

Dear Professor Williamson,

I am writing on behalf of PUP's request for information on former students concerning an article you will be writing soon to the MPNL. It is an honor to do so, I feel an overwhelming responsibility to you personally and all the teachers that participated in the 2014 class.

My interest and pursuit of education inside of prison started off as curiosity more than a sincere desire to learn. I wrote about my experience in my research 204 paper called "Liberalism in PUP." I'm enclosing a copy for you to look over in case there is something you can use. Poorly written, but my first research paper.

As I advanced further in PUP, I began to realize that I was capable of actually excelling and felt I was also contributing in a valuable way to my peers. My peers were also a valuable source of support and knowledge to my educational pursuits. I came to realize I was very proud of my college, peers and professors. I'm proud to a degree that many think me crazy to esteem this setting and its people so highly. I have an extreme confidence in the quality of education I've received and the capabilities of my alumni.

My first science class was physics w/lab. I ended the class with a c+, but going into the final exam I had a A; I ~~bombed~~ the final! Having completed the class I was excited about seeing Bio w/lab and thought it would be something worth checking-out. By far it was the most exciting and thought provoking class I've ever taken. So much so, I wish I could pursue it further upon my release. (Which by the way, I was granted parole and I'm waiting on the governor to sign off.) The biology class you taught is still the stuff legend in PUP. The lab activities are unbelievable to the people I share my experience with. It is hard to imagine how you guys got the approval to bring the human organs and the microscopes. Not to mention the organs we dissected. I truly hope others get to experience the same type of wonder I did about the inner workings of life. Biology is probably at the fore front of our society's next great discoveries. Much more to come!

Thank You So Much and Take Gods Blessings!..

Sincerely,



Carlos Flores

Liberalism in The Prison University Project, PUP

by Carlos Flores

April 28, 2013 San Quentin State Prison
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University Project, 4th semester English 204.

First research paper performed under
the teaching of Yula Paluy, Beatrice Kitzinger
& Jaime Lyons.

nice title
page

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great set-up!

nice dichotomy

data is plural, datum is singular form

gathered

Liberalism in The Prison University Project (PUP)

Arriving in San Quentin, one immediately

notices the differences between this prison and others.

A brand new hospital sticks out amongst the hundred

year old buildings that appear to be crumbling from

earthquakes past. The yard is half the size

most other prisons' and there is an atmosphere

you sense of years of tradition, I guess you

could call it the San Quentin way. It's free, what's free?

a liberal setting that to any seasoned prisoner

feels as if you've gone to some foreign land

and been introduced into an entirely different

prison system. A system that, if you wish, will

acknowledge you as an individual, different from

the cookie cutter prisons that resemble that New

Hospital at its center. Other prisons make you feel like

you are or you're

your seen only as a number, meant to be housed
and stored away from society. In those prisons

our is
obsessive,
like
your
+ "

one stands around awaiting the next act of violence that will lock you down in your cell for the next ^{straight} two months straight.

Here though, Canadian geese walk the yard being fed by inmates in spite of that being a rules violation.

Guards converse with inmates about stuff like family, sport and politics, by inmate standards ^{and} this is an unwritten rules violation of getting too close to the "Man."

It's normal here! Then the thing that startles you most is the ~~drives~~ of free people that walk straight through the prison yard.

Men incarcerated 20 years or more can't help but notice the pretty ^{women} that are in the group. Where are they going?

PUP, the Prison University Project. No hoard of prison guards protecting them, just some regular Janes and Joes from colleges having any fear they may have.

I was struck by how free this all was, and completely normal and unattended to. I inquired how to get into

the program.

this program, and expecting an "act of God" reply from my friend. What happened was, in that very moment

I was led past the gate of the school without being stopped (this in itself felt foreign) to a woman named Jody

Lewen. I told her I wanted to be part of the program, the response was immediate, "OK!". This ease ^{with} at which

I was accepted led me to make a request of being placed straight into a credit earning class rather than

having to take the non-credit earning classes. She told me I'd have to show myself approved and ready

to take on the rigors of the program. I was desperate and pressing on her to make this happen somehow. I

explained that I wanted to stay at San Quentin and the program could be a means to anchor me in the prison.

