



Researching International and  
Contemporary Education  
(RICE)



**CIDEDEC**

COMPARATIVE, INTERNATIONAL  
& DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION CENTRE

RICE (Western U) and CIDEDEC (OISE/UT) present a one-day symposium on

Friday, April 25, 2014 at OISE | 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

OISE | 252 Bloor Street West | Room 5-250



## **GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES?**

### **Working with, against and despite global ‘best practices’: Educational conversations around the globe**

In the unfolding 21<sup>st</sup> century, there is an expansion and intensification of *transnational* educational interactions and initiatives across the globe. Increasingly educational actors—as school teachers, teacher educators, researchers, development specialists, and community organizers—are working in transcultural contexts (in interconnected locations) in Canada and around the globe. In this context, we are increasingly confronting idealizations of “best practices” that are travelling across political borders, especially from the ‘west’ to the ‘east’ and to the ‘south,’ in an uneven world. Educational transfer has been central to comparative, international, and development education for more than a century, but as of late the intensifying transnational rhetoric of ‘best practice’ requires much scrutiny as both danger and opportunity. What is the character of these so-called (western) best practices and what are their conceptual underpinnings and routes of assemblage? Which ‘best practices’ are travelling, how and to which ‘local’ educational domains? How are they interpreted and engaged in local contexts and what are their effects? And ultimately, how are progressive and critically-minded educators to *work with, against and despite global ‘best practices’*?

This forum will be one of the unique opportunities for Canadian education scholars, practitioners, and graduate students to critically and collectively engage with these questions. This one-day symposium is expected to be a place for exchange of ideas, as well as developing theoretical insights and practical strategies to more proactively engage in our respective trans-national/cultural contexts across the levels of policy, pedagogy and research.

**To register: [cidec.oise@utoronto.ca](mailto:cidec.oise@utoronto.ca) to reserve & pay by cash/cheque at event**

**Registration 8:30 – 9:30 am**

**WELCOME 9:30 am | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 9:45 am**



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## **KEYNOTE: GLOBAL PRESSURES, LOCAL RESPONSES: LESSONS LEARNED ON RESEARCHING THE 'LOCAL'**

**Dr. Gita Steiner-Khamsi, International and Transcultural Studies, Teachers College,  
Columbia University**

**MORNING - INVITED PANEL A**

**10:50 am - 12:00 noon**

### **1. Idealizations of the 'good' in Internationalizing Higher Education: Curriculum, Research, Service Learning**

**Faculty:** Marianne Larsen (Western) & Michael O'Sullivan (Brock University)

**Graduate Students:** Rashed Al-Haque & Ali Khorsandi (Western), Momina Afridi (OISE/UT)

In contrast to the neoliberal manifestations of internationalization coming under much critique, the question for this panel focuses on what *is* or *might be* desirable—either as exemplary current initiatives/'best practices' or as alternative potentialities. Accordingly, presenters will engage with what constitutes ideal forms of internationalization in terms of research, curricula, partnerships, service learning in the global South, etc.

### **2. Knowledge Production and Publications: Center – Periphery Relations**

**Faculty:** Sarfaroz Niyozov (OISE/UT) & Susan Mahjanovich (Western)

**Graduate Students:** Sardar Anwaruddin & Olivier Bégin-Caouette (OISE/UT), Clara Tascon de Arcila (Western)

What are the current limits and possibilities of international knowledge production in an uneven world? What are the implications of the dominance of English in the construction and dissemination of research publications? How are more peripheral knowledges produced in non-Western societies interacting (or not) with mainstream knowledge production in the university under imaginaries of modernization. And, how might relations be more reciprocal as in the spirit of internationalism?

