Exploring Quality and Equity in Education:  
Innovation and Challenges in  
International and Comparative Contexts

Third Annual  
International Education  
Graduate Student Conference

March 13-14, 2008
March 13, 2008

Dear Conference Participants,

We would like to welcome you to the third International Education Conference, an annual event organized by the graduate students in NYU’s International Education Program. For those of you from out of town, we hope that you will take full advantage over the weekend of many of the events, sights, and restaurants that New York City has to offer.

The International Education Program is part of the University’s global mission to produce scholars and professionals who will help us understand the implications of living in a globalized world. Unprecedented transnational migration and economic activity, the internationalization of popular cultures, the growth of multinational non-governmental organizations, and radical transformations in innovative technologies all contribute to a world in which national boundaries are more fluid than ever before. As the social, political, and economic systems of countries around the world have become more interdependent, the problems they confront have assumed a global dimension. Education is central to the solution of these problems. We very much look forward to the papers you are presenting, and we anticipate that they will add greatly to our understanding of the role of education in creating or transcending national borders.

The doctoral students who planned and initiated this conference deserve special thanks. They envisioned a conference to provide doctoral students, recent Ph.D.s, and professionals in the field with an opportunity to share their research. They worked hard to translate that vision into action, and your presence at this conference is a testament to the success of this vision.

Sincerely,

Cemilka Miller-Idriss, Assistant Professor and Acting Director, International Education Program

Dana Burde, Visiting Assistant Professor, International Education Program
Exploring Quality and Equity in Education:
Innovation and Challenges in International and Comparative Contexts

March 13-14, 2007
Pless Hall
82 Washington Square East
New York University

Co-chairs:
Athena Maikish, Rafael Parente and Carolyn Sattin

Organizing Committee:
Elly Hanauer, Fabrice Jaumont, Sonook Kang, Karleigh Koster, Ben Meade, Naomi Moland, Michele Peregrin, Jane Ross, Lindsey Sasaki and Alexandra Wood

Message from the Organizing Committee:
We are pleased to welcome you to “Exploring Quality and Equity in Education: Innovation and Challenges in International and Comparative Contexts,” the third annual International Education conference at NYU. When this conference was first conceptualized, its purpose was to create a space in which scholars from various disciplines could meet and discuss issues related to the field of international education. This year, the panelists represent over 15 universities and organizations from across the country and around the globe. The presentations found below help to portray the range and diversity of topics that scholars and educators contribute to this field. Moreover, they allow us to consider the fundamental role that education plays beyond national borders in a changing global environment.

This event could not have been possible without the dedicated work of the International Education students and the support of faculty and staff within the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. In particular, we would like to thank our co-sponsors and the members of our advisory committee, who have been very generous with their time and resources. We also would like to extend special thanks to the discussants, whose expertise is an invaluable contribution to the conference. Their participation, along with the panelists, represents a collaboration of many universities in New York City.
THURSDAY, MARCH 13

2-2:15pm: Opening Remarks by Dr. Mary Brabeck, Dean of NYU Steinhardt  
3rd Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East

2:15-3:00pm: Keynote by Dr. Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Courtney Sale Ross University Professor of Globalization and Education and Co-Director of Immigration Studies, and Dr. Carola Suárez-Orozco, Professor of Applied Psychology and Co-Director of Immigration Studies  
3rd Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East

SESSION 1: 3:15-4:45PM

Session 1 A/V Volunteer: Liz Knauer

Panel 1: Higher Education: History, Experience, and Contemporary Implications
Discussant: Professor Frank Tang  
Location: 3rd Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East  
Volunteer: Marianne Nieman

Kyung-Hyun Kwon, New York University  
Contributing Factors to Acculturative Stress among International Students in U.S. Higher Education

Jian Liu, University of Toronto  
The Evolution of Educational Equality in Chinese Higher Education Since 1949

Yuan Zhang, Syracuse University  
“Chineseness” through an Intersectional Lens

Panel 2: Student-Teacher Relationships: Implications for Issues of Equality
Discussant: Nick Gozik  
Location: Payne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East  
Volunteer: Christine Groneman

Fatima Hafiz, Temple University  
Affect and Commitment: An Exploratory Study of White Female Teachers’ Emotional Resilience in Urban Schools

David Timony, Temple University  
Student Perception of Individual Teacher Expertise

Alicia Trotman, Michigan State University  
A Portrait of the Interactions between Teachers and Cultures (Language Issues and Disabilities) in Secondary School Classrooms in Trinidad and Tobago

Elizabeth Voltman, New York University  
Three English Teachers’ Perceptions of Their Professional Agency Within a Ninth-Grade Detracked Program

