

New Century Scholar Program Group 1

The Cultural and Societal Norms that Affect Access and Equity in Education

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Mission:

Description and analysis of specific country and/or regional contexts in order to achieve a clear and nuanced understanding of the complex phenomena of equity and access in education, using multiple research methodologies and epistemological approaches, which seeks to interrogate key concepts and targeted policies.

Objectives:

In keeping with the broad Mission set out above, the members of the Group will

- Closely examine terms like Merit, Quality, Affirmative Action, Quotas, Equity, Discrimination and Exclusion (overt & covert) and their nuances, both in terms of their cultural and historical articulations.
- Investigate the processes of Multiple Marginalization in relation to race/ethnicity, gender, religion, region, language among others.
- Study the formation and reproduction of “assigned” and “asserted” identities, with particular reference to the role of the state, dominant societies and private institutions in this process, as well as the resistance to the assignation.
- Determine the respective enabling environments in the various contexts, which would include family, social institutions, modes of government, legal frameworks and strength/dynamism of civil society to create awareness and accountability.
- Constructively critique relevant empirical and theoretical studies, examine targeted policies, including their implementation, and make policy recommendations for the future.

Key Outputs:

Presentation of Research Findings:

- (1) Participation in American Educational Research Association, Annual Meeting for 2008, which will be held from March 24 – 28, 2008, in New York City either as a Panel or Symposium. Proposals are due on August 01, 2007. Michele will coordinate the process.
- (2) Participation in other regional and international conferences, seminars and workshops.

Publication of Papers: ONE OF FOUR OPTIONS

- (3) Publish the resulting papers in *Education Policy Analysis Archive*. Michele will facilitate this [E & S]
- (4) Carlos will explore the possibility of a special volume of *Constellations*.
- (5) Zhiyong will look at the prospect of publishing the papers as a book through a Chinese publishing company.
- (6) Yaw to explore the possibility of a special issue of the *Journal of Black Studies*.

Dissemination in Countries/Regions where Research is Based:

- (7) Regional Meetings in South Asia, Africa and Latin America (including other groups).
- (8) Translation of papers into the relevant local languages and dissemination of key findings through validation workshops among affected communities and other key stakeholders, who have participated in the study.

Exploring further avenues of Research:

- (9) Kavita to work with other Group Coordinators on additional funding possibilities, and others to look out for opportunities. Laura will explore the possibility of a conference at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio (or other sources), to be scheduled for around 6 months after the final plenary.