Beyond Labels: Coming of Age in a Multi-Ethnic America (1998)

Ewa Irena Pytowska
A MULTI-CULTURAL MEDIA
FAIR AND WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 7, 1998

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Organized by the Dialogue on Diversity Committee
Saturday, November 7, 1998

Approved for CEUs by the Rhode Island Department of Education, this program has been generously supported by the President's Office, the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, and the Committee on College Lectures.

Free to RIC students, staff and faculty.
“PROMISING PRACTICES”
November 7, 1998
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE
Student Union Ballroom

8:00-9:00 A.M., EXHIBITS OPEN, REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

9:00-9:25, GREETINGS by President John Nazarian and Dean David Nelson
INTRODUCTIONS, ORIENTATION by Richard Lobban

9:30-10:45 PANELS AND WORKSHOPS, SESSION I–GAIGE HALL
Panel A: Marjorie Roemer, Orchestrating the Multi-Voiced Classroom–G251
Panel B: Ellen Bigler, Integrating Latino Curricula into Elementary Schools–G209
Panel C: Mark Motte, Changing Definitions of Diversity–I–G255
Panel D: Marlene Lopes, Cape Verdeans in the Curriculum–G257
Panel E: Judith Mitchell, Multi-Cultural Literature: Grades 7-8–G258
Panel F: Sandra Lenore and Gloria Rainone, Geography Awareness Week: Peoples, Patterns, Places–G253

10:45-11:15 COFFEE AND EXHIBITS

11:15-12:20 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: STUDENT UNION BALLROOM
MS. EWA IRENA PYTOWSKA, Assistant Superintendent, Central Falls Schools
Beyond Labels: Coming of Age in a Multi-Ethnic America

12:30-1:30 LUNCH AND EXHIBITS–STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

1:30-2:45 PANELS AND WORKSHOPS, SESSION II–GAIGE HALL
Panel A: Richard Lobban: Open Session: “Sharing Your K-12 Strategies”–G251
Panel C: Mark Motte, Changing Definitions of Diversity–II–G255
Panel D: Elizabeth Henshaw & Elizabeth Rowell, Diversity Mentorship for Early Childhood Elementary Educators–G257
Panel E: Sally Gabb, “It Must Be Like Going to the Moon”: Immigrant Families Making Cultural Transitions–G258
Panel F: Ewa Irena Pytowska and Joany C. Santa, Home School Liaison: Focus on Central Falls–G209

2:45-3:15 COFFEE AND EXHIBITS–STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

3:15-4:30 PANELS AND WORKSHOPS, SESSION III–GAIGE HALL
Panel A: Leonard Perry, Dialoguing Cross-Racially–G251
Panel B: Barry Schiller, Roger Simon and Amritjit Singh, Immigration, Environment and Diversity–G253
Panel C: Willis Poole, Teaching Content to ESL students in the Mainstream Classroom–G255
Panel D: Robert Cvornyek & Raymond Mitchell, Race, Labor and the Historical Imagination–G257
Panel E: Sanjeev Chatterjee, South Asian Diaspora in the Americas–G258
Panel F: Ellen Bigler, Integrating Curricula on Latinos into Secondary Schools–G209

9:30 A.M., 1:30 P.M., 3:15 P.M.: ONGOING VIDEOS SHOWING–ROOM 211
A. **Orchestrating the Multi-Voiced Classroom**
   Marjorie Romer, RIC, English, G251

   Often we teach about diversity without actually valuing diversity in the classrooms. We will examine a small bit of text together and try to explore the differences in our responses and the value of those differences for classroom instruction.

B. **Integrating Curricula on Latinos into the Elementary Schools**
   Ellen Bigler, RIC, Anthropology and Educational Studies, G209

   Latinos will soon become the nation's largest minority group. Workshop participants will examine an interdisciplinary K-12 curriculum that provides background information on Latinos' histories, cultures, and contributions, and focuses on ways to integrate Latinos into the elementary school classroom. [Please bring two 4” 3-hole binders to contain the curriculum; each will receive a copy free of charge to take back to their schools.]

C. **Changing Definitions of Diversity I**
   Mark Motte, RIC, Anthropology/Geography, G255

   In Rhode Island, attitudes toward diversity are slowly moving beyond outdated concepts of “tolerance” toward genuinely inclusive approaches to education and human services. Public schools, health care systems and community organizations are beginning to recognize that effective outcomes depend upon learning to listen, respect and respond in new ways. Workshop will use the experience of an organization such as “Dads Making a Difference” to demonstrate a model for achieving educational reform.

D. **Cape Verdeans in the Curriculum**
   Marlene Lopes, RIC, Librarian, Special Collections, G257

   The Cape Verdean/American connection is more than 200 years old, and the Cape Verdean presence in Rhode Island is strong and growing. Through books and other materials selected from Cape Verdean Collection at Rhode Island College, this workshop will examine the history and culture of Cape Verdeans in America and explore the implications for the multicultural classroom.

E. **Multi-Cultural Literature: Grade 7 and 8**
   Judith Mitchell, RIC, English, G258

   Seventh and eighth grade literature can and should help a child to appreciate diversity. This workshop brings together materials and approaches to enable the classroom teacher to infuse perspectives that may or may not mirror the child's (or the society's) own through the use of novels, short stories and poems.

F. **Geography Awareness Week: Peoples, Patterns, Places**
   Sandra Lenore and Gloria Rainone, RI Geographical Educational Alliance, G253

   This workshop will be based on the National Geographical Society's "Teacher Activity Packet." Population data will be used to engage participants in activities that explore the reason why people live where they do, why people move and what forces affect their migrations.

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**WORKSHOPS SESSION II—GAIGE HALL**
1:30-2:45 p.m.

