

Lynn Lobo on Worldwork 2008  
Adelaide, Australia  
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Attending Worldwork in London has been a tremendous gift for me in so many ways and it's hard beginning to write about it. I spent over a year preparing for it (or rather the Dreaming prepared me) as I worked through issues around my father's death, his life story, my family's story around the partition of India and consequent displacement, and then our fateful migration to Australia. I knew there was a great family and cultural saga drawing me to Worldwork.

I was fascinated by the London location; to be in the land of the coloniser and notice the intensity of the dialogue I could engage in there with English people. This dialogue doesn't exist for an Indian migrant to Australia. Our conversation here is between aboriginal people and the white coloniser who has structured the society we live in. It was marvellous seeing Indian people on television, on the streets and as part of the House of Lords. It made me aware of the political impact of migration and the changing face of the coloniser. India too is changing its status in the world arena and within herself. I was curious about the fluidity within these roles. This was part of the wider field of Worldwork for me.

At the forum, I absolutely loved meeting such a rich variety of people and sharing deeply with them. Listening to their feelings about themselves in the world, in history, politically, spiritually, yet not knowing what they did for a living or much of their CR lives. I loved the group process and conversations with other Indian and Pakistani people. I came to realise the far reaching story of my mother country, throughout the globe and through time.; but also facing the marginalisation, fragmentation and shameful aspects of this incredible story. I sat weeping, listening to this story and knew it was my body. I am that entire story. This understanding had never occurred to me while visiting India, and perhaps it was a right timing after holding my father's life story through his dying process. It was a tremendous gift listening to so many other people sharing their lives through painful, joyful and deeply moving interactions and witnessing the earth's story in the palpable present.

After Worldwork I spent ten days walking the Cornish coast and reflecting on that experience. Walking is many things to me and I have a great love for it. I noticed my immersion in witnessing and felt my ability to listen had no limits. It occurred to me that I could spend my life walking this planet and listening. I looked back on my life in Australia and for the first time realised the amount of privilege I have, despite the hardships of my CR identity as a coloured woman and a lesbian. I realised how my life journey has given me a sense of inner freedom and that I can make better use of my privilege if I lighten my footprint on the planet even further.

Us Aussies also had some time in the centre for a process. We sat with many felt emotions while listening to the rage, strength and generosity of our Aboriginal friends. We had a meeting after the process at Worldwork and have kept an online discussion group going. The discussion is still active as we process issues around racism, shame, paralysis and begin to approach the concept of 'Reconciliation' and what that means for people with different cultural backgrounds. Recently we were able to deepen this process by considering different communication and learning styles. Personally I am grateful for the eldership skills of our Aboriginal friends and the opportunity to learn. Since returning from the UK, I have considered this issue of Reconciliation more deeply and am creating ways to become more active around it. This is a key focus of people participating in the online group.

Worldwork has had a profound effect on me and continues to reverberate throughout my life.