

Appendix 2

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNDERREPRESENTED ETHNIC & RACIAL GROUPS (CUERG)

The Committee on Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups (CUERG) consists of the following CTSA members: Gerald Boodoo, co-chair, Duquesne University; Carmen Nanko-Fernández, co-chair, Catholic Theological Union; Gemma Cruz, Australian Catholic University; Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, Mount Mary College; Alexander Mikulich, Jesuit Social Research Institute; Jamie Phelps, Xavier University of Louisiana; Jean-Pierre Ruiz, St. John's University; and Tracy Sayuki Tiemeier, Loyola Marymount University.

1. CUERG mourns the loss of former CUERG member Alejandro García-Rivera and joins in prayerful solidarity with his familia, his Jesuit School of Theology community and his CTSA and ACHTUS colleagues in giving thanks for his life, his scholarship and his faithful service to CTSA, to the academy and to the church.
2. The CUERG sponsored interest group *Intercultural and Transnational Pedagogies in Theology & Religious Studies* presents its second session in a three year series of sessions intended to resource CTSA members in areas of teaching/learning and institutional practices in light of the demographic shifts reshaping the church and the classroom. Table conversation notes from CUERG Luncheon at Convention 2010 were gathered and used to put together the second session of the Interest Group. In 2010 the focus was on framing and mapping the issues; in 2011 the focus moves to more practical pedagogical matters, classroom and online strategies and resources. After the 3 year series is completed in 2012, it might be useful to assess its value and for CUERG to consider sponsoring another 3 year special session series on other area(s) that would benefit the general membership.
3. The Interest Group Session for 2011 meets Saturday 2:30-4:15 p.m. in the Cupertino Room

The Differences that Difference Makes: Resourcing Intercultural and Transnational Pedagogies

Convener: Jean-Pierre Ruiz, St. John's University, New York

Moderator: Carmen Nanko-Fernández (substitute for Gilberto Cavazos-González), Catholic Theological Union

- Panelists:
- (1) Jonathan Tan, Australian Catholic University—focuses on resourcing courses and curricula in ways that intentionally attend to the scholarship from underrepresented racial, ethnic and transnational constituencies and the creative use of the web.
 - (2) C. Vanessa White, Catholic Theological Union—develops a particular pedagogical method for teaching interculturally, grounded in an African American theological appreciation for the power of storytelling
 - (3) Jean-Pierre Ruiz, St. John’s University, New York—uncovers the variety of institutional understandings of diversity and the implications for curricula development and institutional identities. The shifting demographics in our classrooms, of the globalization of theological discourse, and of the growing body of scholarship from constituencies previously underrepresented in theological study in the United States present educators in theological and religious studies with significant pedagogical challenges and important new opportunities. With this in mind, panelists identified key resources, strategies and best practices for intercultural, intercontextual and transnational pedagogies.

This follows the success of the June 2010 session—**The Differences that Difference Makes: Mapping Intercultural and Transnational Pedagogies**. The topic for 2012 will also be drawn from table conversation notes of the 2010 working lunch.

4. CUERG is disappointed that the Board has decided to not continue financially sponsoring the working luncheon opportunity that intentionally sought to gather a greater spectrum of members from racial and ethnic constituencies who remain underrepresented in the CTSA, the academy and in the leadership of the Church, particularly in the United States and Canada. In the past 3 years those luncheons served as a space in the CTSA for members from underrepresented constituencies to constructively explore ways of resourcing the greater membership of the CTSA on matters related to scholarship, teaching/learning and the challenging reality of life in the academy and in academic institutions for scholars, faculty, administrators and students from underrepresented constituencies.

Members from underrepresented racial and ethnic communities do not constitute a monolithic interest group, though CUERG used the “interest group” structure to secure a place on the program in order to resource CTSA members. These working luncheons were effective means to provide space for interactions that ultimately sought to improve the CTSA experience for all its

members by planning concrete ways to resource CTSA on matters related to underrepresented constituencies in our CTSA membership, in the academy, in scholarship, in publishing and in our classrooms.

This not the work of an interest group; it is a necessary service to a professional association from its members, primarily from underrepresented communities because the playing field in many ways is still not level. The luncheons were one small way that CTSA demonstrated a commitment to and an investment in these concerns and in its members from underrepresented racial and ethnic communities.

5. CUERG continues to encourage greater visibility of CTSA members from underrepresented constituencies in the leadership of groups, on convention programs and on the CTSA board and committees. For example for sections NOT connected to an ethnic/racial consultation, where administrative teams are designated, approximately 10% of the total leadership comes from members from underrepresented communities. Of the 20% of members from underrepresented communities on the program, a significant percentage is connected to consultations associated explicitly with an racial/ethnic community and/or an issue or topic related to such a constituencies, e.g. migrations.
6. On the occasion of Dee Christie's retirement, CUERG expresses profound gratitude to our colleague Dee for her years of service to the CTSA and for her particular assistance to CUERG, especially in the coordination of our working luncheons. We offer this token of our appreciation (*a bottle of her favorite wine*), a mark of hospitality and companionship at table. In la lengua of Dee's ethnic community—"Mille grazie, grazie di tutto cuore!"

CARMEN NANKO-FERNÁNDEZ
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