

IDEA 2a Violence is important: The issues are “normalcy,” apathy, and the unmet basic human need for respect and recognition, not violence

The unmet need for recognition is at the root of human aggression and violence. We have basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. We also have a personal need for respect and regard, and to reach our potential. For marginalized communities of low-income urban youth of all colors, normal actions taken to meet such needs can become difficult. Efforts are stymied or blocked by society and individuals in the form of injustice and prejudice, as well as discrimination through social, economic, and political isolation. Having these needs unmet, leads to feelings of frustration, powerlessness, hopelessness, and eventually to apathy--the stage before violence.

“...social identity and respect are the most important features of the street code. [Rap] lyrics instruct listeners that toughness and the willingness to use violence are central to establishing viable masculine identity, gaining respect, and building a reputation.” ~ Charis E. Kubrin
<http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Gangstas-Thugs-and-Hustlas-Identity-and-the-code-of-the-street-in-rap-music.pdf>

Thus, violence *per se* is not our problem--normalcy, indifference, and the unmet need for recognition are. Situations which enable true human regard and respect reduce the tendency to meet these needs in ways having anti-social consequences. Such genuine situations are characterized by actions toward meeting psychological-social needs through personal and cultural clarification, and self-actualization. The use of pedagogies of recognition and democratic education in our urban public schools, appreciating global hip hop culture via validating the search for authenticity by youth, and an urban community enabling the uniqueness, self-determination, and human potential of each and every citizen are recommended

<http://kinumedia.org/vorcreatex2/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/The-Praxis-of-Hip-Hop-Self-actualization-and-Democratic-Education-for-Address-the-Roots-of-Violence.pdf>

“They say that we are prone to violence, but it’s home sweet home:’ The Praxis of Hip Hop, Self-Actualization, and Democratic Education for Addressing the Roots of Violence” was accepted for presentation at the London International Education Conference in 2013. The Pretoria contingent requested the paper be presented as a keynote address at the South African International Conference on Education in 2014. In 2015 the paper was published in the *International Journal for Cross-Disciplinary Subjects in Education*.