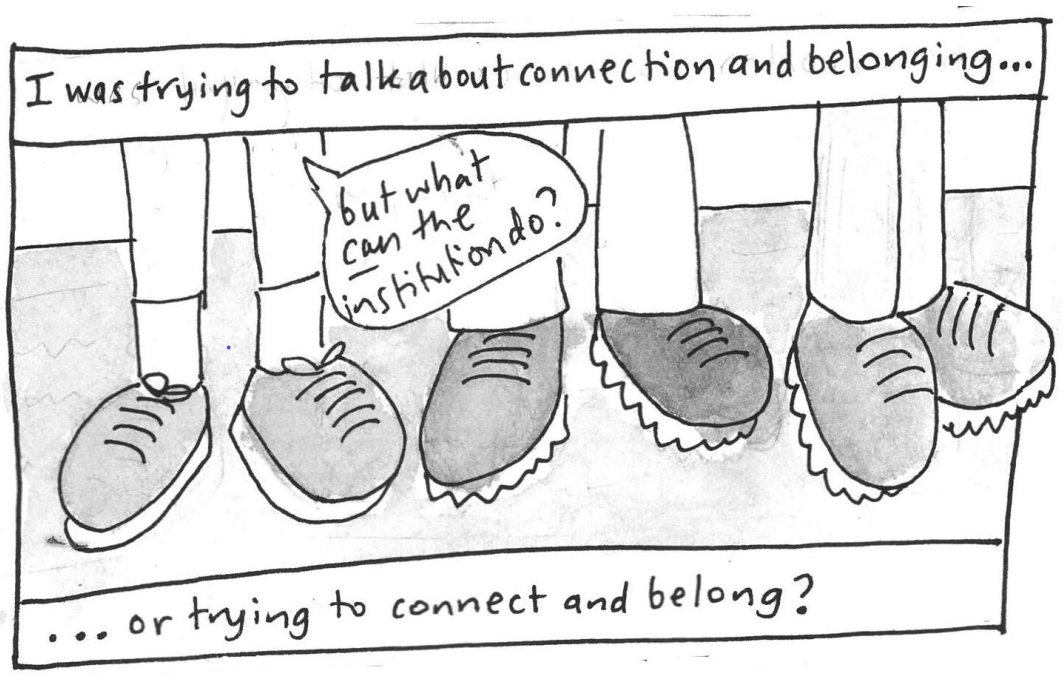
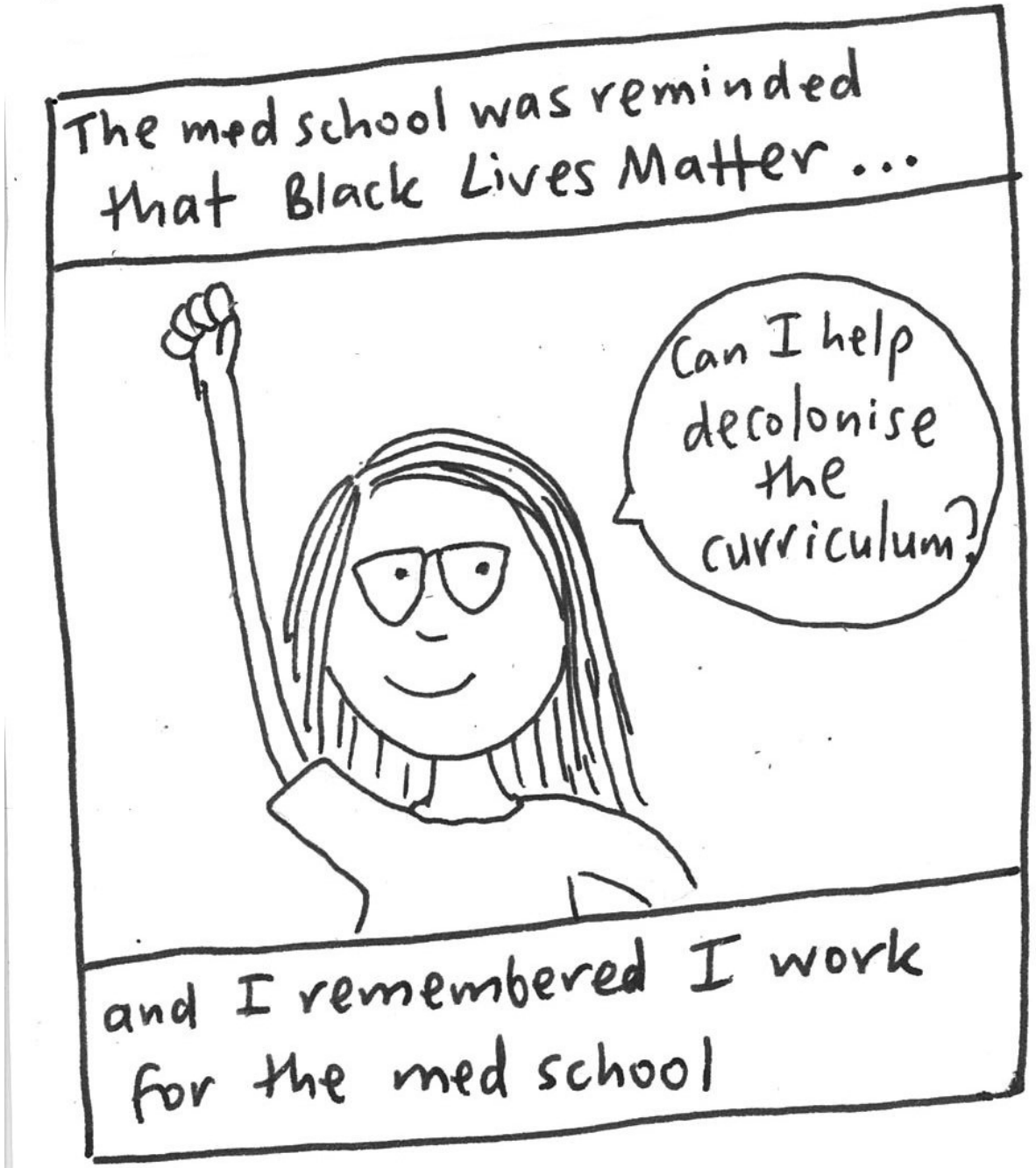
# Collaborative auto-ethnography around decolonising the curriculum: COMICS! SONGS! POEMS!



