

CRITICAL EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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LETTER FROM THE CESJ CO-CHAIRS

by Subini Ancy Annamma & Nini Hayes

Dear CESJ Members,

We hope your 2019-2020 academic year is filled with joy, community, care, and good trouble. While we still find ourselves in the midst of both familiar and unprecedented socio-political upheaval, we also find hope in our collective endeavors to advance equity and justice, and dream of something different. Walidah Imarisha writes, “Whenever we try to envision a world without war, without violence, without prisons, without capitalism, we are engaging in speculative fiction....And for those of us from communities with historic collective trauma, we must understand that each of us is already science fiction...Our ancestors dreamed us up and then bent reality to create us...as...Black women, we think of our ancestors in chains dreaming about a day when their children’s children’s children would be free. They had no reason to believe this was likely, but together they dreamed of freedom, and they brought us into being. We are responsible for interpreting their regrets and realizing their imaginings. We wish to continue the work of moving forward with their visionary legacy (p.5).”

In that spirit, this year’s CESJ theme is “Abolish & (Re)Build: Growing Possible Futures in Solidarity.” This theme not only reflects our own vision, it echoes the origin of the CESJ SIG. Hinchey (2001) wrote, “the SIG’s focus was social activism, the need to build a social movement in education, and providing a forum to share emancipatory teaching and community projects” (p. 155). Given the sociopolitical context of our current times, we find these commitments absolutely necessary today. If you want to know more about the history of CESJ, read this article.

Thank you to CESJ 2018-2019 Board

- Malayka Neith Cornejo, University of Nevada Las Vegas
- Alison Dover, California State University, Fullerton
- Nini Hayes, Western Washington University
- Sosanya Jones, Howard University
- Kari Kokka, University of Pittsburgh
- Subini Annamma, University of Kansas
- Denisha Jones, Trinity Washington University
- Tanja Burkhard, University of Pittsburgh
- Oscar Navarro, California State Polytechnic University



JOIN A 2020 AERA CESJ COMMITTEE!

Each year we rely on members like yourself to assist with the AERA Pre-Conference Forums and SIG Awards. Please read the descriptions below, and contact the board member listed if you are interested in joining the committee.

Graduate Student Forum

The Graduate Student Forum is a day-long forum to connect critical graduate student scholars to each other and to more senior scholars in the field. The forum typically includes small group discussions, a panel with scholar activists, and other networking activities. The purpose of the Graduate Student Forum is to create space for doctoral students committed to and engaged in social justice and critical education research to 1) Help prepare critical scholars for future scholarship and related work. 2.) Identify strategies and tools to share and take back to our colleagues, students, communities, and home institutions. 3) Learn from scholars and peers about the possibilities and tensions that arise in social justice and critical education research. Please contact Malayka Neith Cornejo barbara.cornejo@unlv.edu for more information about upcoming application opportunities.

Continued on next page.

LETTERS FROM THE CO-CHAIRS CONTINUED

We are the largest SIG in AERA, and we hope to support CESJ members to participate in strategic resistance against unjust forces in order to reimagine and reconstruct different worlds. Therefore, we draw on the lineage of work that has been done in CESJ with a focus on: 1) engaging social activism in a variety of forms; 2) building social movements and facilitating solidarity between people and movements in education specifically between researchers, educators across the P-20 spectrum, and community members; and 3) providing a forum to share emancipatory projects. Stay tuned for upcoming events and opportunities you can participate in throughout the year and at the annual meeting. Moreover, if members know of collectives or organizations in the San Francisco and Oakland area that are doing work we can support, highlight, etc., please let us know.

CESJ comprises a collective of researchers, educators, and community members who are tearing down inequities and building joy and justice. As the co-chairs of CESJ, we hope to support our community members in dismantling, envisioning, and creating education rooted in liberation. Let's build collectives, coalitions, and movements together.

In Solidarity,
Nini & Subini

JOIN AN AERA 2020 COMMITTEE CONTINUED

Early Career Scholar Forum

Early Career Scholar Forum is open to early-career tenure track faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and postdoctoral scholars. During the forum, participants gather with scholar-mentors from CESJ to discuss various topics related to research and scholarship, teaching, community-engaged scholarship, and service. The purpose of the forum is to provide early-career scholars with 1) a sense of community with scholars committed to critical scholarship and social justice; 2) mentorship from a range of scholars (junior and senior level colleagues); 3) practical tools and strategies for navigating academic contexts; 4) a chance to network and build community with other CESJ early career scholars. Please contact Nini Hayes nini.hayes@wwu.edu and Oscar Navarro osnavarro@calpoly.edu