(My real motivation for wanting to be in the program initially) She assured me in a way that this wasn't her first dog and

pony show that I was in the program. In December

thought
he free
and pretty
copy
were a
motivation
two

of 2011, not even a month after arriving I was taking tests for English and Math placement. Having placed into

the prep classes I was a little disappointed, no credits

this semester, I soon realized though how unprepared

I was for the curriculum⁴ I was being assigned. This

forced me to attend the study hall PUP offers 6

nights a week that consists of volunteers tutors

that range from people with Ph.D's to no less than

a BA degree. Little did I know at that time, these

people would lead me to the topic of this research

paper through my encounters with them. Throughout that

semester and the ones to follow I would encounter all

these volunteers on a one on one basis as they helped

tutor me on subjects ranging from basic math, to my

current class, English 204. Their openness and willingness

to help me was puzzling, "why were they doing this?"

I would think. I was getting an education free of

New Sentence

5

charge, and so were all my classmates, we're all men
for the most part convicted of the most serious of crimes.

This question is how I'd end my tutoring sessions with them.

I would ask, "why are you doing this?" Through their
answers I began to realize they were all liberals, and mostly
atheist or agnostic. Expecting to hear that these were
God fearing people sent to help educate prisoners, I

was shocked to see time after time that none identified

this as their motive for volunteering. My informal research

began at this realization. I had an almost systematic

approach to this research even then, and due to the

liberal content of the curriculum I was assigned, it

allowed me to be able to peer into their beliefs and

motives further. Poems like "United Fruit," by Pablo Neruda

gave me a chance to see that many volunteers

identified as socialist, or in some cases bold communist.

This might be true, but what is it about the poem that made you think Socialist?
(Neruda was a communist himself). Topics like these opened 'de clara'

doors into the liberal mindsets I was starting to see
in the volunteers. At first I began to think these people
had ulterior motives, and were using us to get something
 nefarious, somehow underhandedly working with the
prison administration. To me these people had no God
or objective truth in their lives that should lead
them to want to do this work, yet they would claim to be

in the restorative^a justice movements or dedicated to the
humanities. Their liberal ideologies had no contrast
and I started to think "where were the conservatives?"

Having begun this semester in English 204 and
needing a topic on which to base my research, I
was frustrated that my first 3 proposals were rejected.
So I went with what I knew and was interesting
to me; why were all the volunteers I encountered liberal?

People in the class challenged the claim, even teachers ^{not}
didn't fully buy into the claim. If my former informal ^{so,}

research proved to be true there'd be next to no conservatives in PUP, it was set as to what I'd write about. Why was the make up PUP so heavily liberal? I devised a questionnaire that would reveal my belief, or disprove it

This questionnaire would prove to be the primary source of information for this paper. In the absence of any Conservatives from whom I could have drawn valuable data, I'm left with nothing more, ~~than more~~ than more questions. Mainly why there is no conservative presence in PUP, I am left with no lack ~~of information~~ ~~all good~~ all good 😊 on the liberals though, and I'll be able to draw on Judy

what's here paper? Lewen's paper "Academics Belong In Prison", as I feel you and I discussed that you need to discuss your sources rather her paper reveals her sentiments and motives as ^{than simply} mention them PUP's founder. Her motives and sentiments can be seen in the volunteers through the responses I gathered through my interviews, they are a reflection of Lewen.

Lewen is currently the executive director of PUP, and she is one of the reasons why PUP's personnel is so liberal, I will incorporate statistical data that demonstrates PUP is comprised of people that I found to exclusively identify as liberal. There are many factors that play into why it is so liberal that ~~are beyond the scope and~~ ^{no, they are not beyond the scope and} ~~ability of this paper, but the ones I can identify~~ ^{and would} ~~from within these prison walls are well known to~~ ^{considerably} ~~me, and are the foundation on which I built~~ ^{enrich} ~~my thesis.~~ ^{your} ^{arguments}

I believe that due to Jody Lewen's presence, and the curious, progressive nature of academic liberals, PUP has drawn people who have similar ideologies and degrees in disciplines that are predominately filled by liberals. These academic people have a strong belief in restorative^a justice and are seeking a

sense of purpose that goes beyond their family, work and self. These are characteristics and social beliefs that are inherent to the liberal academic and are a substitution for the churches most don't attend.