(Panel 3 on next page)
Panel 3: Investigating Equality in the Context of Study Abroad

*Discussant:* Professor Joann Halpern  
*Location:* 5th Floor Conference Room, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East  
*Volunteer:* Megan Van Son

- Mya N. Fisher  
  University of Wisconsin-Madison  
  The Two A’s - Attainment and Awareness: Social Psychological Obstacles to Study Abroad
- Karleigh Koster  
  New York University  
  The Politics and Culture of Study Abroad: A Historical Narrative
- Rachel Marcus  
  Institute of International Education  
  Current Trends in International Exchange and Diversity
- Faith McKinney  
  University of Illinois  
  Short Term Middle School Study Abroad Cultural Exchange: Is it Worth the Effort?

5-6:00pm: Reception  
3rd Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

8:30-9am: Breakfast  
1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East

9:15-9:30am: Opening Remarks by Helen Kelly, Director of Special Programs  
1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East

9:30-10:15am: Keynote by Dr. Vishakha Desai, President of Asia Society  
1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
SESSION 2: 10:30AM-12:00PM

Session 2 A/V Volunteer: Megan Putney

Panel 4: Education Reform and Development: Improving Outcomes and Enrollment
Discussant: Juliana Pakes
Location: 1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Alice Beckman

- Mina Dadgar  
  Teachers College, Columbia University  
  Are Cash Transfers Enough? The Role of Environmental Factors in Improving School Enrollments Among Progresa Recipient Families in Mexico

- Seongdok Kim  
  University of Minnesota  
  Factors Affecting Lower Secondary School Completion in Vietnam

- Athena Maikish  
  New York University  
  Universal Primary Education and Education Decentralization in Ghana: Investigating Local Level Outcomes

- Rhiannon Williams  
  University of Minnesota  
  The Process of Listening to Multiple Perspectives on Quality in ECCD within the Philippines

Panel 5: School to Work Connections: Expanding Educational Opportunities
Discussant: Bryan Urbsaitis
Location: Payne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Michele Peregrin

- Hui-Yi Ho  
  University of the Incarnate Word  
  School to work: Preparing for the Workforce

- Ebony Schoon  
  New York University  
  The Role of Vocational Education in Creating Educational Opportunities for Students in South Africa: An Administrators’ and Students’ Perspective

- Dan Wang  
  Syracuse University  
  Workplace Depoliticized: A Rural School in China

Panel 6: Identity, Language and History: Critical Factors in Educational Equity
Discussant: Professor Fernando Naiditch
Location: 5th Floor Conference Room, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Meaghan McCormick

- Heidi Eschenbacher  
  University of Minnesota  
  Educational Aims and Practice in Conflict Affected Areas

- Elizabeth Hanauer  
  New York University  
  The Teaching, Learning and Discourse of Immigration History in French Schools

- Naomi Moland  
  New York University  
  Big Bird as a Tolerance Missionary? Strategies for Teaching Tolerance in International Co-Productions of Sesame Street

12-1:00pm: Lunch provided
3rd Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
SESSION 3: 1:15-2:45PM

Session 3 A/V Volunteer: Vanessa Zuidema

Panel 7: Border Crossing: Migration and Education in International Perspectives
Discussant: Francisco Gaytan
Location: 1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Karen Smith

Christal G. Burnett
Teachers College, Columbia University
Apooyando y Ayudando: Exploring How Latino Families Educate Their Children

Tasha Darbes
New York University
Only a Dream (Act)? Undocumented Immigrants Crossing the Border into Higher Education

Lindsey Sasaki
New York University
The Transnational Dekasegi Movement and Education: The Case of Brazilian and Peruvian Nikkei College-Age Youth

Carolyn Sattin
New York University
Ecuadorian Migration and Educational Integration: A Cross-National Perspective

Panel 8: The Internationalization of Schooling: Implications for Students, Teachers, and Societies
Discussant: Professor Carolyn Kissane
Location: Payne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Adrienne Bradshaw

Mira Gambhir
University of Toronto
Preparing Global Teachers - The Internationalization of Initial Teacher Education

Ji-Yeung Jang
University of Minnesota
Relationship between Internationalization and Quality of Higher Education

Yiyun Jie
University of Minnesota
Investigating partner goal consensus and disparity in cross-border higher educational programs

Elizabeth M. Stallman
University of Minnesota
Pathways Between Intercultural Competence and Racial Identity

Panel 9: The Role of Pedagogy and Curriculum in Educational Quality and Equity
Discussant: Merav Ben-Nun
Location: 5th Floor Conference Room, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Ted Geary

