Dear CCDE Community,

Happy Summer!

As we have been enjoying Seattle’s glorious summer, we have been reflecting on our busy Spring quarter, which was filled with...

Our final “Generation Mixed Goes to School” listening party was on May 22nd. As opposed to the other parties that featured middle and high school student voices, we were honored to feature the voices of our elementary school participants in this session as well, some as young as five. We are grateful to the Royalty Research Fund for their support with this project. This summer my co-author Allison Briscoe-Smith and I are writing up our results in the first draft of our book. Get a sneak peek at the sound clips, produced by our very own CCDE research assistant Anjuli Brekke, here.

Interrupting Privilege with UWAA. For the third year in a row we partnered eager group of UW alumni with brave and bold UW students to learn, work, and create anti-racist tools together. This intergenerational, interracial dialoguing class was bolstered by the hard work of student mentors Kenneth Applewhaite and Embeba Hagos.

Continued on pg. 2
CCDE’s sixth annual conference took place on June 5th and 6th. This year our topic was “Racial Categorization and the 2020 Census.” We were honored to be joined by leading scholars on the topic, including our keynotes UC Berkeley professor Cristina Mora, Portland State professor Kim Williams and Michigan State professor Nazita Lajevardi, activists, including Meghan Maury from the National LGBTQ Task Force, Jorge Baron from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, and Patricia Whitefoot from the Yakama Nation, and politicians including former Gov. Gary Locke. You can see the entire schedule here.

As always, our community has been hard at work creating cutting-edge scholarship. CCDE RA Meshell Sturgis successfully passed her qualifying exams, and CCDE Ph.D. student Marcus Johnson completed his dissertation prospectus. Three CCDE undergraduate honors students, Izaiha Linton, Kenneth Applewhaite, and Michael Neal completed their undergraduate honors theses on, respectively, mixed-race college students’ racialization, sexual racism in LGBTQ communities, and Black student athletes’ experiences at Predominantly White Institutions; all three students presented their research in oral presentations at the Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Symposium. A number of our Communication & Difference Research Group members presented their work at the International Communication Association’s annual conference in Washington D.C. late May, where I was also honored to receive the organization’s 2019 Outstanding Book Award for Postracial Resistance. The summer began with three of our Ph.D. students, Anjuli Brekke, Marcus Johnson, and Meshell Sturgis attending USC-UPenn Annenberg Summer Doctoral Institute on Difference in Media and Culture, and you can read more about their experiences below.

For the 2019-20 academic year I will be in residence at the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) as part of my ACLS/Mellon Scholars & Society Fellowship. During that time my brilliant colleague CCDE Associate Director Carmen Gonzalez will be filling in as Interim Director of the CCDE.

Have a lovely rest-of-the-summer!

In solidarity,

Ralina L. Joseph, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity

The CCDE strives to be a space where our community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni gather to promote greater equity. Through research collaborations, networking opportunities, action-oriented classes, mentorship programs, and community engagement we engage in dialogue to think critically about race and its intersections, to interrupt privilege, and ultimately to change the structures of power around us.

If you are interested in supporting our work, contact us at CCDE@uw.edu.
Graduate Student Experiences

This year, three of our Communication and Difference Research Group member had the honor of participating in the “USC-UPenn Annenberg Summer Doctoral Institute on Difference in Media and Culture,” June 3-7, 2019. The Institute is a partnership between the Annenberg Schools of the University of Southern California and the University of Pennsylvania and brings together scholars from across disciplines to discuss issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, religion, class, and power in media. Only 15-20 graduate students are chosen nationally, and we are excited to have three of our doctoral students participate. Here’s a bit on their experiences.

Anjuli Brekke:

The USC-UPenn Annenberg “Summer Doctoral Institute on Difference in Media and Culture” provided me with an invaluable opportunity to engage in critical conversations with other scholars interested in difference and equity. We met in an intimate space with faculty and Doctoral students from across the country to learn from each other’s research and wide variety of experiences. The institute provided a greater feeling of trust and support than traditional conferences. On the first day, organizer and University of Southern California professor Taj Frazier opened the institute by proclaiming the importance of acknowledging and working through the many failures, both small and large, that we encounter through our work. Although conference presentations are expected to be concise and tightly packaged conclusions where all the messy seams are hidden from view, Dr. Frazier expressed that this institute was meant to be a space to workshop our projects in their various states of completion. These sentiments opened a space for institute fellows to be vulnerable and experiment discussing projects still in development. Some of us had PowerPoint slides, some didn’t. Some of us read from a script, some of us spoke extemporaneously. Through the rich variety both in terms of content as well as embodied presentations, I was energized by the possibilities opened up by this space of community and collaboration. The faculty presentations in the afternoons provided us with insight into the various paths one can take to finding a meaningful career within academia. They also made clear, however, the challenges they faced and continue to face bumping up against the oppressive neoliberal structures in which academia is embedded. The faculty offered helpful strategies for navigating a system which often feels opaque. At the end of a long and fruitful week of work, we all met on the last day for dinner and drinks in downtown Los Angeles. Now that I’m back in Seattle, I look forward to continuing the conversations and energy generated during the institute.