For the purpose of this paper a liberal is someone who adheres to a combination of the following beliefs or self admission of being a liberal (as they define it for themselves) when asked the question of whether or not they are liberal or conservative. People who believe in progressivism, feminism, socialism, humanitarianism, and identify with the American Democratic Party will also qualify as a liberal having agreed to two or more of things listed above.

how about a standard definition of liberals/liberalism? even a dictionary one

I will lay this paper out in the following way to make my argument, but will address first

a big question I felt was important to this research paper. Who are the financial backers of PUP? Then I will discuss Jody Lewen and her paid PUP staff's contributions to the liberal make up of PUP using them as the projector of what I found in the volunteers, I'll then transition and show from my data gathered through the

interviews, how the volunteers are this reflection

of the PUP staff, I will use my ^{empirical} empirical data

and statistical data from other's research

to show a ^{correlation} correlation between the two branches

of PUP. To conclude I'll look at the demographic

break down of the Bay Area, and all of California

as part of the reason for this liberal make up. This

will lead to an obvious question; where are the conservatives

in PUP? The demographics will also highlight another

interesting question, why are conservatives lacking

in this type of volunteer work within prisons, and

implemantion of like programs in their communities

inspite of ^{heavily} heavily populated conservative areas

scattered throughout California.

The BIG Question

13

Having started the formal research process I was excited, and thought I would be encouraged and fully supported

in my search for answers when it came to the PUP

staff. Soon into my research I sensed I had

ruffled feathers by asking who were the financial

backers of PUP. It made sense to me to ask

this question because according to Jody Lewen in

her paper "Academics Belong In Prison," PUP is ^{nice}

fully self supported, not relying on any state or

federal funds. Lewen founded PUP in 2003 due

to this lack of ^{financial} financial help in order to generate

funds through donations. What caused this lack of funding

was the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act

of 1994, this ^{barred} ~~barred~~ prisoners from receiving college

Pell grants to further their education; (Lewen #690)

I wanted to know then; who was funding PUP? I was

told by several PUP staff that they were foundations

and individuals, but specifics were lacking on exactly who these people ~~were~~ ^{were} who give to the cause of educating

incarcerated men. Are they Liberals and what are their reasons for contributing?

I felt I was on sensitive ground, and no matter how sincere ~~of~~ my motives were I was aware of their mistrust. I tried

reassuring them I wasn't after financial records, but rather the ^{origins} origins of the money. I spoke ~~of~~ ^{of} my

gratitude for program as an attempt to soften their position and made clear I had no agenda other

than to discover why PUP was made up of entirely self identifying liberals. On one particular occasion

while speaking with an unnamed PUP staff member, I could see a bewildered look in the persons eyes

when asking where the funding was coming from, I felt like a loose zoo animal inquiring where the meat

had come from, and this person was the ~~zoo~~ zoo care taker

did you ask this question? Instead of asking for financial records, and this would give you the info you wanted

like I told you earlier how would a list of names reveal their socio-political identity? this info wouldn't help you know who they are liberal or conservative

puzzled as to why I'd care, just eat it. I was politely told that to get that type of information would require too much staff time to discover. At that point I left that area alone, but I was a little disheartened that I wouldn't be able to identify these people who donate money to PUP. I feel confident I could identify them, they would also be linked to liberal social and political failure causes. Mentioning this ~~failure~~ to get information on who donors are may seem like a digression, but it's important, because I see the volunteers as a reflection of Jody Lewen and the PUP staff, they in turn must be a reflection of the financial backers and their world view. The names of the foundations perhaps but not necessarily; and the names of individual donors would be of no use and just compromise their privacy

The Projector

Using Jody Lewen's paper "Academics Belong in Prison"

and a paper PUP put out called "PUP/History and Background"

~~Can't read this~~

on political and social issues. Seeing I was limited on my interview capabilities with the paid PUP staff due to time constraints, these two papers will provide info on the PUP staff I feel is accurate based on their own accounts and my personal experiences with them prior to starting this research paper.

I began my profiling with PUP's founder and director Jody Lewen, and further focused in on PUP's two other main directors Kara Union, the program director, and Amanda Howell, the Program Associate.

When I had first started the program I dubbed these three the Holy Trinity of PUP because I soon seen

them as the most influential and constant presence in the program. Through these three women all major and

minor decisions are made. A bio of their lives and

professions will give an accurate picture of who

they are on the social issues. ~~How~~ Lewen is

a graduate from UC Berkeley and received a Ph.D. in rhetoric. She also received a MA in philosophy and comparative literature from Freie Universität, Berlin. Having written extensively in the fields of psychoanalysis, literary theory, and criminal justice, Lewen has won awards for her public ^{service} receiving the Peter E. Haas

Award from Berkeley in 2006. Lewen's life seems to have been filled with causes that liberals tend to gravitate towards, and her degrees in the academic fields of the humanities & social sciences strongly suggest these are inherent to academic liberals in general. A survey conducted by the University of Toronto in 2008 revealed that 72% of all college professors identify as liberal. A closer look at other numbers of the Toronto

(History and Background #3)

numbers shows that when looking at the particular disciplines of those professors there is a correlation between liberals and the disciplines of the Humanities and Social Sciences. 81% and 75% of the professors in the Humanities and Social Sciences respectively identified themselves as liberal on Political and Social issues. So it stands to reason that those with degrees in those same fields would follow a similar trend and have a propensity to identify as the same if surveyed. I noticed something peculiar about

those same numbers by discipline when it came to Engineering and Business professors. The numbers fell to 51% and 49% respectively that identified themselves as liberal. This finding made me take notice that PUP doesn't offer either of these two class. Initially I believed that

why do you think that is? engage with the findings

these classes weren't offered because there was a higher

(Survey of University of Toronto 2008)

rate of conservatism in those disciplines making it less likely to have a steady pool of volunteers ^{for} these classes. I was told by Lewen in casual conversation that PUP doesn't offer these classes because they are not necessary to obtain the AA degree possible through PUP. Still the absence of these classes made it less likely to have any conservatives in PUP.

yes

As I continued to look into the PUP staff and my theory that they are a projector of the volunteers, I relied on the paper "History and Background" to make this argument. It wasn't hard to phathom why I was seeing so many liberals. This paper as well as a history of PUP also includes a bio, social and academic break down of all the PUP staff, looking at how they match up by profession/discipline, and some of the social work in the paper that is attributed to them I see a correlation between the Toronto survey numbers that linked professors

Kara Union, Program Director: B.A. Degree in Literacy and Cultural Studies from Mills College, Oakland, Ca. Social work includes working in developing health and nutrition in Guatemalan Women's Prison in 2007, Reception and Detention for Adolescents at Riker's Island, New York, leading writing workshops, and facilitated support groups for women with incarcerated family members. ① ✓

Amanda Howell, Program Assistant: B.A. Degree in Public Policy from U.C. Berkeley, California. Social work includes management for artist Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars and J.T. Cole. ② ✓

Jacqueline Nelson, Operations Manager: MPA. with emphasis on Human Rights and Social Justice, Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations with emphasis on Inequality Studies, from Cornell University. ③ ✓

Sabrina Quth, Development Director: Bachelor of Arts Degree, Yale University, Conn. Social work includes Director for Hands On Bay Area, promoted asset-building as an effective poverty-fighting strategy, Manager of Assets Resource Network. ④ ✓

Katy Negrin, Development Associate: Bachelor of Arts Degree and Jurisprudence Degree from Columbia University. Social work includes, Human Rights Manager, Open Society Institute, Budapest, Hungary, was also a Human Rights Officer in Kosovo and Bosnia. ⑤ ✓

(PUP/History and Background: ① #3

② #4
③ #4
④ #4
⑤ #4,5

This list of Program Officials show that their degrees ~~and~~ in the Humanities and social work in the areas of Social Justice would be strong indicator of liberalism. The Toronto numbers that found 81% of professors in the Humanities, and 75% of Professors in Social Sciences

identified as liberal is a compelling argument ~~of~~ ^{logical} fault - just because

that the graduates of these teachers would follow a similar rate of liberal self identification. I did ^{I'm liberal doesn't mean that you will be}

attempt to interview 5 of the 7 ~~people~~ Directors and was told by all that ^{Also, AS I mentioned to you before there is} time was issues, or to reschedule ^{research} ~~showing~~

for another day. Then that day would come and go with ^{that} ~~no~~ ^{students} ~~interview~~, but 1 person was ^{do not, in fact} ~~interviewed~~ who wished to ^{become "convert"} ~~to~~ ^{to their} ~~remain~~ ^{teachers/profs.} ~~unidentified~~ ^{positions} ~~but~~ ~~refused~~ to answer the question

as to being liberal or Conservative. There was another person I found interesting in "History and Background"; Zack Watson ^{it's common practice to keep the identity of your research subjects minimal}

(1) University of Toronto Survey 2008

an MBA candidate at Stanford Graduate School of Business, I only took notice due to the Toronto study that showed a decline to 49% of professors in Business that identified as liberal. Could he be the conservative out there in PUP, I wondered. Unfortunately I'm unlikely to even know because I've never met him or been aware

of his presence at San Quentin [What is it I'm making a point of?] That what I noticed early on, is that the people in PUP, both paid staff and volunteers are a stark contrast to what I've experienced in prison over the last 19 years of my incarceration. All of these people are liberal and believe in something I've never experienced in prison; a second chance that is facilitated through education. Is that the liberals have changed or that my experience in prison has been

again, as I said on your draft, no need to have these rhetorical questions; simply make the point

good question

surrounded by a conservative view of crime and punishment? I'm not sure, but this research has opened my eyes to the number of liberals involved in this program, and it's no subtle difference in the disparity between liberals and conservatives. This disparity is striking. It's striking this disparity, and indicative of some type of inherent philosophy

○

of liberals that make them more likely to be involved in PUP. I found one answer that sums up this philosophy. I asked "why do you volunteer?"

"To use my training and education to be of service to world/offer individuals constantly reminded of how they've failed in life that they can, in fact, succeed." (Allie Walker, interview) This statement I feel

○

validates what I see, that the volunteers here are on a mission, (in their view) to change their world through education.

ok

I singled out Jody and the staff as the projectors of the volunteers. This word may seem

an odd metaphor, but to just call the volunteers

a projection of the paid staff wasn't sufficient

in my view. I need to point out that Jody's

views are original in this setting of prisons. I've

found nothing similar in writing to indicate that one

person has founded an organization i.e. PUP in this

case, and has implemented it into a prison setting

free of any State or Federal funds. She must

be seen as a projector of sorts, and her early

thoughts are seen today in the volunteers like

Wollner and many other I've interviewed. Lewen's

paper "Academic Belong In Prison" reveal her

initial reasons for coming and what has kept her

coming since 1999. These are the same thoughts

the draw the volunteers, and this will be expounded

I think it works well actually within your argument

You haven't looked for it hence didn't find it; there are other programs

ok, good

on more later.

"As excited as I was about the idea of providing people in prison with higher education, I was also nervous about entering a prison. As I walked through the gates that first evening, I felt a rush of terror - the feeling of doing something dangerous and reckless, of losing control - as if I was leaning too far over an edge or driving too fast on a curve. What propelled me past that moment was undoubtedly the sheer force of my desire finally to find a way both to be an academic and to devote myself to improving the lives of marginalized and vulnerable people.

I had imagined I would be exposing myself to a substantial degree of risk for the sake of a greater good, but the reality was entirely different. Meeting that first group of bright, motivated, hard-working and deeply appreciative students defied all my negative expectations and ultimately changed my entire life (Lewen, Academics Belong In Prison, 2008 #689)

Here it seems Lewen is facing down a fear of entering a prison for what she sees as the "greater good" (Lewen 689) to help a marginalized people.

This from what I have gathered from interviews is what most liberals feel that are part of PUP. Different from the conservative belief (my opinion) of lockem'

away, throw away the key, and keep them away from
 accustomed
 me attitude I'm accustomed to. These people run toward
 their fear with a positive mind of I can change

things. Could it be that liberals, because they are more
 likely to be involved in the Humanities and Social
 Sciences are armed with the knowledge that is

you are
 not
 fleshing
 out
 it's
 connection

key to crime prevention and rehabilitation. Their answers
 indicate that they feel confident they're not wasting their
 time and energy volunteering. Their answers also say
 something more, they really have a sincere desire
 to help marginalized people and it's life changing for
 them.

The Projections: Image of the staff?

I was told by some respondents that my
 questionnaire was leading at certain point, or was telling
 in the sense they knew I was getting at PUP's
 liberal bias; Still it produced odd answers to certain

questions, and never produced results I'd thought I'd see. To clarify I conducted two different types of interviews with the volunteers. One that took about 15 to 20 minutes to conduct and another that was the same question just condensed down to a check box to field answers. I had to do this due to time constraints and get as many of the

volunteers quantified as Liberal or Conservative^① I was able to interview 34 of approximately 100 volunteers. (History #2) ✓

This section will focus mostly on some of the answers I heard from the volunteers. I will discuss how how they are the projection (in discipline and sentiment) ✓ of Lewen and PUP staff.

To begin, of all the respondents none identified themselves as a conservative. This is what I thought I'd find. I had a good sense of the volunteers from all my time spent being tutored by them over the semesters.

① I refer to check box answer and the ticked question

I did however have one person who identified as a Republican, but quickly followed that up with "only because of my money"¹⁰ I wasn't surprised by any of the total numbers of any particular questions, but one was higher than I expected. This was the number of people believed that believed in a God. 10 of the 34 said they believed in a God¹¹ Still a low number comparatively

because according to The Bay Area Center for Voting Research 4% of atheist and agnostics identify as conservative. The rest of the 96% are in the liberal to moderate categories. I expected to see a lower number than the 10 believers because of my assumptions that mostly all were atheist or agnostic. This question of belief was important to me because I wanted to know if for the atheist and agnostic were their motives for volunteering different than the believers.

interesting

¹⁰ Wishes to remain anonymous.
¹¹ Leaven is an atheist from the conversations I've had with her (No formal interview)