Carrie Cox
University of Toronto
“Eat When You’re Hungry and Stop When You’re Full;” Recommendations for Educators on How to Navigate Through a Diet and Body Image Obsessed Culture to Create Healthy Change

Candi Walz and Katie Crumley
University of Minnesota
Technology: Bridging a Gap to Provide Educational Opportunities in Rural Minnesota

Husna Ali-Khan
University of Pennsylvania
Cultural Considerations in Curriculum Design: The Case of Rural India
SESSION 4: 3:00-4:30PM

Session 4 A/V Volunteer: Evan Buxbaum

Panel 10: Education Reform and Development: Strategies to Increase School Quality and Equity
Discussant: Professor Jonathan Gershman
Location: 1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Alice Beckman

Rafael Parente  
New York University  
Tonomundo: a Public-Private Partnership in Education in Brazil and Social Inclusion

Fernando Yitzack Pavon  
Syracuse University  
Improving Educational Quality in Honduras: Building a Demand-Driven Education Market

Cynthia Smith  
Syracuse University  
Implications of Legally Mandated Inclusive Education: Lessons from Italy

Omolola Taiwo  
New York University  
Education: The Key to Social and Economic Development in Developing Nations

Panel 11: Globalization, Colonization, and Western Influences on Schooling Worldwide
Discussant: Professor Renee Arcilla
Location: Payne Conference Room, 4th Floor, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Karen Smith

Saule K. Abdygapparova  
Kazakh-British Technical University  
External Education: Combining Western and Kazakhstani Values

Imed Labidi  
Zayed University, Abu Dhabi  
The Pedagogy of Islamism: An Interpretation of Western Representation in Middle Eastern Curricula

Shalini Mascarenhas  
University of Toronto  
The Malaysian Education System’s Response to Colonization and Globalization: A Historical Approach

Jennifer Wemigwans  
University of Toronto  
Representing Indigenous Knowledge Through 21st Century Media

Panel 12: Equity in the Age of High Stakes Testing
Discussant: Professor Sean Corcoran
Location: 5th Floor Conference Room, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Volunteer: Adrienne Bradshaw

Chitra Aiyar  
Former Fulbright Scholar  
Success and its Implications: The BRAC Education Programme

Iwan Syahril  
Teachers College, Columbia University  

May Wang  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
The Institutional Setting of Education Implementing NCLB policy for ELL

4:30-5:15pm: Closing Remarks by Shamil Idriss, Acting Director of the Secretariat for the UN Alliance of Civilizations
1st Floor Lounge, Pless Hall, 82 Washington Square East
Speaker Bios

Vishakha N. Desai

Vishakha N. Desai is president and CEO of Asia Society, a global educational organization dedicated to deepening connections among the peoples of Asia and the United States. She sets the directions for the Society’s diverse set of programs—in the areas of policy, business, arts, culture and education—throughout the Society’s network of centers in the U.S. and in Asia. She is a frequent speaker and commentator in the media addressing cultural, social, educational, business and policy trends and their implications for the U.S.-Asia relationship and Asian regional ties.

Appointed president in 2004, Dr. Desai conceptualized and presided over the organization’s 50th anniversary celebrations in 2006, marked by high-profile activities and expansive fundraising initiatives. As a result of these efforts, the Society is expanding the scope and scale of its activities, particularly in Asia, including a new India Centre in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) which opened in 2006 and planned multi-million dollar physical facilities in Hong Kong and Houston. Prior to her appointment as president, Dr. Desai served as Asia Society’s Senior Vice President and Director of the Museum and Cultural Programs. In this position, she managed the Society’s $40 million renovation of its New York City headquarters. As Museum Director, Dr. Desai built an international reputation for introducing contemporary Asian art to a broad audience and using it to illuminate historical trends and their influence on the development of society. A scholar of classical Indian art, she has published numerous catalogues and scholarly articles and is widely recognized for conceiving innovative exhibitions of traditional Asian art within strong cultural contexts. She was also at the forefront of the Society’s integration of Asian American issues into its public programming.

Prior to joining the Asia Society in 1990, Dr. Desai was a curator at The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She also taught at the University of Massachusetts, Boston University, Columbia University, and Williams College.

Dr. Desai holds a B.A. in political science from Bombay University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Asian Art History from the University of Michigan. The recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, Dr. Desai was awarded an honorary doctorate from Susquehanna University in 1996. She was also awarded the Asian American of the Year Award by the University of Massachusetts, and by Asian Americans for Equality, and is a recipient of the National Institute of Social Sciences Gold Medal.

Dr. Desai serves on the boards of The Brookings Institution, Citizens Committee for New York City, Asian University for Women, and the New York City Advisory Commission for Cultural Affairs. She served as the President of the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) in 1998-99, and was on the Board from 1995-2000. She has also served on the Boards of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics), the South Asian Council of the Association of Asian Studies, the College Art Association, ArtTable, and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.