### **3. Aboriginal and International Education: Conjunctures and Disjunctures**

**Faculty:** Nicholas Ng-A-Fook (University of Ottawa) & Jean Paul Restoule (OISE/UT)

**Graduate Students:** Michelle Froman, (Western), Cathy Lee, John Doran (OISE/UT)

Aboriginal/Indigenous Education and International Education do have thematic overlaps and substantive conflicts. On the one hand, the 'international' or intercultural may represent a less assimilative and/or 'treaty-blind' inflection than that of the 'multicultural' of multicultural education. On the other hand, international educational discourses have often privileged elites' mobilities and been blind to historical and ongoing forms of colonialism in their idealizations and practices. Critical perspectives on global citizenship education GCE have begun to bring these overlaps and conflicts to light. This panel will examine the (potential) conjunctures and disjunctures of these two discourses/imaginaries/'practices in the world'.



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**LUNCH 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

**AFTERNOON - INVITED PANEL B**

**1:00-2:10 pm**

### **1. Internationalizing Teacher Education**

**Faculty:** Paul Tarc (Western) & David Montemurro (OISE/UT)

**Graduate Students:** Zainab Kizilbash (York U), Mira Ghambir & Mark Sinke (OISE/UT)

Faculties are beginning to awake to the growing number of Canadian and other Anglo-Westerners teaching in international (and first nation) contexts. From private IB international schools to hybrid English/National schools to national schools in developing contexts, the demand for the international school teacher has intensified. How are teacher education programs responding through curriculum, international practicum, and specialized programming? Presenters in this panel will focus on 'best practices' or programming to support teachers' cosmopolitan capacities in their (prospective) international or transcultural contexts.

### **2. English Language Pedagogy in Transnational Contexts**

**Faculty:** Stephen Bahry (OISE/UT) & Julie Byrd Clark (Western)

**Graduate Students:** Xi Wu & Joan Plonski (Western), Ahmad Qandil & Dianne Dekker (OISE/UT)

The demand for English had made English language teaching an expansive industry across the globe. Native and non-native English teachers as expats and locals are teaching English to students in many educational jurisdictions in Anglo and non-Anglo countries. Across the various kinds of institutes and levels of education there seems to be a notion of 'best practices' for English Language teaching, albeit how these largely Western/'progressive' language pedagogies interact and perform across the diverse contexts of English language classrooms remains complex and in need of greater examination. This panel will focus on conceptions, interpretations and responses to/of 'best' English language pedagogies in transcultural (East-West) contexts.

### **3. Peace and Conflict Education**

**Faculty:** Kathy Bickmore (OISE/UT) & Don Dippo (York U)

**Graduate Students:** Ahmed Kaderi Salehin & Angela Guerra (OISE/UT), Farhia Abdi (York U)

Education is seen as 'double edged,' promoting (i) peace making, peace building and conflict resolution and (ii) hate, conflicts, wars, and animosities. From school bullying, to 'emergency education' in conflict or disaster zones and classes in refugee camps, locally and internationally, schools and teachers are engulfed in different kinds of conflicts and conflict resolution. Why has education, both formal and informal, seemed to have done so little to reduce wars, conflicts, and violence? How can education's peace building potential be more fully realized? What can education do in sites of, and in the aftermath, of conflict? What can we learn from the approaches, achievements, and challenges of international education research? This panel aims to respond to these questions, issues and themes.



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**OUTLINE OF THE COLLABORATIVE SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014**

**Time: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm (registration from 8:30)**

**OISE | University of Toronto | 252 Bloor Street West | Room 5-250**

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:30 am  | Registration (fee \$ 20 CDN, lunch and coffee included)                                         |
| 9:30 - 9:45 am  | Introduction Sarfaroz Niyozov (OISE/UT) & Paul Tarc (Western)                                   |
| 9:45 - 10:45 am | Keynote - Dr. Gita Steiner-Khamsi                                                               |
| 10:50 - 12:00   | Panels A                                                                                        |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm | LUNCH (Room 5-250)                                                                              |
| 1:00 - 2:10 pm  | Panels B                                                                                        |
| 2:15 - 3:00 pm  | Panel Debriefs and Conclusion of formal program                                                 |
| 3:00 - 3:30 pm  | Informal discussion time                                                                        |
| 3:30 - 3:45 pm  | BREAK                                                                                           |
| 3:45 - 4:30 pm  | Concluding Session (led by Paul Tarc (Western) & Steve Anderson/<br>Sarfaroz Niyozov (OISE/UT)) |