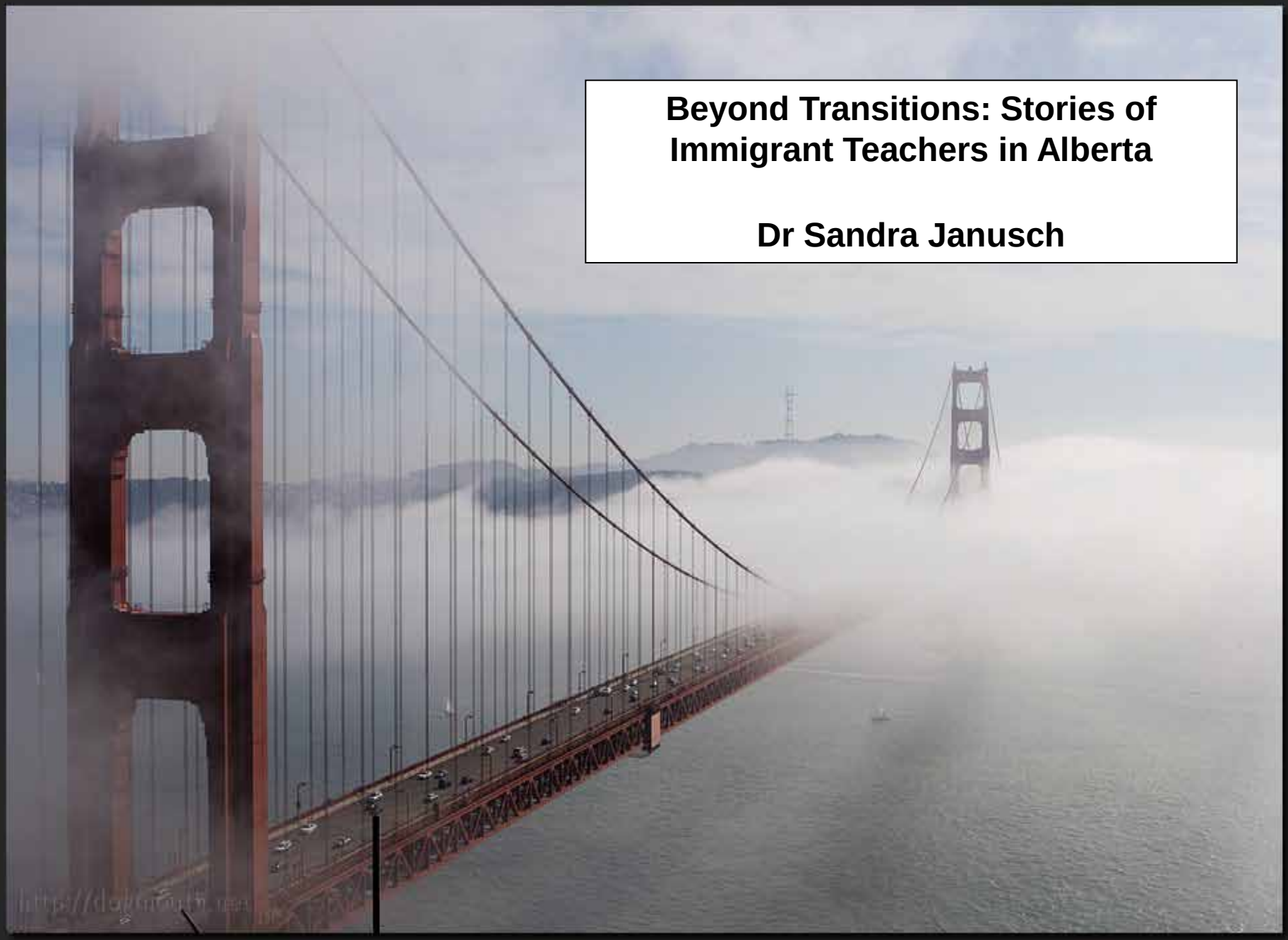

Beyond Transitions: Stories of Immigrant Teachers in Alberta

Dr Sandra Janusch

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International Immigration in Alberta

The Transitions to Alberta Classrooms Program

50 participants
since 2008
4 cohorts
30 countries
Ages 22-62

Congratula
TAC

Beyond Transitions: stories of immigrant teaches in Alberta

“Stories of teaching in a new culture are rare in the literature on teaching, perhaps because the phenomenon itself tends to go against the grain: teachers are seen, at least in part, as representatives of the culture, responsible for passing it on to the new generation, and one would not expect this important task to be put in the hands of newcomers to the culture.

