

To people potentially interested in the CULTURE of UK course for 10 CULTURA INGLESIA teachers offered in Feb 1998.

The enclosed file contains the following:

- Notes towards the certificates we gave the participants.
- Letters from five of the ten participants in answer to my request to hear from them about which course/s they had been on. Clearly each of us was on a very different course.
- One of the 7 PROJECT reports. This one was ^{seen} researched and written by two of the participants. ¹
- Background information they received from me before interviewing 4 pre-teenagers
- Programme of the day they spent in 20,000 inhabitant Faversham.
- 4 letters over weeks 2 and 3 that I wrote to them plus notes on cultural things that came up as we watched the rich judging the poor at The Old Bailey.
+ a final - post - end - of - course letter.

WHAT WAS MISSING FROM THE COURSE?

According to the participants on day 15 (last Friday) these areas were missing:

- British sexual attitudes
- humour
- UK cinema (The Real Monty)
- cricket
- greyhound racing
- work on the monarchy and its changing image
- how government works and the political parties
- Scotland (we did a lot on Ireland and Wales)
- Instead of just talking about football and women and football, we should have gone to see a match.

My thoughts on what was missing from the course.

1. More theoretical and background texts on the anthropology and sociology of UK.

2. More work on anthropological and cultural frames to help the participants filter their raw experience of UK.

3. Had I been involved in an on-going UK focussed project the sharing of this would have been beneficial. I intend to remedy this by doing ~~some~~ oral literature work on Islay at Easter (audio and video)

4. The participants have gone home with 150 + A 3 sheets of newspaper cuttings on UK from files I started in 1995. I should have presented them with parallel stuff from Radio and from TV, stuff they can use with students. (NB: expense of copying the audiovisual stuff.)

5. Much too much of the course was spent listening to people talking ABOUT their things or watching them DO their things (eg visit to brewery and Old Bailey). Much too much of the course was third person, from the participants point of view.

I should have included more situations where THEY acted in a situation and then talked about their own experience to the professionals in that situation.

eg: given the new bye-law forbidding the drinking of alcohol on the streets in Canterbury, we could have experienced an encounter with the police by countervailing this new restriction. This could have been followed by interviews with the police about how they enforce new laws.

We could have spent an hour working as unskilled labour on an archaeological site. This would have left us able to talk to others on the site with personal knowledge in our arms and backs.

In a word, this course could usefully have been inspired by the work of that brilliant Brazilian, Augusto Boal.

6. It is too early for me to be sure what I would want to put in a future course.

Mario.