A. **Open Session: "Sharing Your K-12 Strategies"**
   Richard Lobban, RIC, Anthropology/Geography, G251

   This session will bring together teachers who will share strategies that they have found successful in incorporating diversity education in the classroom. (Teachers willing to share strategies are urged to call R. Lobban at 456-8784 before November 3)

B. **“Ethnic” Literature and “White” Resistance:**
   Amritjit Singh; RIC, English, G253

   We will explore strategies that have proven useful in working with students who resist attempts at confronting issues that emerge from readings in African American and Ethnic American literature, and discuss how students' patterns of resistance might serve as valuable pedagogical tools.

C. **Changing Definitions of Diversity II**
   Mark Motte, RIC, Anthropology/Geography, G255

   Strong linkages between schools and communities are critical for student success. Across America, schools that manage to tap into strong neighborhood, family, parent and volunteer networks produce students who thrive. We will examine practices that bridge the gap between the school and the community. Participating groups will include: Parents Making a Difference, URI Urban Field Center, and Pawtucket Child Opportunity Zone.

D. **Empowering Teachers and Pre-Service Teacher Educators to Become Caring, Anti-biased, and Committed Citizens Through Book-based Literacy Enhancing Activities**
   Elizabeth U. Henshaw, and Elizabeth H. Rowell, RIC, Elementary Education, G257

   Intended for classroom educators from pre-K to grade 3, this session will present ideas for field-tested, developmentally appropriate, literacy-enhancing, activities that can help young people develop understanding, compassion and the skills needed to stand up for themselves and other children who are being treated unfairly because of bias, prejudice, or insensitivity.

E. **“It Must Be Like Going to the Moon”: Immigrant Families Making Cultural Transitions**
   Sally Gabb, Genesis Center, G258

   Through their work with immigrant families, many educators have recognized the impact that American institutions, especially the schools, have had on immigrant families. This workshop will explore ideas and strategies that may be helpful to teachers who struggle to address the needs of the children of immigrant families.

F. **Home-School Liaison: Focus on Central Falls**
   Ewa Irena Pytworska, Assistant Superintendent, Central Falls Schools, and Joany C. Santa, Home School Liaison, G209

   This workshop will outline the different aspects of establishing and maintaining the Home/School Link and the way it is implemented in one of Rhode Island's cities. We will explore the strategies needed to empower families by building strong partnerships between the school and community.
WORKSHOPS SESSION III–GAIGE HALL
3:15-4:30 p.m.

A. Dialoging Cross-Racially
Leonard Perry, Associate Dean of Students, Brown University, G251

This interactive workshop will explore one teaching/learning model for being a positive and productive ally in developing a true pluralistic society. This workshop design will provide the opportunity for an experiential learning of some issues and tools necessary for developing effective partnerships in the struggle toward creating strong pluralistic and multicultural communities for all of us.

B. Immigration, Environment and Diversity
Barry Schiller, Roger Simons, RIC, Math/Computer Science Dept., Amritjit Singh, Department of English, RIC, G253

We will explore the connection between immigration policy and environmental quality, population, and diversity issues. These issues emerged last year over a resolution presented to the Sierra Club which, if approved, would have obligated the organization to support policies which would curtail U.S. immigration in order to protect the natural environment. The resolution was defeated. This panel will provide a forum for a broad exploration of these issues.

C. Teaching Content to ESL Students in Mainstream Classrooms
Willis Poole, RIC, Educational Studies, G255

This workshop will assist classroom teachers to modify their teaching strategies to meet the needs of language-minority students and acquire strategies that allow these students to participate successfully in the content area classroom.

D. Race, Labor and the Historical Imagination
Robert Cvornyek, RIC, History, and Raymond Mitchell, Program Coordinator of RI Legal/Educational Partnership, G257

Through presentations, discussions, and hands-on materials, this workshop examines the nature and extent of community among African American slaves and considers whether or not the activities that sustained the slave community in the struggle for freedom have relevance today. Are there communal lessons to be learned from the slave experience, and if so, how do we best present these lessons to students?

E. South Asian Diaspora in the Americas
Sanjeev Chatterjee, Communications Dept., University of Miami, G258

Two films created by Chatterjee, “Bittersweet” and “Pure Chutney,” will be used to explore issues of identity, migration, religion, racism and fundamentalism. Discussion will include how Chatterjee’s documentaries on Asian-American experience can become valuable resources for classroom use.

F. Integrating Curricula on Latinos into Secondary Schools
Ellen Bigler, RIC, Educational Studies and Anthropology, G209

See description for Session II. Focus will be on secondary schools. [Please bring two 4” 3-hole binders.]

CONFERENCE FEES
This program is free and open to RIC students, staff, and faculty. There is a registration fee of $5.00 for all other participants. There is a limit of 30 participants for each workshop.

PRE-REGISTRATION
Please indicate sessions you will be attending Identify workshops in order of preference.

I would like to attend:
(rank order your top three choices in each session.)

SESSION I SESSION II SESSION III
A Roemer A Lobban A Perry
B Bigler B Singh B Schiller & Simons
C Motte I C Motte II C Poole
D Lopes Henshaw & Rowell C cvornyek & Mitchell
E Mitchell Rowell E Gabb E Chatterjee
F Lenore & Gabb Pytowska & Santa F Bigler

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

Phone/Email: ____________________________

*Affiliation: ____________________________

*If you are a teacher please note subject area and grade level

Please return this registration form to:
Promising Practices
Dr. Richard Lobban
Gaige 118
Rhode Island College
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

Enclose $5 check payable to: Rhode Island College

For further information call:
Richard Lobban (401) 456-8784
or Elizabeth Henshaw (401) 456-8567

JOSEPH COSTA, AMRITJIT SINGH AND CAROL SHELTON, CO-CHAIRS, DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY COMMITTEE