Elbaz-Luwisch, 2004, p. 389.

The Literature:

acculturation, transculturation, negotiating difference, cultural literacy, ghettoization

Leaky pipelines, bottlenecks, glass ceilings, roads, intersections, structures, obstacles, filters, funnels, barriers

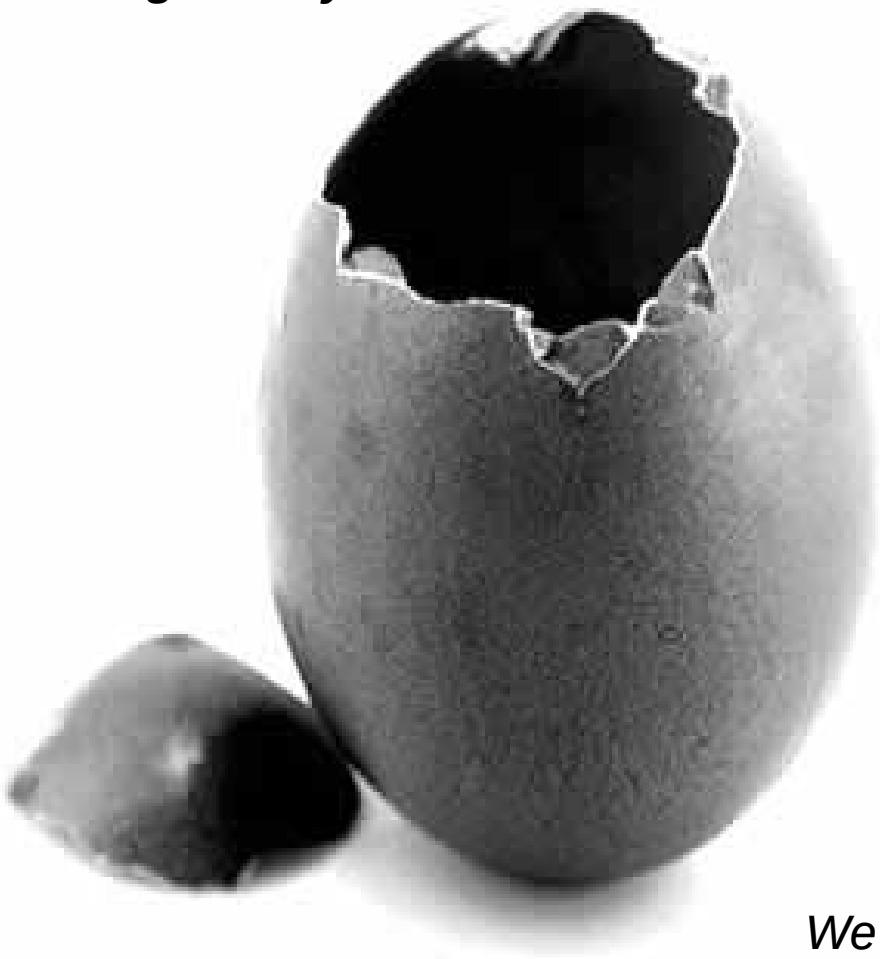
reconstruction, renovation, building bridges, re-writing the script, teachers finding themselves in new pedagogical spaces

Professional landscapes - linking knowledge, context, and identity.