They weren't much different at all from what I gathered. I found that through one atheist's answer to this question of why he volunteered that he believed:

"it's a good cause, it helps people and I like to teach"

he also added "I was curious about life in prison, I've never talked to anyone in prison before and I want to help people advance" (Alex Naka) this answer

was revealing because it had many of motives and sentiments that resonated with answers from other volunteers. It

also reflects Lewen's as well. I heard from the volunteers key words and phrases like, fun, curious help people less fortunate, love to teach and I want to make a difference. It was never a sense of duty to a God^①, or that they had known people in prison and wanted to vicariously help someone they knew in prison. It felt as if education is

their religion and school their church. Only 14 of 34

This is a strange dichotomy - it's not like a motivation has to be driven by a religious sentiment ya. you make it sound as if people are either driven by a belief in God, or by a belief in something they treat as God-

Notes: More notes in a separate notebook did also to Ex 6

Volunteers had known someone in prison and none identified these people as some close except one.

She had come from a family that was troubled, and had once herself been incarcerated. For her, her motives did have a sense of coming back from where she had come from, but she was vehement in her declaration of being an atheist. I think

there is a lot to be said that nobody identified a sense of duty to a god seeing many of these volunteers

most
origins ← graduated from colleges founded by Christians. Colleges
re long like Yale, Brown and others. Their motives were rather
ost due to their beliefs in restorative justice and humanitarianism.

I say restorative justice and humanitarianism because one of the "test the water" questions from the questionnaire was:

"Why do you think or do you think liberals are more likely to be involved in PUP?" A common response was that liberals were more likely to believe in these two social

causes. This is supported by the Toronto study indicating degrees in the Humanities and Social Sciences are dominated by self-identifying liberals. ^①

During my 19 years in the prison system I've been enrolled in the state run education as both a student and teachers aid. This system is employed by the (CDCR) (California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation) California

Teachers Union. My experiences in the state run system tell me that many of the teachers here are conservative, I worked for one that was a staunch Republican and would hear the many conversations on their motives for being involved in the education system run by the state. It seemed to revolve around pay and their Union in my opinion. Some of the teachers I knew were former Correctional officers, and in many case teachers marry Correctional officers.

^① Toronto Survey 81% of professor's in Humanities are liberal, 75% in Social Science are liberal.

In my questionnaire I posed the following questions with a specific intent, not only as a test the water question, but as a set up to another. "Why do you think, or do you think Conservatives are less likely to be involved in PUP?" and "Why do you think, or do you think Liberals are more likely to be involved with PUP?" I pivoted off these two questions with "If

you discuss this already on the previous page -

people were paid to teach how do you think it ^{changed} PUP?" I expected that due to the previous two questions to hear something along the lines of maybe it would attract more conservatives. It never even occurred to even one respondent that this may be an outcome of having a paid teaching staff. Rather their answers ranged from a paid staff of teachers would, bring better teachers, more structure, hurt the program or bring better materials in to the program. I asked them to quantify the quality of AA students in

in PUP you get and on average they said it would rate a 7 on a scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest level of good quality. So a paid staff seems unnecessary.

This is what the average volunteers look like

based on the data from the questionnaire. A 33 year Democrat female old liberal Democrat female. This person would feel a sense of satisfaction of 8.7 from 1-10 from volunteering in PUP. She would never have known someone locked up in prison and strongly identifies with feminism. The economic philosophy of this person would be somewhere between socialism and capitalism, and would say "no" when asked is time money for you? She would be either an atheist or agnostic in her belief in a god and would hold degrees ranging from a BA and in some cases a PHD. This person would be highly educated speaking multiple languages and would have graduated from

this describes at least one of your current 204 instructors almost to a t.

a nationally distinguished ^{college} college like Stanford, UC Berkeley, Brown, Yale or Brandee. I compiled this average person to demonstrate that this person would more likely than not be a liberal according to a study performed by Ethan Fosse of Harvard and Neil Gross of Columbia. The two published a paper outlining liberalism within Professors of Universities

called "Why Are Professors Liberal?" → and why is that? what is/are

That first thing I note from their paper ^{their arguments} that is similar to what I found was; woman outnumbered ?

men 25 to 9 in my interviews. Fosse and Neil's study revealed that women with advanced degrees tend to be more liberal than men with equivalent educational credentials (Gross, Fosse #30)

Second thing noted was the number of people that said time wasn't money for them. It was a 18-16 result. 18 saying time was not money for

(m) Even this # of 9 men might be slightly higher than half of

for them. This is similar to Fosse and Gross findings
 Lawrence
 who quote Lawrence Summers's paper "Symposium On
 Professors and Their Politics", Summers says "People with
 a taste for business and making money tend to hold
 more conservative views and support the Republican
 Party" (#29) This person described by Summers is

the antithesis of what I found in DUP. Money does not
 play a role into their consideration of volunteering here in

DUP, and a majority agreed time was not money. ~~Out~~
 Except for
 side of the one Republican I found in DUP this could

explain why in part no conservatives were found.