Dr. Desai is married to Robert B. Oxnam, a China scholar, who was Asia Society’s president from 1981 to 1992.
Shamil Idriss

Shamil Idriss is the Acting Director of the Secretariat for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (AoC). He was appointed to the AoC Secretariat by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in October, 2005. Co-sponsored by the governments of Spain and Turkey, the mandate of the Alliance is to contribute to countering cross-cultural polarization and extremism, particularly in relations between Western and Muslim societies.

Prior to this position, Mr. Idriss served as Senior Advisor to the Council of 100 Leaders: West-Islamic World Dialogue Initiative (C-100) at the World Economic Forum. He served from 2004 - 2006 on the Steering Committee for that initiative and established its “action track” - a mechanism by which civil society organizations could obtain support from public and private donors for projects aimed at fostering mutual understanding across cultures.

From 2000-2004, Mr. Idriss served as Chief Operating Officer of Search for Common Ground (SFCG), a global leader in international conflict resolution and pioneer in the use of media for positive social change. As COO, he managed the global programming of the 15-office, 375-staff-member organization as well as its headquarters in Washington, DC.

In previous positions with SFCG he managed the first independent radio outlet in Burundi - Studio Ijambo - which was credited in independent evaluations and by international donor agencies with greatly reducing inter-ethnic violence and advancing Hutu-Tutsi reconciliation. Working with local associations and youth networks, he launched a counter-extremism youth initiative utilizing diverse means including sports, cartoon books, and media which won international acclaim and a UNESCO award for peace-building.

Prior to his work in Burundi, Mr. Idriss managed the early years of SFCG’s US-Iran Program, an effort to improve American-Iranian cultural relations that began in 1998 with SFCG’s organizing of the first public American delegation to visit Iran since the Iranian revolution in 1979 – the visit of the US National Wrestling Team to compete in the Takhti Cup Tournament. This exchange opened the window of opportunity to hundreds of other exchanges by SFCG and other organizations as well as to more politically-oriented American-Iranian dialogue.

Mr. Idriss serves on the Boards of several non-profit organizations and was appointed in 2005 to the Young Global Leaders Forum of the World Economic Forum. He has published articles on international conflict resolution, media and social change, and “Islamic-Western” relations in European, African, Middle Eastern, and American journals and newspapers. He lives in New York with his wife Dr. Cynthia Miller Idriss and daughter Aniset.
Carola Suárez-Orozco

Carola Suárez-Orozco is a Professor of Applied Psychology at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, & Human Development and Co-Director of Immigration Studies @ NYU. She publishes widely in the areas of cultural psychology, academic engagement, immigrant families and youth, and identity formation. She is the author of Learning a New Land (with Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Irina Todorova, Harvard University Press, 2008), Children of Immigration (with Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Harvard University Press, 2001) and Transformations: Migration, Family Life, and Achievement Motivation Among Latino Adolescents (with Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Stanford University Press, 1995). They are also the co-editors of the six volume series entitled Interdisciplinary Perspectives on The New Immigration (with Desirée Qin-Hillard, Routledge, 2001) as well as The New Immigration: An Interdisciplinary Reader (Routledge, 2005).

She has published on such topics as academic engagement, the role of the "social mirror" in identity formation, immigrant family separations, the role of mentors in facilitating positive development in immigrant youth, the gendered experiences of immigrant youth among many others. Professor Suárez-Orozco received an American Psychological Association Presidential Citation for her seminal work on the cultural psychology of immigration in 2006. She was inducted into the New York Academy of Sciences in 2007.

Professor of Applied Psychology and Co-Director of Immigration Studies
Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco


Professor Suárez-Orozco, the former Victor S. Thomas Professor of Education and Culture at Harvard, co-founded the Harvard Immigration Projects with Carola Suárez-Orozco in 1997 where they co-directed the largest study ever funded in the history of the National Science Foundation's Cultural Anthropology division—a study of Asian, Afro-Caribbean, and Latino immigrant youth in American society. He has been Visiting Professor of Psychology at the University of Barcelona (Spain), Visiting Professor of Anthropology at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), and Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford. He has been awarded multiple honors and awards, including most recently the Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca (the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest award given by the Mexican government on behalf of the Mexican people to a foreign national for outstanding contributions to the understanding of Mexico. Professor Suárez-Orozco was educated in Argentina and at the University of California, Berkeley where he received his A.B. (Psychology, 1980), M.A. (Anthropology, 1981) and Ph. D. (Anthropology, 1986).