

# **Globalisation, image politics and outdoor education**

*Dr Mike Brown & Associate Professor Lindsay Fitzclarence*

## **Abstract**

This presentation explores the role that popular culture plays in forming students' understandings of identity. In particular it focuses on the tensions created between the increasingly rationalised and controlled curriculum and practices of outdoor education and media saturated popular culture in which individual freedom, choice and lifestyle are championed. The presenters explore the phenomena of globalisation and popular culture in an effort to understand the potentially productive links offered by outdoor education in connecting with students' out of school experiences.

Increasingly, educational imperatives and legislative requirements move to bound what constitutes outdoor education while at the same time educator's are required to develop curricula that cater for an increasingly complex and diverse student body. As educators it is an imperative that we recognise and connect with the ways that young people acquire and generate their knowledge and attitudes about the world. It is in this increasingly complex world that outdoor educators are challenged to develop a pedagogy that acknowledges a heightened sense of individuality alongside and within recognition of increasing inter-connectedness.

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