

Centre for Culture, Identity and Education **Excerpt From Summary of Annual Report, 2005-2006**

Prepared by Handel Wright, Director
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I. Introduction: Mandate and Vision for the Centre for Culture, Identity and Education

The Centre for Culture, Identity and Education (CCIE) is being established as part of a successful UBC application for a Canada Research Chair in Comparative Cultural Studies. The CCIE is a cultural studies research centre that focuses on exploring various facets of and developments in the comprehensive and complex issue of identity and its educational implications in local, national and international cultural contexts. The CCIE is a collaborative, cultural studies “glocal” praxis centre. In other words, the CCIE emphasizes utilizing cultural studies and related discourses (multiculturalism, anti-racism, critical pedagogy, transnationalism, diaspora studies, cosmopolitanism, etc.) in the promotion of local cultural and activist work as well as collaborative research undertaken at the local, national and global levels. At the local level, the CCIE forges and maintains links (town/gown relationships) with selected local educational institutions, cultural and activist organizations as well as targeted communities (e.g. selected Aboriginal and immigrant communities). At the national and global levels, the CCIE is a focal point of national and international consortium of scholars working on identity and identification issues as well as on discourses that articulate and represent identity, sociocultural diversity and social and global justice.

The CCIE is still in its planning stages and yet some aspects of implementation of the work are already being undertaken.

II. Structure and Administration

- The administrative structure of the CCIE is comprised of a director, a steering committee, administrative staff and graduate research assistants.
- The Director of the CCIE is Handel Wright, associate professor in the Department of Educational Studies and Canada Research Chair in Comparative Cultural Studies.
- Administrative staffing is undertaken by the staff of the NCIE, currently composed of six administrative clerks and headed by the Administrative Manager.
- The CCIE has various categories of involvement including steering committee members, various individual associates (faculty, graduate student, UBC and beyond) and organizational associates (linked research centres and institutes, community organizations).

The Steering Committee will be composed of 15 individuals, primarily faculty and mostly from the Faculty of Education. The Steering Committee is still being formed. The Director has had conversations with various individuals both about composition of the Steering Committee and possible inclusion. Thus far several Faculty of Education members have been approached and all have consented to serve on the Steering Committee

Members of the Steering Committee are being carefully selected to represent not only various departments in the Faculty as well as graduate students and community, but also various areas of expertise which nonetheless will lead to coherence of the Centre's work.

The Steering Committee will play such roles as

1. advising the director on the vision, goals and specific projects of the CCIE.
2. suggesting visiting faculty and researchers to CCIE.
3. contributing their research to CCIE work.
4. collaborating with the Director, other Steering Committee members and CCIE affiliates in developing grants and undertaking empirical research (if interested).
5. coordinating aspects of the research foci of the CCIE that fall under their areas of expertise (if interested).
6. contributing to lectures, workshops, conferences organized by the CCIE.

CCIE Associates:

Various faculty and graduate students in the Faculty and UBC generally undertaking CCIE related work as well as similar faculty at other institutions can become CCIE Associates. There is considerable interest and most of the 38 or so faculty and graduate students who attended the first CCIE/Lam Chair townhall meeting on Multicultural and Related Discourses have become Associates. There is also interest from staff as well as external faculty. Thus, without any solicitation, there is a growing list of CCIE Associates representative of Faculty graduate students (e.g. Hanif Virani, incoming PhD in CCFI & Jackie Kennelly, PhD candidate in EDST); staff (e.g. Yvonne Brown, Faculty of Education, Jill Baird- UBC Museum of Anthropology); faculty (e.g. Hartej Gill- EDST, Carmen Medina- Language and Literacy) post-doctoral fellows (e.g. Tatiana Ryba- Human Kinetics) and external faculty (e.g. Ozlem Sensay- Simon Fraser University; Dolana Mogadime- Brock University).

CCIE Associates will receive notification of CCIE activities, can attend planning meetings, participate in CCIE workshops, seminars, conferences, lectures, etc. and have opportunities to collaborate with each other in research projects and grant applications. CCIE Associates generally and those from outside UBC in particular can also visit and make use of Centre facilities and equipment as needed and available.

