

2007 Diversity in Education Conference

Beyond Tolerance

SCU, Lismore
24th August 2007

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are calling for abstracts of presentations for the **2007 Diversity in Education Conference** and its theme of *Beyond Tolerance* from SCU staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students. An abstract is a brief summary or indication of what you would like to speak about. Abstracts are accepted as of now, with the final date for all submissions being Friday, July 27, 2007.

I. Background

The *Thinking Diversity – Beyond Tolerance* Project, in conjunction with the Centre for Peace and Social Justice, CRUX and the SRC, will be holding a one-day *Diversity in Education* Conference with the theme of *Beyond Tolerance* in 2007. The conference is designed for SCU students and staff and is scheduled to take place on August 24 at the University's Invercauld House Conference Centre in Lismore, NSW. The FREE event will include a keynote speaker and possibilities for presenting papers, facilitating workshops and taking part in engaging discussions on diversity issues. This is a great opportunity to discuss your personal perspective, research or independent study (at whatever stage it is at), hone your presentation skills and present your ideas in the collegial atmosphere of an academic conference. Accommodation and travel scholarships will be available to students from designated equity groups.

II. Topics

The conference encapsulates a range of topics designed to stimulate debate around *Diversity in Education*, focussing in particular on barriers and pathways to educational access, participation, retention and success. While we very much welcome individual presentations from a wide variety of disciplines (think laterally about the topic!), we also encourage interdisciplinary and especially collaborative approaches. We would like to see joint presentations between staff and students, postgraduate and undergraduate students, and university and community members. In particular, we want to encourage third or fourth year undergraduates and Honours students to get a taste of academic conferences, presentations and workshops, and benefit from active participation.

In addressing diversity in education, you may want to focus on articulating problems in their context, providing perspectives from reflected experience or suggesting solutions that go *beyond tolerance*. While the University is an obvious site to consider, you are free to also focus on primary or secondary schools, TAFE or adult education. Possible topics may include:

- Being Poor
- Living with Disabilities
- Speaking English as a second language

- Being Black
- Living in a remote area
- Being Queer
- Diversity in faith

III. Presentation Formats

For the conference, we are looking for three different formats of presentation:

1. **Workshop** (ca 50 minutes): facilitating a shared learning experience, substantially involving the audience (not to simply present a longer paper!)
2. **Paper** (ca 20 minutes + 10 minutes for questions): presenting a relevant research project, independent study unit project or reflective personal narrative
3. **Soapbox Moment** (5-10 minutes): have your say; short and sharp; controversial or reflective

In general, the presentations should aspire to be engaging, entertaining and creative in their use of media, visual aides and humour!

In terms of technology, we will most likely have a PA system, a data projector and a notebook with PowerPoint software on site, as well as more old-school whiteboards, pieces of slate and a biiiiig chisel! If you have any other technical requirements (e.g. OHP, specific audiovisual software, laser pointer etc), please indicate that in your abstract. We will endeavour to meet your needs wherever possible.

IV. Format for Abstracts

Send all abstracts per email as a word.doc attachment to Soenke Biermann (soenke.biermann@scu.edu.au) with the words “Conference Abstract” and your name in the email’s subject line, eg. “Conference Abstract-Soenke Biermann”. The attachment should contain the following information:

1. Conference Topic(s) being addressed
2. Title of Presentation
3. Type of Presentation (eg. workshop, paper, soapbox)
4. Name of Author(s) and short bio: 50 words
5. Abstract of Presentation: 100-150 words
6. Personal requirements, eg. wheelchair access, interpreter
7. Technical requirements for presentation

V. Publications

We aim to publish the conference proceedings on the *Thinking Diversity – Beyond Tolerance* website. Furthermore, we are looking at options for publishing the proceedings in print as a resource for conference participants and a reference for the University Library, other universities, high schools and TAFEs. Accepted authors will be notified in due course should such opportunities arise.

VI. Deadline and Notification of Acceptance

The deadline for all abstracts is Friday, July 27, 2007. Authors will be notified via email of their acceptance or otherwise by August 3, 2007.

Should you have any further question, queries or suggestions, email Soenke Biermann at soenke.biermann@scu.edu.au.

A shared initiative between
The Centre for Peace and Social Justice,
CRUX – SCU Postgraduate Association,
Lismore Student Representative Council
and
Thinking Diversity – Beyond Tolerance.