



Self Portraits in Belize

I ONCE SERVED AS A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER in Belize, assigned to work with unemployed at-risk youth who had dropped out of school. I had learned to speak Belize Creole (Bileez Kriol) while working with my kids, but I always wanted to know how Kriol was used in Belizean primary schools where Standard English, the official language of Belize, was expected to be used in the classroom. So after my service, I returned to Belize as a graduate student, where I conducted field research for my master's degree in educational anthropology (UC Santa Cruz). I designed an ethnographic study to examine language variance issues in the classroom, and I worked primarily in one Belize City classroom as a teacher's assistant and participant-observer.

One day I brought a few disposable cameras to my class (these were the days before smartphone cameras), and I gave one to some of the children to play with. After my study abroad experience had ended I developed the film and was amazed to find some beautiful shots. That film roll provided a precious memory of my field-work and served as a visual reminder of the joy and excitement I had during my return experience to Belize.

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YOU'RE INVITED! We invite you to submit your photos along with a brief (approximately 200 words) description of why these images are important in your understanding of a person, place, idea, or incident from your experiences in international education. The photos could be of a simple moment on your home campus involving international students, a major event in an exotic location, or anything in between. The editors of *International Educator* will run selections on this page throughout the year. Please contact us for submission details at magazine@nafsa.org.