- Centre to Centre Links:

The CCIE is establishing links with a number of national and international Centres undertaking related work, with the idea of undertaking collaborative research, teaching and research exchanges, mutual promotion of centre and university work, etc. The Director has had extensive conversations and the following centres have eagerly consented to establish links:

1. CME- Center for Multicultural Education, University of Washington, Seattle. Primary communication has been with Director James Banks, Cherry Banks (and Zeus Leonardo who serves as temporary Director while James Banks is on sabbatical leave).
2. CSCS- Center for Sport, Citizenship and Society, Ohio State University. Primary communication has been with Interim Director, William Morgan who is slated to be Director once the CSCS is fully established.
3. AMLC&S- Audiovisual Media Laboratory for the Study of Culture and Society- University of Ottawa. Primary communication has been with Boulou de B'beri who is Director of the Lab.
4. Centre for Excellence for the Study of Development Communication, Cultural and Media Studies at University of Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa. Primary communication has been with Keyan Tomaselli, Director of the current Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, who is slated to be Director of the new Centre for Excellence for the Study of Development Communication, Cultural and Media Studies once it is fully established.
5. Highlander Research and Education Center, New Market, TN. Famous social justice and community activist centre. Primary communication has been with Gilbert Martinez, Chair of the working Board of Directors.

There are plans to approach and forge links with other centres nationally and internationally as well as specific local community organizations.

There is a balance of well established centres (e.g. CME and Highlander) as well as newly established centres or those currently being established (e.g. CSCS and AMLC&S). The idea is to work with well established organizations as well as some of the most innovative centres being established doing similar work.

The links will be stronger and more comprehensive with some centres and somewhat looser and less involved with others, with varying goals and degrees of levels and intensity of cooperation. For an example of a planned close, comprehensive and detailed link, see attached draft of link between CCIE and DCCMS (Appendix 1).

III. Report on Activities in Relation to the Centre Mandate and Responsibilities

A. Programs and Courses

- The Director offers courses that are inherently interdisciplinary and related to the overall focus of the CCIE (i.e. courses in Cultural Studies, Multicultural Education). He also offers courses in qualitative research (which will help in training of potential graduate student researchers affiliated with the CCIE).

- There is no systematic program of courses being offered by the CCIE (which is not degree granting). However, the opportunity the Director has to offer courses through both his home department (the SCPE program in particular focuses on interdisciplinary and social justice work) and the interdisciplinary CCFI provide avenues for programs and courses that are interdisciplinary and related to the overall theme and approach of the CCIE.
- Also, courses offered by Faculty of Education Steering Committee members and Associates of the CCIE could be said to form a loose set of courses related to the work of the Centre.

B. Events and Service

- The CCIE intends to be involved in organizing and or co-sponsoring interdisciplinary and cross Faculty lectures, conferences, workshops and public lectures. While this first year has been about trying to design and establish the Centre, the CCIE has already been involved in such activities. The CCIE co-sponsored a lecture by visiting Professor Michael Singh from Australia (see attached notice of his presentation- Appendix 2). The CCIE also co-sponsored the first of several planned Faculty of Education colloquia/workshops on Multiculturalism and Related Discourses (see attached notice- Appendix 3) which was very well attended and at which several faculty presented their research.
- The Director envisages much of the work of the CCIE as being collaborative, not only between Associates but also between CCIE and other Faculty Centres and Institutes.
- The Director has made several related presentations including a public lecture on Researching Multiculturalism in New Times as part of the UBC Research Week; presentation of expanded version of the lecture to Faculty of Education. As part of cementing the link between CCIE and the CME, the Director has been invited to give a talk sponsored by the CME and several other institutes and centres at the University of Washington in May.
- There are ongoing talks to forge strong links between the CCIE and what is being established as the Indigenous Education Institute of Canada. Already the CCIE has co-sponsored one invited speaker talk with the office of the Associate Dean for Aboriginal Education. The Director of the Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness presented at the symposium/workshop on Multiculturalism and Related Discourses and there is strong potential for future collaboration between the two centres. The NCIE works well as a means of promoting cross centre dialogue and collaboration within the Faculty.

C. Research, Grants, and Publications

- The work of the CCIE is envisaged as being strongly collaborative. The system of CCIE Associates is meant to function in part as a means of getting faculty and graduate students at and outside the Faculty of Education together to undertake collaborative projects around specific themes related to the work of the CCIE (including co-application for grants, collaborative empirical and

conceptual research, co-publishing, etc.). As a first step in this direction, the Director has co-applied for a Hampton Research Grant with a CCIE associate (Hartej Gill) and the grant has been awarded (to study youth identity articulation in multicultural school in Vancouver).