# Context


The med school was reminded that Black Lives Matter ...
Can I help decolonise the curriculum?
and I remembered I work for the med school

# Collaborative autoethnography

Already engaged in creative methods to varying degrees and at different stages in our research/academic lives

Decided to work together in this way and then heard the term:

Collaborative autoethnography

(Heewon Chang, Faith Ngunjiri, Kathy-Ann C Hernandez)

Reflecting on our practice and experience, relating it to theory individually and together through creative methods (everyday creativity)

# The project

Muna Al-Jawad, Neil Singh and Gaurish Chawla

# Decolonising pedagogy

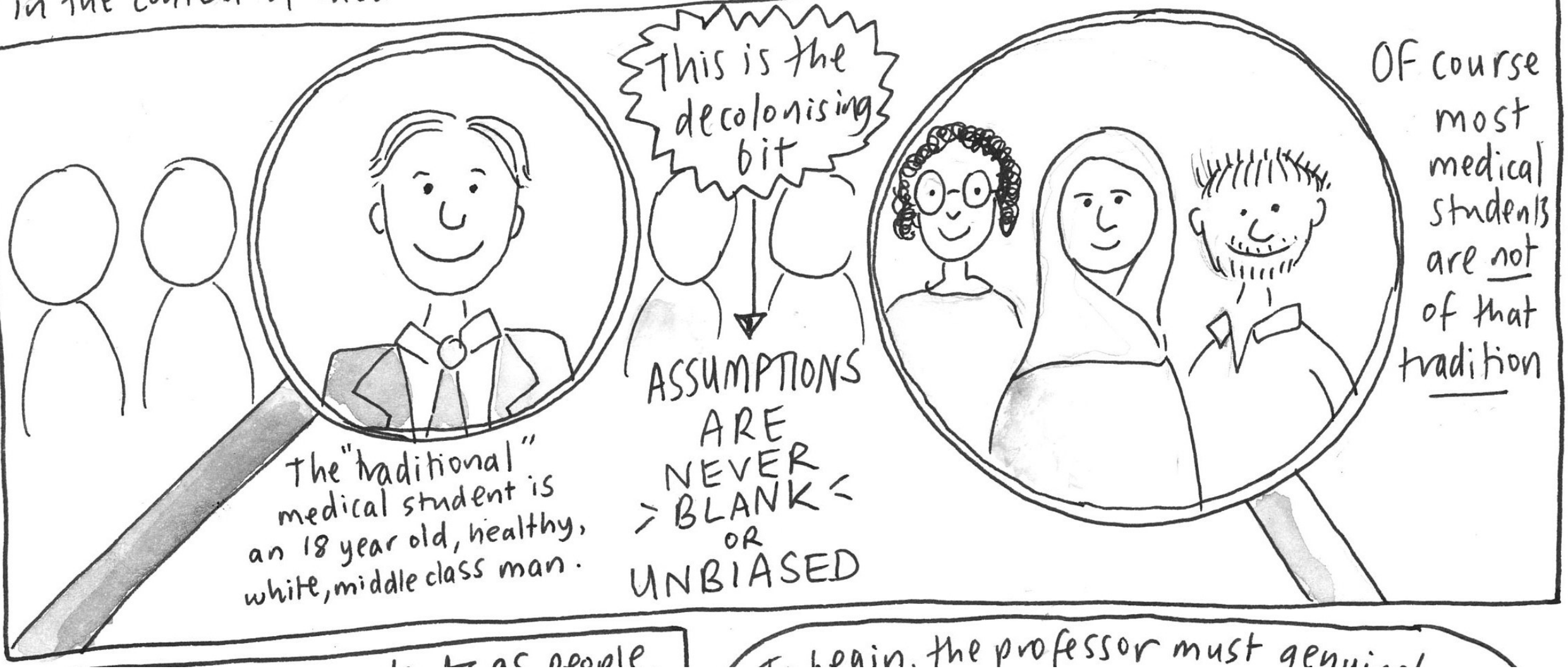
# Tabula Rasa

Notes on a.k.a.

Blank Slates

Ok, well despite them both being wrong, this idea seems to have stuck in how we teach medicine
Yes!
IBN/BIN
In writing & "delivering" the curriculum we think we know our students but...
Teach them:
• This
• This
• This and
• That
No points for experience of students
They are blank faces in the lecture theatre
or no faces on teams
T I R
F S S
L M N
They are numbers on a mark sheet
OSCE examiner 7
student number 65
X
X
They are figures on a spreadsheet
Funding

This might not seem so bad until we scrutinise what we really mean by "blank slate" in the context of medical students



So if we see our students as people, our curriculum has to change

The learning objectives are not the most important thing in the curriculum

heresy?!

To begin, the professor must genuinely value everyone's presence... recognition... that everyone contributes

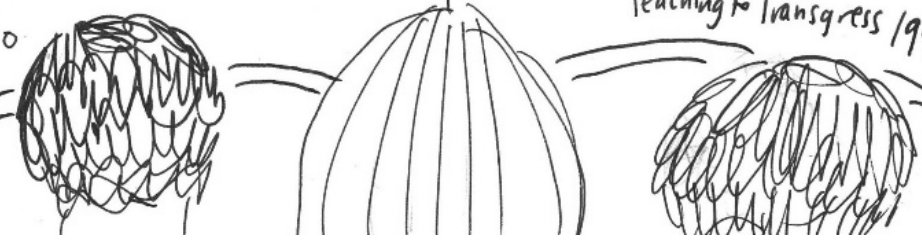
CURRICULUM

1. Make opportunities for learners to speak
2. Listen
3. Negotiate how to work together (or)

But how is there time for this with all the L.O.'s to deliver?

