Interrogating Differential Outcomes in Degree Awarding: towards a post-race pedagogy

A seminar led by Professor Glynis Cousin and Dr Gurnam Singh

Wednesday 16th November 2016
University of Chester
Law School
67 Liverpool Road, Chester, CH2 1AW

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Places are limited and cost of attendance is free.
To register and book a place asap email: Chantal.Davies@Chester.ac.uk
Dr Gurnam Singh and Professor Glynis Cousin will lead a seminar which will seek to provide a brief historical and contemporary overview of the issues commonly known as the BME attainment gap. In so doing, the seminar will highlight some of the contradictions and complexities on both conceptualising the problem of attainment and developing appropriate pedagogical interventions. The seminar will begin by critically reflecting on the ways in which the category BME has become unthinkingly applied as if some students were reducible to the category. This has, at best led to well meaning paternalistic gestures of celebrating diversity and internationalisation. At worst, it is argued that it has resulted in racialising practices through simplistic associations between imputed cultural characteristics and student behaviour. In responding to the difficulties identified with the present approach, in the final section of the seminar, the debate will be proposed for an alternative paradigm from which the problem can be conceptualized and practices formulated which could be referred to as post-race pedagogy.

Gurnam Singh:

Gurnam Singh is currently Principal Lecturer in Social Work at Coventry University and Visiting Professor of Social Work at the University of Chester. Prior to entering academia in 1993, he worked as a professional social worker and community activist. He completed his PhD from the University of Warwick in 2004 on anti-racist social work. In 2009 in recognition of his contribution to Higher Education he was awarded a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship from the UK Higher Education Academy. He describes himself as an Academic Activist and believes that committed scholarship has the potential to enable human societies to respond to the challenge of all kinds of inequalities, at the local, national or global level.

Recent Publications:

Professor Glynis Cousin:

Glynis Cousin is Emeritus Professor of Higher Education at the University of Wolverhampton. She taught at Coventry and Warwick Universities and was senior adviser at the Higher Education Academy. She has led national research projects on global citizenship, reconciliation education, and ethnic minority student degree attainment. She has published on issues of diversity, cosmopolitan education, the limits of classification, and connections between racism and antisemitism. Her monograph, Researching Learning in Higher Education: An Introduction to Qualitative Methods and Approaches, was published by Routledge, 2008.

Recent Publications:

Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity:
The Forum for Research into Equality and Diversity focuses on and specialises in research and knowledge transfer activities in the area of diversity and equality across a range of disciplines. The Forum provides a much needed knowledge transfer resource for local voluntary organisations, lawyers, HR practitioners, academics and businesses across the North West and beyond.

During 2016/17, the Forum will be working with recognised experts to present a series of events on issues relating to equality and diversity. For further details of these events see the Forum website at: www.chester.ac.uk/FRED.