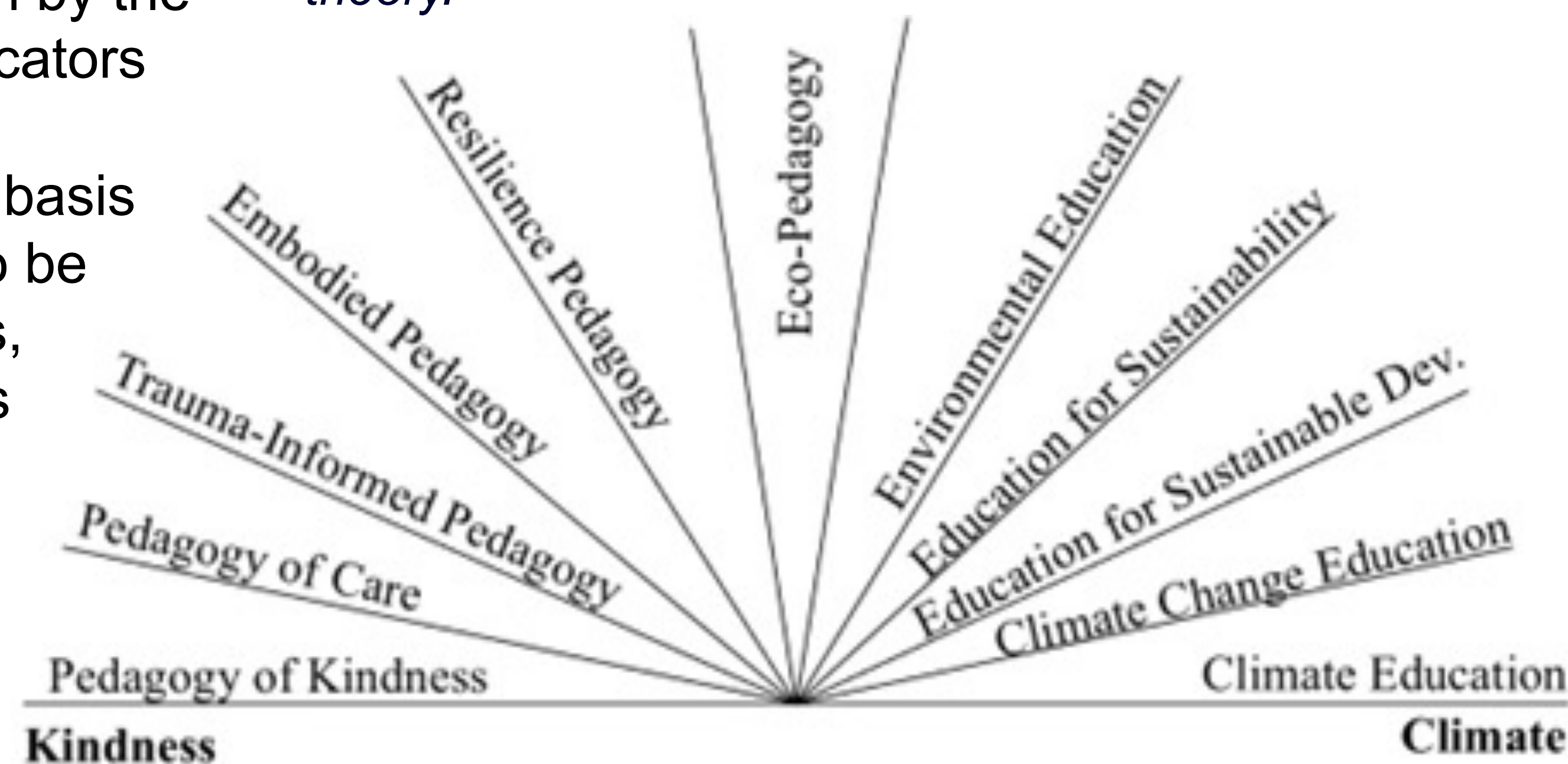
These values have been expanded upon by the creation of a list of actionable items educators can take in the classroom to foster their implementation. These actions form the basis of the CKP Toolkit, which will continue to be populated with resources, teaching tools, lessons, assignments, and assessments as the project develops.

Review of Climate and Kindness Education Literature

Climate-Informed Framework	Main Points
Climate	science education, inquiry learning, experiments
Climate Change	participatory action, interdisciplinary
Education for Sustainable Development	systems thinking, transformative, experiential learning
Education for sustainability	community learning, competencies
Environmental Eco-pedagogy	outdoor, hands-on learning socio-environmental justice
Kindness	trusting, believing and valuing students, respecting personhood of students, student autonomy
Care	developing relationships, cooperation, social justice
Trauma-informed	fostering safety and trust, awareness of systemic injustices
Embodied	understanding the role of the body and mind in constructing knowledge
Resilience	teaching and modelling flexibility

Spectrum of Pedagogies

These pedagogies have been organized below to illustrate their existence on a spectrum of educational theory.



Infusing CKP into an Education Course (EDCP 349)

EDCP 349 is a required science methods course in UBC's teacher education program. We infused the following concepts of CKP into EDCP 349

- Respect for student autonomy through the use of co-creation
- Demonstrations of teacher flexibility and kindness by being understanding, accommodating and mindful of student wellbeing.
- Interconnections through a focus on science through a political, social-justice lens

Impact on EDCP 349 Students

On two separate occasions we were able to gather direct feedback from 70 EDCP 349 students. This was done through the use of focus groups, where students had an opportunity to anonymously provide feedback on CKP and its infusion into EDCP 349. Student feedback was extensive and incredibly valuable in informing future directions for CKP.

Sample student quotes reflecting on course pedagogy:

"[The instructor] was realistic about workload and was flexible with due dates."

"I liked how [the instructor] was responsive to our feedback on her instruction."

"[The instructor] was interested in our answers and responses and was always interested in what we had to say during class discussion!"

Impact on EDCP 349 Students (con't)

Student quotes reflecting on "how will your participation in this course change the way you act as a teacher":

"I will be more climate-friendly! Would love to teach my students about climate change, etc. -> how they can make change"

"I understand that I take my positionality with me as a teacher and be aware of the different lived experiences of my students. I will be cognizant of power dynamics. The Orr reading was impactful and Braiding Sweetgrass is brilliant"

Future Directions

There is still much work to be done to finalize the CKP framework. From the feedback gathered so far, we may need to align the focus of CKP with kindness and climate relevant themes and develop an educators toolkit to support integration of CKP in courses and programs. Our immediate next steps include:

1. Develop an infographic to more succinctly communicate the values we are trying to incorporate in our pedagogy
2. Further develop the CKP Toolkit by populating it with resources

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