Marcus Johnson:

The 2019 USC – UPENN Annenberg Summer Doctoral Institute on Difference in Media & Culture is an intensive weeklong workshop in which graduate students and faculty present their work and receive feedback from colleagues. The goal is to workshop dissertation chapters or prospectus, publishable or thesis papers or ideas for a project. Since my roommate presented on the first day, we headed to the USC campus early so he could get set up.
Throughout each day from 9:00am-4:00pm we listened to clusters of people present their work. At first, I didn’t know how to feel, a sense of nervousness, anxiety, excitement and engagement. As the days progressed and I learned more about the tremendous work my colleagues were doing, the sense of excitement moved to the surface. By the end of the experience I was grateful to have such a wonderful opportunity to participate in this summer institute. One of the thoughts I had on the final day was one of hope and being among the next generation of scholars asking new questions. The faculty, staff and graduate students made the experience special and look forward to see how everyone’s work progresses.

MesHELL STURGIS:

When I began packing for the 2019 USC Writing Institute, I wasn’t entirely sure what I was getting myself into. I knew there was an emphasis on communication studies of difference, but beyond that I wasn’t entirely sure what I would be doing over the course of the week. I wondered if it would be a writing workshop, a series of networking events, a reading group, or an exploration of the Annenberg School of Communication faculty and resources. Turns out, it was a little bit of each of these– but mainly, it was set up like an intensive conference. With two student-led panels in the morning and extended faculty presentations in the afternoon, by the end of the week each participant had received extensive feedback from the group of scholars present. The broad topic of communication and difference led to a vast array of interdisciplinary projects and refreshing feedback from unique scholarly perspectives. Personally, I enjoyed the ability to practice my conferencing and presentation skills while have over two dozen scholars to draw inspiration from. Another plus point of attending the institute was getting to witness projects in various stages, giving me a wellspring to draw from when reflecting on my own process and trajectory as a graduate student and beyond. The professional mentorship we were exposed to is invaluable! I left the institute feeling tired from all the deep thinking and simultaneously energized by the generative nature of taking time to thinking about my future dissertation product.

For more information about student support and mentorship, please contact ccde@uw.edu.

Check out our website for times and updates about RealTalk Tuesdays, in partnership with UW’s Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program (GO-MAP).

ccde.com.washington.edu
On June 5th, Dr. Ralina Joseph, Director of the UW Center of Communication, Difference, and Equity (CCDE), kicked off the two day “Racial Categories and the 2020 Census Conference” with an introductory speech to welcome the keynote speakers. The conference is an annual event organized by CCDE and funded by the Edna and Earl Stice Fund. This year’s topic was how the US decennial Census and systems of power have impacted our racial categories. The Census has been in the mainstream conversation under the Trump administration, mostly because of the administration’s insistence on including a citizenship question. If you haven’t heard, immigration policies have long been a point of contention for the Trump administration especially intertwined with Mexico border control. Many states, including Washington, have condemned the use of the citizenship question for the upcoming census because the fear that it can create within immigrant communities. Furthermore, the census is now transitioning to digital platforms, which adds a layer of complexity for those who aren’t digitally literate.

Dr. Nazita Lajevardi, our first keynote speaker, focuses on the importance of the Middle Easter & North African category, which is currently subsumed under the category of White. The second speaker, Dr. G. Cristina Mora, explained the history the 'Hispanic' category, and implications that the citizenship question would have. Finally, Dr. Kim Williams explored the complications of the mark one or more category. The speakers pointed out the complex history and power dynamics that went into negotiating racial identities for minoritized communities.

The second day of the conference included roundtables from academics, activists, journalists, and policymakers who have been working on current Census issues both locally and nationwide. Topics ranged from how Census data is used by various professionals, how to communicate more effectively with hard to count communities, and how the importance of disaggregating the demographic information. At the closing of the conference, former Governor Gary Locke, who is chairing the Washington State Census task force, was interviewed by Journalism instructor, Andrea Otanez. He gave an account of the challenges that faced in the 2010 Census when he was the Sectary of Commerce under the Obama Administration. Given his experience, he spoke frankly about the challenges of administrating a decennial census, and provided advice for a successful census count in 2020.
We had another iteration (fifth!) of our Community Engaged Scholarship Program. Above are some of the scholars at UW’s Intellectual House. The scholars, who are made up of UW students and Rainier Scholars, studied how knowledge production and research are part of larger systems of power. They learned qualitative research methods such as community asset mapping, interviewing, and participant observation. We visited the Northwest African American Museum, the Duwamish Longhouse, and joined other high-school students for a listening party to examine different forms of knowledge production and representation. They also wrote research proposals on inequalities in education, gentrification, homelessness, stigma surrounding HIV status, restorative justice, and representation of People of Color in sports.

Thank you, Rainier Scholars, for the continued partnership!

We will be continuing our online series called “What we are reading/listening/watching this week”

To get a taste of all the remarkable equity work you can draw on, visit our website: ccde.com.washington.edu

Or follow us on Twitter @uwccde and Facebook, search UW Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity.