



Directors' Message

Welcome to a new year in the CIDEC community. In this newsletter, we present our seminar schedule for Winter 2009, and review many exciting initiatives and events sponsored by CIDEC. A big thanks to the CIDE Students Association and our active team of CIDEC GA's for helping us with these events and the newsletter itself.

Karen Mundy
Kathy Bickmore

Please e-mail us your news, events, honours or publications at cide@oise.utoronto.ca

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Interview with Ben Levin

By Adele Halliday



Ben, when did you join the faculty at OISE?

I started at OISE on April 1, 2007. But I was actually appointed to my position in 2004. Soon after I was appointed to OISE and before I actually started, I was given a leave to work for the Ontario Ministry of Education for 2 1/2 years.

What were you doing for the Ministry?

I was the Deputy Minister of Education. In that role, I was the Chief Civil Servant. I was responsible for the operation of the Ministry of Education and everything that they do; I was brought in to implement the new education policy.

What do you see as some of the differences between working with the government and working in academia?

The two are different in almost every way. In the government, I was working on a huge number of things, many of which are urgent. Everything was public. There were tight, short timelines, and everything was done by groups of people; there are huge amounts of pressure all of the time. In academia, I am working on long term projects, largely by myself, or with just two other people. Usually I don't have public visibility in academia, and I am not constantly worried about what the media might say. The two are really different in almost every aspect.

What are your research interests?

Currently, I am working on three main areas:

- * One area is around large scale change, and how to create change across hundreds or thousands of schools. It is based on work I did in Ministries in Ontario and Manitoba. Lots of work has been done on changing one school or a few schools; much less has been done on how to change an entire system.

- * I am very interested in poverty, equity and their impacts on education—and what can be done to alleviate the negative impacts of poverty.

- * The main area is around knowledge mobilization, which is how research can affect policy and practice, and how we build better links. This is the biggest area that I am working on.

I work with several students in these areas, and also with staff colleagues.

What kinds of work have you done internationally?

I worked with international NGOs. I have also worked in quite a few countries, mostly on education policy issues, international issues in education or research. The countries that I have worked in include: New Zealand, Australia, Israel, European community, England, Greece, and some others.

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In Memoriam - Dr. Jackie Kirk

On Tuesday September 16, 2008, students, faculty, family, friends and colleagues from across Canada joined together to celebrate the life of Dr. Jacqueline Kirk, who was killed while working with the International Rescue Committee in Afghanistan in August 2008. Led by Dr. Anthony Pare of McGill University, the ceremony included many touching memories and testimonials, beautiful music and a segment from one of Jackie's videos. It was an enormously moving afternoon.

Karen Mundy represented OISE's CIDE community and the Canadian Global Campaign for Education at the memorial service. In her remarks, Karen noted Jackie's passionate commitment to improving the lives of women and children in war-affected contexts, and to listening to their voices and experiences. She encouraged the audience to take Jackie's work forward.

In Jackie's own words:

"Given the current world reality, marred by wars and threats of war, and given the antipathy and deeply embedded hatred among so many peoples, the building of peace from the grassroots – focusing on the new generation – seems one of the most promising options for creating more peaceful societies" Jackie Kirk *"Education and peace-building: Changing beliefs and attitudes,"* CBIE 2002.

Cont'd from page 1- Directors' Message

This year, CIDE is being reviewed for a renewal of its status. We encourage you all to take a look at the Director's Report, available online and in hard copy from the CIDE office. It gives an overview of all the Centre's activities over the past five years. Among the more interesting components is a list of CIDE alumni and their present careers. We are an amazing crew!

Please note that Kathy Bickmore will be acting as the Director of CIDE for the Winter term, while Karen Mundy is on leave. She can be reached at kbickmore@oise.utoronto.ca. Vandra Masemann and Sylvia Macrae remain the point persons for questions about the collaborative degree program.

All the best in 2009!

Cont'd from page 1 - Interview with Ben Levin

What attracted you to the CIDE program?

It was a matter of having international connections and experience. I have lots of interest in looking at how other countries are looking at some of the same challenges as in Canada.

What courses are you currently teaching?

As a Research Chair, I have a reduced teaching assignment. I also don't have a standard set of courses; I teach a variety of different things.

What are some of your most recent publications?

