It’s Always About (Re)Membering: New Visions of the Work of Education Around The Globe

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Chairs: A Lin Goodwin and Margaret Lo

Abstract
As schools and faculties of education reimagine our work in local and global contexts and towards social justice and equity, the perspectives, identities and practices guiding teacher education as a global endeavor will also require transformation. In helping teachers develop global, culturally relevant and sustaining ways of teaching and being (Ladson Billings, 1995; Paris & Alim, 2017), these changes must also include explicit attention to the perspectives, identities and practices that faculty and students engage while abroad and consequently marshal as they return to their roles as teachers and teacher educators. In this talk, Professor Dillard will describe a study abroad in education program to Ghana, West Africa for preservice and inservice teachers at the University of Georgia, USA. Unlike many study abroad programs, the pedagogy and practices of this program to Ghana, West Africa are specifically designed to center African and African American cultural knowledge and practices as the foundation and curriculum development of the program. In a 5-year study of program and diverse participant outcomes, Professor Dillard forwards a pedagogical framework of (re)membering, arising from that centering, that shaped powerful transformations in study abroad students’ perspectives, identities, and teaching practices. This framework has strong implications for reimagining teacher education more broadly and study abroad programs more specifically, regardless of their context around the globe.

Citations:

About the speaker
Cynthia B. Dillard (Nana Mansa II of Mpeasem, Ghana, West Africa) is the Mary Frances Early Professor in Teacher Education and Department Chair in the Department of Educational Theory and Practice at The University of Georgia. Her research interests include critical teacher education, spirituality in education, and African/African American feminist studies. Two of her books, On spiritual strivings: Transforming an African American woman’s academic life (SUNY Press, 2006) and Learning to (re)member the things we’ve learned to forget: Endarkened feminisms, spirituality and the sacred nature of research (Peter Lang, 2012) were selected as Critics’ Choice Book Award winners by the American Educational Studies Association (AESA). Dr. Dillard was also the 2012 recipient of the AERA Distinguished Contributions to Gender Equity in Education Research Award, given for her distinguished research and practices that advance public understanding of gender in education.

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