

Internationalisation in a Global Pandemic

An irritating disruption to *business as usual* or a rare opportunity for transformative learning?

Professor Emerita Betty Leask
La Trobe University, Melbourne

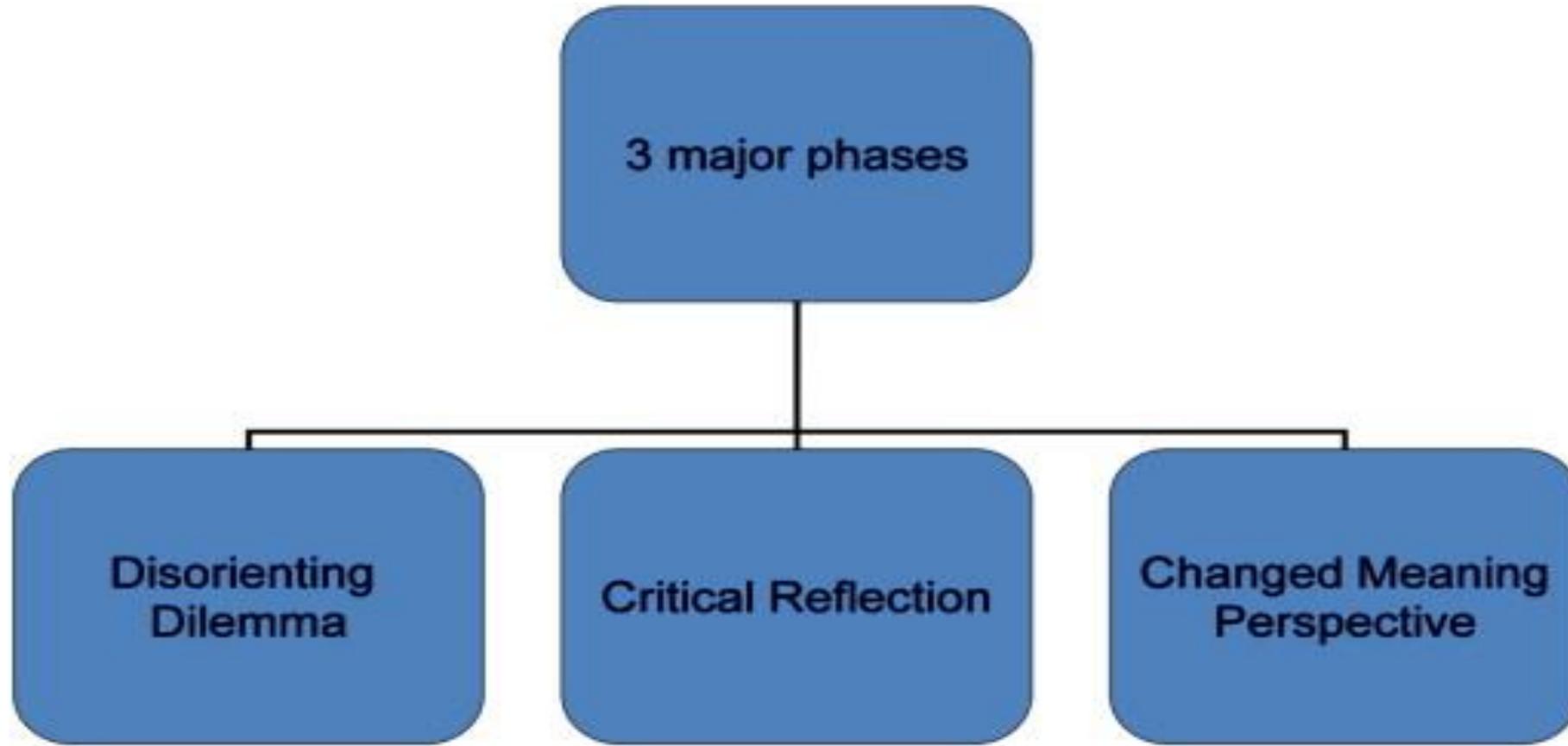
Leaskb@latrobe.edu.au



@BettyLeask

www.ioc.global

Transformative Learning (Mezirow, 1991)



Introduction

- Looking back
- Looking around
- Looking forward

Looking Back

How *good* was the past?