There are two books that I am currently working on. One is with Jane Gaskell on inner-city education and poverty in Canada. The other book is called "How to Change 5000 Schools", and it will be published in late of 2008 or early 2009. I do lots of writing in academic journals, and popular media. I write a bi-monthly column for Phi Delta Kappan in the United States. Because they have a significant Canadian membership, they have a column called "In Canada". I took that column over a year ago. I have also written in the OSSTF Forum, and do op eds in the Toronto Star. I also do academic writing in a variety of Canadian and international journals and lately have done quite a few book chapters. I've published 4 books and about 200 articles of various kinds.

What is your sense of Canada's reputation education around the world?

People around the world are interested in learning about Canada because they see Canada as a country with high levels of achievement and relatively low levels of inequity. Many countries are interested in what Canada is doing in education and how we do it. Our education reputation is much better abroad than it is at home!

Do you have any recommendations for students?

The students in CIDE are very diverse, so it is hard to say anything at a general level. While there is a lot that could still be better in Canadian education, there is lots that we need to be proud of. Having a reasonable amount of critique but also optimism is good.



Doing Fieldwork in Malawi

By Ali Malcolm

At the beginning of October 2008, I headed to Malawi to begin data collection for my MA thesis. With support from German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), I embarked on a small study on the lives of a group of Malawian youths participating in a complementary basic education programme in the Ntchisi district, a rural and impoverished area in Central Malawi. The programme, called Complementary Basic Education (CBE), is a para-formal programme run in collaboration with the Malawian Government and using local non-governmental organisations as service providers and supported by GTZ. Still in its pilot stage, the programme aims to give out-of-school youth access to a basic education.

Having lived and worked in Malawi in 2005-2006, I was eager to return and see old friends and new changes. Naturally, I was also excited to delve into the study I had spent months planning. With a few expected bumps along the way, including a broken down motorbike and a water shortage, data collection has gone fairly smoothly and my trip has been more successful than I could have hoped. Students, facilitators, committee members and programme administrators have been both welcoming and extremely supportive of my work and I have had the good fortune to meet some truly exceptional individuals. My experiences in the villages of Ntchisi and interactions with the local people have greatly expanded my understanding of the culture, the context and the issues surrounding educational development. Now almost ready to return to OISE and begin data analysis and the writing process, I feel satisfied with the trip and am looking forward to the next step.



Working in the Village of Hope, Burkina Faso for the CIE 1002 Practicum

By Gail Prasad (Winner of the Keith A. McLeod Scholarship)



After landing in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso on September 30, 2008, I traveled by car forty minutes outside the city limits to the "Village d'Espoir" an orphanage for over 400 children from kindergarten to grade 6. The next morning,

children began arriving from their respective villages to begin the new academic year for 2008/2009. The majority of these children would otherwise not have access to formal education. The "Village d'Espoir" was founded in 2002 in partnership with Careforce International and presently is made up of two school buildings (grades 1-6), dormitories for the children, staff accommodations, facilities for work project teams, a cafeteria, a kitchen, a solar powered water well, a playground and bathrooms with shower facilities.

As part of CIE 1002 practicum course, I spent two weeks interviewing teachers and staff and writing trilingual stories in French, Mooré and English as part of a trilingual book project for their newly established elementary library. The children at the "Village d'Espoir" come from more than ten different villages and upon arrival, do not speak French, the language of the national school system. In addition to learning French, children coming from village communities have not been exposed to print literacy practices. Among other challenges, these two issues pertaining to language and literacy have significant effects on the literacy development of the children and instructional practices of teachers. My role with Careforce International for the purpose of the CIE practicum was to assess current language and literacy practices of the teachers and students at the "Village d'Espoir" by examining mandated national curriculum, as well as, through classroom observation, analysis of children's work samples, and interviews with teachers, students and other Village of Hope staff. My two weeks on-site at the "Village d'Espoir" this fall provided a dynamic hands-on opportunity to bridge theory into practice.



