

Worldwork fascinates me. It has so many levels and like a good Sufi story, each time I go to one, it opens up new perspectives and insights. It speaks to both what is uppermost in my consciousness and to deeper unknown layers. My Worldwork journey began in India where almost for the first time I really confronted what it meant to be Indian, especially the unconscious baggage from colonial times and the different marginalized parts of India within and around me. I feel indebted to the teachings on racism of the African American community present at that Worldwork and later at Washington DC for helping me explore the ongoing effects of being a woman from a once-colonized culture and how it shaped my identity as a global citizen. Initially I did fear that accepting the style, structure and form of Worldwork itself would be submitting to colonization again, but I found space within Worldwork which allowed exploration of other ways of being and communicating. This freed me to occupy space in any way I pleased in any part of the world!

In Greece I was able to have an involved detachment and experience the different processes and people more deeply. It was after this that I felt confident of using Worldwork methods in the classroom, initially to work with classroom conflicts and later to extend it to violent divisions in the city and country. I discovered the power of Worldwork methods to encourage young people to question the walls they build around their identities and to experience the 'other' within themselves.

After the London Worldwork I was left with the feeling that this was the best one of those I had been to. The group was large and diverse with people who seemed to have deep experiences of love and hate. The processes felt, real, present and connected to current issues. Some I felt were very volatile and had the potential of escalating into violence. The facilitation almost Taoist at times.

One thing that struck me about many of the processes was the amount of pain. There was so much pain in our world from past and current traumas. It was incredible experiencing how the group held it and so created space for people to move beyond cycles of revenge and violence into exploration of new futures.

With violence, both physical and structural, increasing in our world, my current preoccupation is world peace. Peace has not come from peace treaties, agreements and mediations involving the top hierarchies, but it may come from dialogue where more people can be involved in making decisions that affect their lives. Worldwork is a method that is an evolving experiment of facilitating dialogue in large and diverse groups. I feel its potential as a tool for world peace is yet unexplored and unutilized. I hope more research is done in this direction.

Radhika Pandya
India