

Centre for Global & Multicentric Education Presents:

Research & Scholarship @ Kwantlen Lecture Series

International Education Week: November 15, 2010

The Philosopher's Teahouse: Rethinking the Past;

Teaching for the Future

Participants: SOCIO 1125, ELST 0383; ELST 0283 (70 students)

Dr. Fiona Whittington-Walsh (Sociology) and Dr. Wendy Royal (ELS Department)

- Instructors from both disciplines collaborated in preparing their classes for this activity, using relevant articles from a sociology textbook, StatsCan survey, and newspaper article.
- Students from both areas watched the CBC video, "How tolerant are Canadians" .
- The cafeteria was set up to simulate a "Philosopher's Café" and students were grouped with students from the other discipline in order to discuss the following questions.

Negotiation

- (a) Do you think we should forget past discrimination and only focus on present policies? Explain.
- (b) Does Canada have a duty to make up for past wrongs? Explain.

Agency

- (c) Have you ever experienced racism/discrimination/bullying? What did you do?
- (d) Have you ever witnessed racism/discrimination/bullying? What did you do?

Transformation

- (a)** On chart paper, list three things your group would recommend to eliminate racism/discrimination/bullying.

Feedback on chart paper from students: Strategies for the Elimination of Racism

- 1. Experience and learn about different cultures**
- 2. Stand up against people who are being discriminated against**
- 3. Participate in different cultural activities**
- 4. Be proud of who you are and where you come from**
- 5. Make education more culturally inclusive**
- 6. Most racism comes from ignorance. People need to be educated.**
- 7. Danger of being 'colour blind' – homogenizes cultures. Need to accept and celebrate difference.**
- 8. Often racism in Canada is not overt or extreme but can be 'polite' and 'subtle' e.g applying for a job and the employer show interest on the phone but when you show up in person, the job has already been filled.**
- 9. Keep talking about the dangers of racism – like advertising against cigarette smoking – promoting the dangers of smoking/racism**
- 10. Move out of your comfort zone. Don't always sit with the same people in the cafeteria/ in the Teahouse. Get to know strangers/ people who are different from yourself.**
- 11. Change the political arena – change the context.**