CIDEDEC and CIER Launch Research Partnership

Being located respectively in two of the most multi-cultural cities in world, Toronto and Birmingham, CIDEDEC and The Centre for International Education and Research (CIER) have long been aware of the potential from sharing research interests. This academic year marks a realization of long standing interest by those in both centres in collaborative exchange. The theme of joint conversations on both sides of the Atlantic is global citizenship education in the context of diversity, social conflict, and pluralism. November saw a visit from CIER's Dr. Michele Schweisfurth to CIDEDEC to explore areas of collaboration with CIDEDEC on Global Citizenship Education, with hopes that this can lead to teaching about diversity in Canada and England. Visits from CIDEDEC faculty (Kathy Bickmore, Mark Evans, Reva Joshee, & Karen Mundy) to Birmingham, and return visits from other CIER scholars to Toronto will follow. The collaboration is expected to culminate in a jointly authored paper by the end of the academic year, and to open the way for more substantive collaboration between our centres in the future.

As the inaugural event of this collaboration, Dr. Michele Schweisfurth of CIER presented an excellent seminar, 'Context matters, but context isn't everything: Cosmopolitanism and classroom practice,' to over 40 participants on November 27th, 2008. She also participated in conversations with about 20 people about their work on November 28th, and attended the Initial Teacher Education 'Teacher Activism' conference November 29th.

Introducing the CIER visitors:

Dr. Michele Schweisfurth is Director of the Centre for International Education and Research, and Reader in Comparative and International Education at the University of Birmingham. Originally from Southern Ontario, she has also lived, worked and researched in a range of countries, from Sierra Leone (1985-86) to, most recently, India and China (summer of 2008).

Professor Clive Harber is Professor of International Education at the University of Birmingham. Between 2003 and 2006 he was Head of the School of Education. He was a politics and social science teacher in schools in England and Nigeria and a social science teacher educator at the University of Birmingham.

Hiromi Yamashita is a Research Fellow whose interests include issues of global justice, young people's participation, global citizenship, sustainable development and education in coastal regions. Originally from Japan, she has expertise in qualitative research in a range of settings and countries (e.g. UK, Sri Lanka, Maldives, China, Korea, and Japan).



(left to right) Hiromi Yamashita, Michele Schweisfurth, Lynn Davies, Clive Harber and Paul Warmington



A Glimpse into the World of the WCCES

By Nhung Truong

This fall, as OISE students and professors are busily submitting proposals and abstracts for presentations at the upcoming educational conferences, I am reminded of my first conference in New York last spring of 2008. As a new graduate student in CIDE, I found the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) a wonderful experience to attend presentations and connect with other scholars in the field.

During this trip, I had the special opportunity to attend the 39th Executive Meeting of the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES), which was held at Teacher's College/Columbia University on the eve of the CIES Conference.

Sitting at the long oval table listening to reports of the numerous projects and publications over the past year, I was struck by the strong engagement of members, as well as the unique nature of this organization that brings comparative education societies and thus scholars together in an international forum of collaboration. Almost as an illustration of this, a memorable moment in the meeting was when WCCES president Crain Soudien arrived, having just gotten off the plane from South Africa.

The latter part of the meeting shifted focus to the next World Congress of Comparative Education Societies, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in 2010. There was a feeling of excitement and anticipation towards this next World Congress, which will hopefully build on the success of the previous World Congress in Sarajevo, last September 2007.

At the end of the afternoon, there was a sense of accomplishment on all of the items discussed. Many of participants, who also seemed to be longtime colleagues and friends, lingered, to catch up with each other in person, many having traveled long distances to participate in these meetings and conferences, and not for the first or last time.

CIDE Student Association

By Alison Malcolm

The CIDE SA team meets regularly, helping to facilitate the activities of the CIDE SA for the 2008-2009 academic year, which include communications with CIDE students, participation in the CIDE faculty meetings, liaising with the CIDE program staff and planning and supporting CIDE student community events.

September orientation week was a success and we were able to reconnect with old friends and meet many of the new CIDE students through some of the planned orientation activities. These included an information session with Vandra Masemann, "Ask Us" Sessions with current CIDE students, tours of U of T campus and Toronto, a movie night, a pub night at the Bedford Academy and of course the time-honoured CIDE potluck in the Peace Lounge.

Later that month we also held our first "Town Hall" meeting, which brought out more than 25 students, including a host of new faces. We also formed the CIDE Social Justice group (CSJ), an informal group that meets monthly. Other activities consisted of regular International Movie Nights, pick-up Ultimate Frisbee and participation in the OISE Research Centres info session.