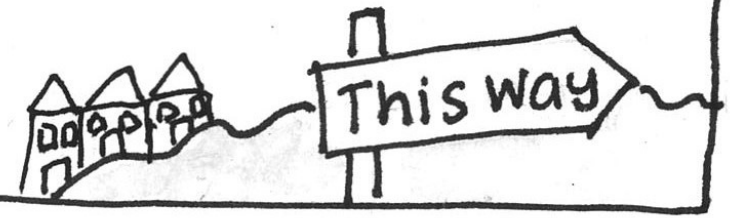
"To teach in a manner that respects and cares for the souls of our students is essential if we are to provide the necessary conditions where learning can most deeply and intimately begin"

bell hooks
Teaching to Transgress 1994

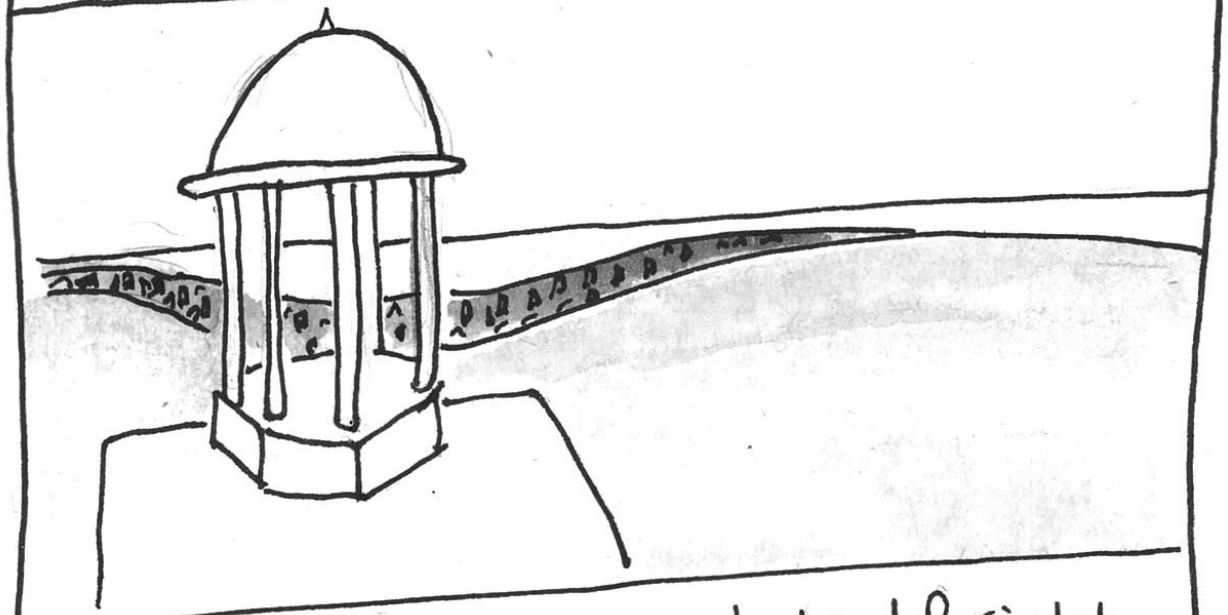


# What do we want from each other?

# You can't decolonise alone (what we learnt from our trip to the Chattri)



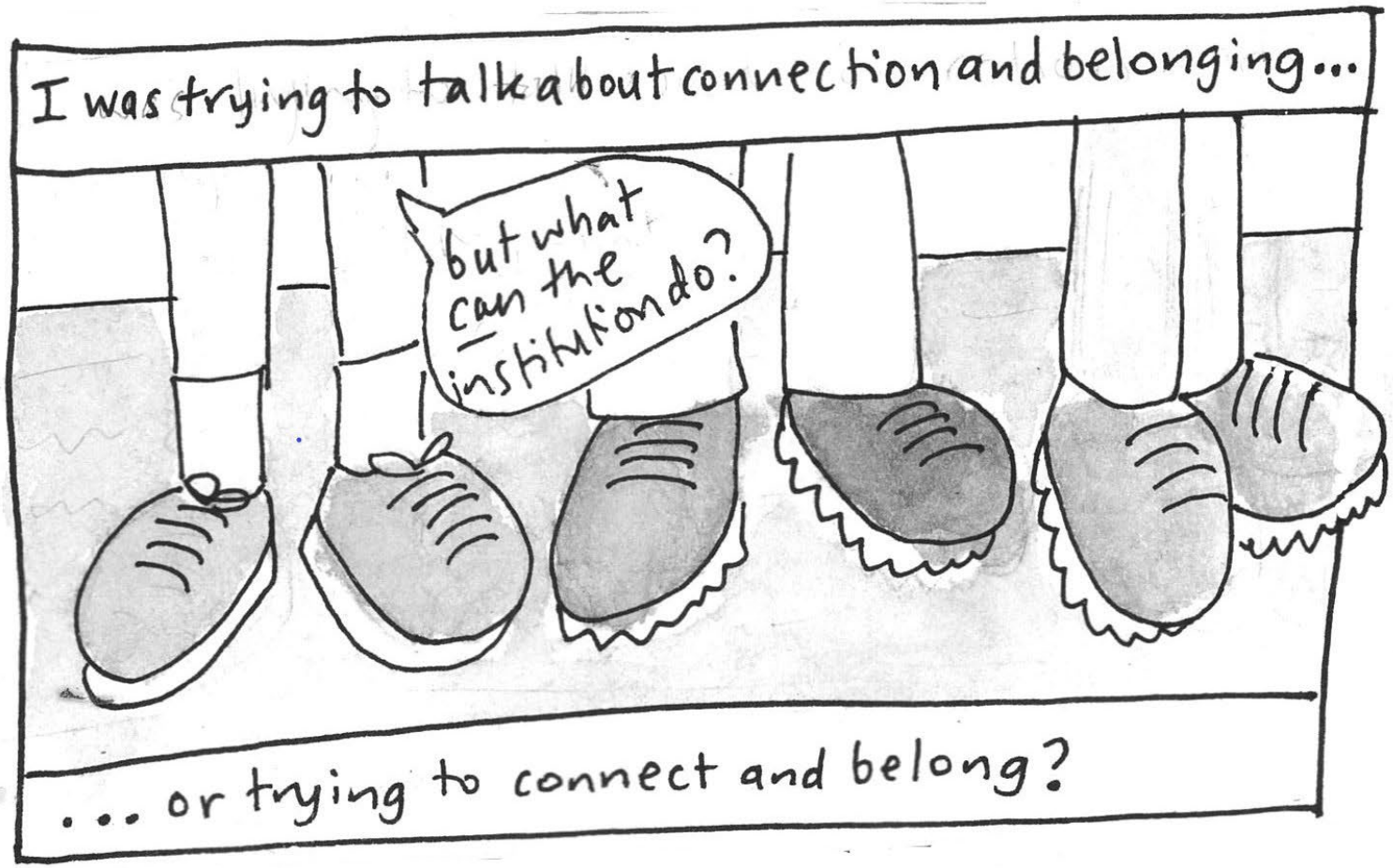

The Chattri memorial is for Indian soldiers who died fighting for the British in WW1



It's on a hill, in the Downs, behind Brighton

We went on a field trip there...

...3 weirdos climbing a hill.
especially in winter after 12 days at work
yes I usually have to be dragged out
I actually don't really get country walks
moo


I was trying to talk about connection and belonging...
but what can the institution do?
... or trying to connect and belong?

When we got there, Gaurish explained

how this related to his family's traditions

Neil had written a song

Gaurish had brought tea & snacks

so we drank while he read some of his immig-rants

Neil's partner called

The sun came out, a low, winter sun

It shone through the monument

I felt peaceful and hopeful

It felt like a different kind of resistance, like an investment in

"FINNITY & FRIENDSHIP"

as Broderick Chow says

You can't decolonise alone

Perhaps one answer to Lorde's question "What do we want from each other after we have told our stories?" is

SPACE to BELONG in RELATIONSHIPS