→ why is that?
 because it's
 unpaid?
 says so

My interviews revealed that the volunteers here are in
 the middle of the road on the importance they place
 on money. To highlight this, 7 of the 34 claimed Socialism

as their preferred economic model, and only 5 of the 34
 preferred Capitalism. 20 either refused to answer or didn't

(I noticed in the 'is time money for you' that many
 would follow up with subliminal answers that qualified
 that's not an answer due to some times it's chosen than seemed)

prefer one model over the other, I posed another question that would relate back to the "time money for you" question, by asking the volunteers: "What level of satisfaction do you get out of volunteering?" On average, based on a 1-10 scale

they said 8.7. (10 being maximum satisfaction) I did this to contrast the value they placed on money as opposed to the value they placed on their volunteer work.

did you ask them a question about the importance of money on a 1-10 scale?

This was similar to something Summers found, they placed more value in their work than they did money. Summers

says: "We tested this hypothesis by examining how much importance professors placed on the meaningfulness of work as opposed to other aspects like remuneration, and whether this accounts in part for their liberal views." (Summers in Gross, Issue #29) I agree with this hypothesis

what did they find? testing a hypothesis and confirming it are not the same

and feel that their motives are driven by a sense of self satisfaction from teaching, and gives them a feeling that they are "improving the lives of a marginalized

and vulnerable people" (Lemon #4). They also have the benefit here at PUP, that due to the lack of any conservative presence they can spread liberal ideology unopposed. I equate this to the proselytizing of minds

towards a liberal world view. Education is their religion and school their church. — you said so already, and it's a nice turn of a phrase but what supports it?

The Stage — Bay Area

San Quentin is located 20 minutes east of San Francisco and is surrounded by many colleges that are in the vicinity of the Bay Area (Northern California)

This is part of the reason also for such a high number of liberals in my opinion, and was one of the most

common answers I heard from the volunteers as to why they thought there were so many liberals in PUP. According

to the Bay Area Center for Voting Research, 4 of

the top 25 most liberal cities in the U.S. are in California. 3 of those 4 cities are in the Bay Area

(1) Base on the answers to: Why do you think or do you think

They list Berkeley 3rd, Oakland 5th and San Francisco 9th in the nation. The other city on that list is over 400 miles away in Southern California. This geographic location, being surrounded by such a highly populated liberal area easily makes it in part one of the reasons PUP is so liberally biased, yet I asked

the volunteers if they knew many conservatives and 22 of the 34 said indeed they did, and many of these people would say that those conservative people they knew, would make comments about prisoners that would indicate the volunteers were wasting their time and effort. Does this belief I heard vicariously through the liberal volunteers explain this next set of numbers?

The Bay Area Center for Voting Research also found that of the top 25 most conservative cities in the U.S. 7 are in California. The list included

Bakersfield 5th, Grange Ca. 10th, Escondido 11th, Garden

10 None of these 7 cities are located near Stanford

Grove 17th, Simi Valley 18th, Corona 19th and Huntington Beach 25th. Does this explain why prisons in those surrounding areas don't have a program like PUP?

Those 7 cities are all southern California area in which there are no less than 8 prisons that could be accessible to them, and many colleges that could facilitate it.

My Reflections: The paper, research and future.
What is it exactly about San Quentin that

is so unique and allows for this program to exist?

I think it's what I've laid out from the start, Jody Hewes's tenacity to not let this disappear, and her mind projected out to her staff and volunteers.