We have also used the first term to build and strengthen communications with the wider CIDE student community through a CIDE student mailing list, a CIDE SA bulletin board on the 7th floor and a CIDE students' online Facebook group, which we hope can also be a place for students to communicate informally through posting and chatting.

Keep an eye out in the new year for more exciting CIDE activities including the CIDE Ultimate Frisbee team, the annual retreat at Hart House Farm and the launch of CIDE Show, an event envisioned to showcase diversity, creativity and artistic expression within CIDE. We hope to see everyone out at our next event and remember that we are always looking for more CIDE students to come out, get involved, and get to know the CIDE community a bit better. Contact the CIDE SA Core Team at <oisecidesa@gmail.com>

Don't miss out on the upcoming CIES and CIESC conferences this Spring 2009:

The next CSSE/CIESC Annual Conference will take place at Carleton University in Ottawa, on May 23-26, 2009. The theme of the conference is Capital Connections: Nation, Terroir, Territoire.

<http://www.csse.ca/Conference/Conference.shtml>



The 53rd Annual CIES Meeting will take place at the University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston, in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 22-26, 2009. The theme of the 2009 conference is: The Politics of Comparison. <http://www.tc.edu/cies2009/>



CIDE Seminar Series — Winter 2009

Room 7-105, CIDE "Smart Room"

Wednesday January 7th , 5.00 - 6.00pm

Professor Suzanne Majhanovich (University of Western Ontario)

The Common European Framework of Reference to Validate Language Learning: its Worldwide Spread and Application in Ontario

Wednesday January 21st , 5.00 - 5.45pm

Heather Kelly (Ed.D. Candidate - TPS)

International Educators in Canada: The Construction of a "new" Professionalism?

Wednesday January 28th, 11.30-12.15pm

Elena VanDussen (MA Candidate - CTL)

Translating Learning into Actions: Promoting rural community well-being through alternative secondary education in Columbia.

Wednesday February 4th, 11.30-12.15pm

Geoff Lawrence (Ph.D. Candidate – CTL, SLE)

The Cultural Dimension in International Language Teacher Preparation: An Analysis of Teacher Beliefs and Experience.

12.15-1.00 pm

Cynthia Murnahan (MA Candidate - CTL)

Levels of choice: the provincial vs. the local - Public alternative educators' experiences with student-directed learning and "choice" in the context of a provincially - mandate curriculum.

Wednesday February 11th, 5.00 – 6.00pm

Professor Vandra Masemann

Attending and Presenting at Conferences: Prelude to CIES and CIESC.

Wednesday February 18th , 11.30 - 12.45pm

Professor Prachi Srivastava (School for International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa)

Public-Private Partnerships in Education in India: questioning the role of the state

Wednesday March 4th 11.30 – 12.15pm

Natasha Hudson (MA Candidate - AECF)

Tracking Aspirations: Factors influencing the post-secondary aspirations of aboriginal and non-aboriginal students across public secondary schools in Canada

12.15 – 1.00pm

Kaylan Horner (MA Candidate - CTL)

Recipes for Active Citizenship: A comparison of service learning and community service requirements

Wednesday March 11th 5.00 – 5.45pm

Margaret Bent (MA Candidate – CTL)

A Peaceful Partnership? Peace education and the International Baccalaureate

Wednesday March 18th, 5.00 - 6.00pm

Professor Dieter Misgeld (TPS, OISE)

Massive Human Rights Violations and Learning from these Events: Is reconciliation possible? Reflections based on Germany (West) 1950 to 1970, Argentina (recent years) and Colombia (at present)

Wednesday April 1st, 4.30 - 6.00pm

CIDE Potluck

Wednesday April 8th, 5.00 - 5.45pm

Gail Prasad (MA Candidate – CTL, SLE))

Alternative Literacies: Teachers' perspectives on multiple literacies instruction linguistically and culturally diverse allophones in French-language schools

5:45 - 6:30pm

Georg Mevold (MA Candidate – TPS, Ed. Admin.)

Evaluation of education programs implemented in complex emergencies.

Wednesday April 15th, 11.30 – 12.15pm

Alison Malcolm (MA Candidate - CTL/CSTD)

Second Chances in Accessing Education: An inquiry into the lives of youth in a complementary basic education initiative in Malawi