- It is expected that CCIE Associates at UBC and beyond will collaborate in writing grants and undertaking research.

D. *Involvement and Participation*

- The CCIE is open to involving any and all faculty and graduate students interested in the themes of the work of the CCIE. The School of Human Kinetics is somewhat removed in its work from the rest of the Faculty of Education and one of the intentions of the CCIE is to actively work to bridge that gap. A specific note of invitation was issued to Human Kinetics to participate in the symposium/workshop on Multiculturalism and Related Discourses (Appendix 4). There are already some HK people involved as CCIE associates and the Director intends to have a faculty member represent Human Kinetics on the Steering Committee. Also, all departments in the Faculty are represented on Steering Committee as well as on the list of Associates.
- The Centre to Centre links and the Associates designation are two principal strategies through which the CCIE will foster cooperation between scholars in the same research area at other universities, institutions and with community partners.
- Even though the CCIE is at the planning stage, there is already considerable national and international interest in its work and in making links and undertaking joint projects. The Director of the CCIE and Director of the AMLC&S at University of Ottawa have already applied (May, 2006) jointly for a SSHRC grant to undertake a major empirical research project which will involve work at both centres.
- There are no funds for hiring postdoctoral fellows for the CCIE at this time.

IV. Financial Report (including support for Graduate Students)

- There are funds earmarked for hiring of graduate students to work with the Director of the Centre (in his capacity as Canada Research Chair). However, there was not enough work to warrant utilizing these funds for this first year of planning. It is anticipated that these funds will be utilized in the coming years as the planning and implementation of the work of the CCIE gets underway more seriously.
- There are funds to set up workstations and purchase equipment for the CCIE. Workstations have been installed in the CCIE space and equipment (computers, tv's, projectors, video and digital cameras, etc.), is currently being ordered.

V. Planning for 2006/2007 (include initiatives, implications, and requests for furthering the work of the Centre/Institute)

- Dry lab space for the location of the CCIE has been identified and is being refurbished and furnished. Many of the other steps involved in establishing the CCIE depend on completion of this work.
- Design and running of CCIE website (with links to NCIE, sister centres and as repository of CCIE work).
- Purchase of CCIE equipment (desktop and laptop computers, etc.)
- Purchase and setup of furniture (bookcases etc.) and cyberoptics for computers.
- CCIE mini library of books, videos and DVDs of relevant texts.
- Finalizing the Steering Committee- final selections of Steering Committee members will be done over the summer and the committee will be in place for start of the 2006-2007 academic year.
- Expanding the list of CCIE Associates (word of mouth, further workshops on Multiculturalism and Related Discourses, advertising of the Centre, efforts to reach and include UBC community beyond Faculty of Education).
- Empirical Research- the study involving the Director and a Centre Associate as co-researchers (New Youth Identities in Multicultural Contexts) will commence in the fall, 2006.
- Graduate Assistants will be hired to contribute to the work of the Centre (including empirical research)
- Grant applications- the Director will be applying for grants to undertake workshops and symposia related to CCIE work and involving centre-centre links and CCIE associates.
- Workshops, symposia, public lectures, etc. Several are planned, especially in conjunction with the Director's other role as David Lam Chair of Multicultural Education. In 2006-2007, a central theme for workshops, etc., will be "Multiculturalism With(out) Guarantees: Vancouver." Additionally there are plans to apply for grants to do workshops and other gatherings in relation to the work of the CCIE.
- Broadcasting the CCIE- plans include setting up a website, doing a brochure, "business" cards, etc.
- While there are funds to set up the CCIE, there is a need for funds for keeping the Centre running.

VI. Summary

A considerable amount of planning and even implementation of the CCIE has been undertaken in this first year.

Discussions and meetings continue in relation to the establishment of Centre-Center links, the finalizing of the Steering Committee, ongoing expansion of list of Associates, etc.

Much of the work of physically establishing the Centre is currently being tackled (purchase of furniture, equipment, books, etc).

Graduate assistants were not hired for this first year but will be for next year and future years to undertake work both in relation to the running of the centre's events and undertaking of empirical and conceptual research.

VII. Acknowledgements

The Director would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Administrative Manager and staff of the NCIE, who have been instrumental in the work undertaken to date and will be crucial in the work to be undertaken in establishing and implementing the work of the CCIE.