Thank you to 2019 Committee Members

2019 CESJ Graduate Student Forum Planning Team

Malayka Neith Cornejo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Nikki Cristobal, University of Pittsburgh

Jawanza Kalonji Rand, University of Pittsburgh

Oscar Patrón, University of Pittsburgh

Lisa Covington, University of Iowa

Gabriela Vargas, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Nerizta Diaz-Cruz, University of New Mexico

Eric Washington, University of Pittsburgh

2019 CESJ Early Career Scholars Forum Planning Committee

Nini Hayes, Western Washington University (Co-chair)

Oscar Navarro, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (Co-chair)

Katy Crawford-Garrett, University of New Mexico

Sherry Deckman, Lehman College of CUNY

Christian Brancho, University of La Verne

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

Award Description:

This award recognizes doctoral level research that utilizes critical theory and focuses on the struggle for social, environmental, racial and/or economic justice or human rights. This award includes a \$300 stipend towards the cost of attending the AERA conference. All materials should be submitted to the Outstanding Dissertation Award Co-Chairs Tanja Burkhard (tanjab@pitt.edu) and Ruth M. López rmlopez3@uh.edu no later than 11:59 PM PST on December 1, 2019. Eligibility Requirements: Nominee must be an active AERA member. Nominee must have successfully defended their dissertation between Spring 2018 and Fall 2019 (no later than November 30, 2019). Recipient is strongly encouraged to attend the CESJ annual business meeting in San Francisco.

Submission Requirements:

- A nomination letter including name, title, institution, mailing address, phone number, and email address (Self-nominations are acceptable)
- A two page memo describing the following (single-spaced) without identifiable information:
 - An overview of the dissertation including:
 - Definition of the problem or question
 - Rationale for the problem
 - Theoretical framework
 - Research methodology
 - Most compelling findings
 - A narrative explicitly connecting the dissertation work to the CESJ mission of employing critical theory in working for social justice, environmental, racial and/or economic justice, or human rights through research, teaching, and activism within our classrooms, schools, and communities.
- No more than 25 pages with a synopsis of the dissertation (double-spaced), exclusive of references and appendices. The applicant must remove all identifiable references to individuals, institutions, and places that might bias reviewers.
- A letter of support from the dissertation supervisor that also indicates the completion date of the dissertation. Curriculum vitae
- All materials MUST be submitted in ONE email with the subject line: CESJ SIG Outstanding Dissertation Award Nomination to the Dissertation Award Co-Chairs Tanja Burkhard (tanjab@pitt.edu) and Ruth M. López rmlopez3@uh.edu no later than 11:59 PM PST on December 1, 2019.

CESJ BOARD MEMBER ACCOLADES

In our effort to embody our theme to Abolish & Rebuild, we will share accolades from our CESJ Board and Members (see call on this page). Accolades serve as a reminder that we do amazing work and must take the time to celebrate our achievements. They also inform our community of the good work we do so we can inspire others to collaborate and support each other.

Oscar Navarro Program Co-Chair, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Awards & Fellowships

- 2020 Faculty Fellowship, American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE)

Publications

- Howard, T.C., Woodward, B., Navarro, O., Huerta, A., Haro, B., & Watson, K. (2019). Renaming the narrative, reclaiming their humanity: Black and Latino males' descriptions of success. *Teachers College Record*, 121(5), 1-32.

Tanja Burkhard Fiscal Co-Chair, Post Doctoral Associate, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Publication

- Kninolch, V., Burkhard, T., & Penn, C. (Eds.) (2019). *Race, justice and activism in literacy instruction*. New York: Teacher College Press

Denisha Jones, Communications Co-Chair, Director of Art Teaching, Sarah Lawrence College, New York.

Book Deal

- Denisha Jones and Jesse Hagopian are co-editing a forthcoming book on the Black Lives Matter at School Week of Action published by Hay Market Books in 2021

Check Out CESJ on the web at www.cesj.org

REQUEST FOR MEMBERS ACCOLADES

We want to acknowledge the achievements of our members too! Please send us any accolades to include in our next newsletter. Types of accolades include:

- Publications
- Awards
- Research Grants
- Collaborations

Email your accolades to the Communications Co-Chairs: Denisha Jones denishanjones@gmail.com or Ruth Lopez rmlopez3@uh.edu by March 31, 2020.

CESJ ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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CESJ 2019-2020 Board

Co-Chairs: Subini Ancy Annamma & Nini Hayes

Fiscal Co-Chairs: Tanja Burkhard & derria byrd

Communications Co-Chairs: Denisha Jones & Ruth Lopez

Program Co-Chair: Oscar Navarro & Elizabeth Mendoza