Clandinin & Connelly (1999)

Twelve participants - 3 men, 9 women
24 semi-structured interviews

Transformational Learning Theory

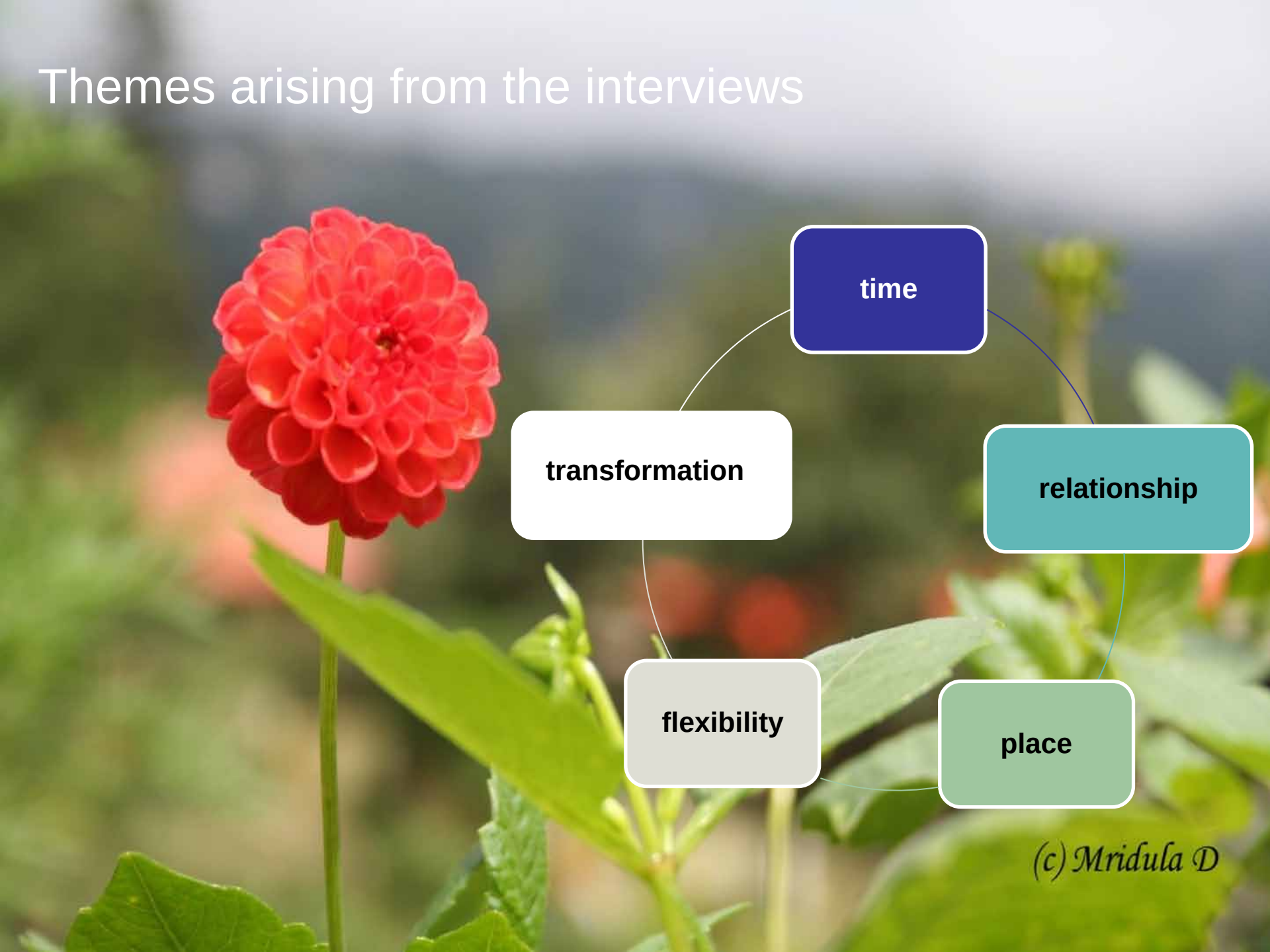


We cross borders, but do not erase them; we take our borders with us (Behar, 1993: 320)

Challenges

“Canada humbles you”

Themes arising from the interviews



Time

Relationship

"*Relationships are at the heart of learning both for children and for adults in school."*

(Participant, First Cohort #1, Nov 2009)

Place

Flexibility

Transformation

End notes…

- Be yourself
- Have a positive attitude
- Work with others, ask for help
- Adapt, try new things
- Be patient
- Learn from every situation
- Don’t give up!

Thank you!