They've all bought into it and it's a vision of a liberal mind, that conservatives seem not able to

grasp. There are still so many questions left

unanswered, but I have at least demonstrated

the liberal make-up of PUP staff and its

volunteers. I've given many of the contributing factors of why this phenomenon is occurring here in San Quentin, but the why it was so important for me to ask this question was profound. The question was easily answered, but the consequences of its reality have not. The truth is from the beginning of my PUP education I felt a need to guard myself from

their liberal world views. It make sense that if we

the students are taught by a purely liberal faculty,

their thoughts and beliefs seep into the mind of us

students, just like once upon a time their professors

thoughts seeped into their minds. I'm not guarded from

the position of a conservative, but rather aware of

the absence of another powerful world view. Aware

that education seems to be the vehicle through which

liberalism and its world view are spread. This paper

could only answer so much, but has been the foundation.

not
necessarily
so

nice

40

of new questions that I'll be researching in the future. PUP has no responsibility in my opinion to diversify and recruit conservatives, far had conservatives wished to be here they would be. Their absence is a missed opportunity to engage in a social issue of major importance. Many see conservatives as disinterested in rehabilitation within prisons. This disinterest is indicative of the ignorance their views foster on crime and punishment, on education's ability to positively influence inmates.

(Next paper will focus on my papers and interviews of them and what they believe on this issue of being taught by a liberal University with no conservative contrast.)

cool

I heard this same sentiment from many of volunteers when I would ask them why there were no conservatives in PDP. Some even made derogatory comments on the character and intelligence of conservatives. Those type of answers seemed to be more of a defence of what they see as a "marginalized a vulnerable people" (Lewen #4) They allow for us to move beyond

our crimes that seem to be a stone of stumbling for the conservatives. It's the reason many of these people from Jody Lewen down to Alex Naka are here, do use what they've learned to influence and change. That they are liberal is of no consequence to me personally, only to my mind its future firmation.

This research journey, both informal and formal has been very enlightening and spiritual. To peer into the minds of people convinced of doing good for the sakes of good gives a sense of love for your

brother. I see it as what Jesus called and said to do "love one another as I loved you." I am not an academic yet, I do not write like an academic should, but this paper will be the first of many more. My awareness of being taught through this liberal lense is sharpening my mind and constantly keeps me taking self inventory of what I'm becoming.

Carlos - nicely engaging paper with several improvements from the draft. I'm very glad to hear that you are finding your academic journey meaningful and fulfilling. However, several of the major points of revision you and I discussed based on your draft have remained unanswered, particularly, your lack of serious and detailed engagement with the research resources at your disposal. You seem to have cherry-picked brief passages that supported your ideas, but did not adequately describe the meat of either Jody's paper, nor the Fosse & Gross paper. The latter, in particular, included a wealth of information on why academics might be liberal, and thus your paper, although thoroughly supported by statistics, does not get to answer and ponder the heart of your research question. You were a curious, sharp, and engaged presence in the class, and I hope that you will not shy away from deeper engagement with scholarly critical discourse. Always, Unleashed

Interview Questionnaire

College

Degrees you have

Age

Years in PUP

Liberal/Conservative?

Atheist/Agnostic/Believer?

◦ Why do you volunteer?

◦ What do you hope to get out of your work here?

◦ Ever know somebody in prison before volunteering? Yes/NO

◦ Sympathize w/ feminism? Yes/NO

◦ How difficult is it teaching the students at PUP. From 1-10? 1 is easy 10 is difficult.

◦ Why do you think, or do you think Conservatives are less likely to volunteer?

◦ Why do you think, or do you think liberals are more likely to volunteer in PUP?

◦ How did you get involved in PUP?

◦ How do you think or do you think PUP would change if people were paid to teach.

0 Is time money for you? Yes/No

0 Do you speak multiple languages? YES/No Which?

0 What is the quality of the AA degree one can get through PUP? 1-10. 1 is not very good 10 is very good.

0 How will your future be changed or affected by working w/PUP

0 Are you a capitalist or Socialist?

0 Have you attended any religious schools?

0 Did you have a religious upbringing?

1 Do you know a significant # of conservatives.

Annotated Bibliography

1. "PUP History and Background" (undated and authorless document provided by research team)

This source was on the History of PUP and a short Bio on the PUP staff.

I used this source to look into the degrees and background of the PUP staff to demonstrate how they were linked to liberal disciplines.

2. Fosse, Ethan and Neil Gross, "Why Are Professors Liberal" January 15, 2010. (Unpublished working paper)

This paper was based on info/data gathered between 1974-2008 that shows College professors are typically liberal on social and political causes.

I used this source to support claims I make about the PUP paid staff and its volunteers.

was the paper entirely in agreement with your preconceptions was there anything surprising or contrary to what you thought?

3. Lewen, Jody "Academics Belong In Prison." 2008. Modern Language Association of America

This article was about Jody's personal journey to and through PUP's creation as its founder and now director. It encompasses many of her sentiments about incarceration and her views on education.

I used this to show Jody's mind set as a representation of the volunteers in general. I also used to provide certain facts about PUP's independence from state and federal funds.