How good *was* the past?



'Business as usual' in internationalisation

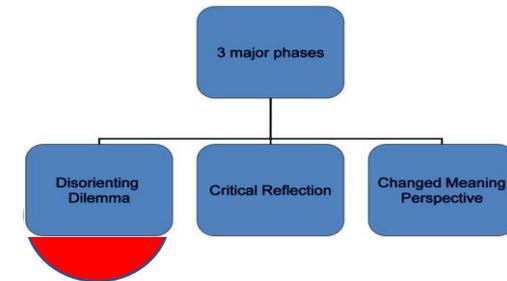
- Mobility and F2F learning the 'gold standard' of internationalisation
 - for students and staff
 - unique
 - transformative
 - life-changing
 - overwhelmingly positive
- Distinctions between learning abroad and learning at home
 - Learning abroad and learning at home are fundamentally different
 - Learning abroad is superior to learning at home
 - Learning abroad is distinct and separate from learning at home
 - Mindsets and skills

Looking around

What's happening?!

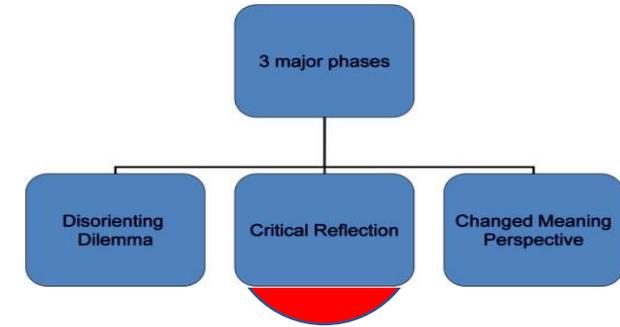


The challenges of internationalisation in a pandemic



- Crisis management and care for students at home and abroad
- Longer-term fulfilment of our duty of care to visiting international students
- With regard to mobility – what now?
 - COIL, Virtual Exchange?
 - Replace the abroad experience with intercultural experience at home?
- While managing new ways of working and living
- A disorienting dilemma

Approaching the pandemic as a watershed moment for internationalisation?



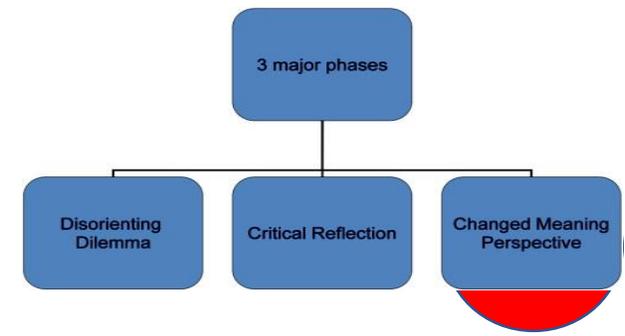
1. As graduates, *all students* will require global awareness, international perspectives and interculturality as graduates.
2. Study abroad and exchange programs are never going to be possible for all students.
3. We have many of the tools required to make international and intercultural experiences available to all students, if we are prepared to make the collective effort required.
4. COVID-19 has forced all of us to engage with technology in ways that we would never have imagined was possible.



Looking forward

What have we learned from the experience?

A Possible Future



1. Internationalisation will be more equitable - for *all students*.
Mobility one option, not the only option, not the gold standard.
2. Universities will use cultural and linguistic diversity of staff & students & in local & global communities to develop all students' intercultural and glocal awareness in class, on campus AND online.
3. New and/or different sorts of partnerships and new measures of the success of internationalisation will be developed.
4. Universities will themselves have a cosmopolitan heartset, mindset and skillset.

Repeating the past
won't create a new future.

Repeating the past
creates more
of the past.

Leadership Freak