

CANDE Business meeting
CIES 2017
March 7, 2017

Welcome and introductions: Kristina Brezicha

- SIG numbers (membership, finance, social media followers)
- Introduction to Leadership team members

Pre-conference workshop update: Anatoli Rapoport

- Thank you to Sergei as the other “founding father”
- 8 presentations; improved quality from last year’s pre-conference workshop presentations
- Last years presentations are being published in a co-edited issue of “Compare,” and hopefully there will be a similar opportunity for the presentations from this year.
- Anatoli is interested in maintaining the pre-conference workshop as an annual event: it offers more time than a traditional panel at the conference and is a great opportunity for new scholars.

Thinking ahead to pre-conference workshops: Michelle Bellino

- Call for interested colleagues to support planning and organizing future workshops.
- Willingness to consider alternative ways to get together for future years.
- Comments and suggestions from business meeting attendees were invited to be shared on small post-it notes. The notes were added to poster paper that was around the room, themed “Web-Digest,” “Social Media” and “Other.”

Membership “Pulse check”: Michelle Bellino

(This was an opportunity to check in on the feelings, experiences, and approaches of CANDE members to the changing political climate throughout the world. It was intended to be an open conversation to share our thoughts and analysis about the toxic turn of politics in the face of populist movements and the aggressive actions and rhetoric of Donald Trump.)

Learning from the past

- Lessons are being learned, and patience projected from other parts of the world. A Bosnian colleague said, “You will live. We lived that like 25 years.” Yet the consequences are still scary and real for other nations (with a specific example being the neo-fascist demonstration in Zagreb).
- The content of our citizenship education needs close revision by curricular experts, not politicians.
- This is being called a “Sputnik moment” for education.
- This was an emotional election. 10% of 14 year old youth in 1999 felt deeply alienated, 20% disaffected, and these are now the core group of Trump voters. Their decisions are based on emotions, not knowledge.
- Data from 50 years ago show that youth wanted to feel *connected* to presidential candidates, today this feeling was shown again through non-voters and links to third

party candidates. This mirrors the Brexit reality. It's clear we don't need more civics education "as is."

- We are seeing, now, that anthropologists have a much better understanding of "far" cultures than they have of the variety of cultures within the U.S.

Shared, challenging today

- As an international student living and attending university in the US, one CANDE member was told to "hold off," on speaking out against the recent actions (e.g. the Muslim travel ban) in the U.S. This position, and "holding off" required a new kind of identity management.
- Another international student has, "gotten so used to the idea of surveillance, I sort of speak in code." Because of this they highlighted the need to clarify the implications and specifics of our language use, especially with the term "citizenship." It was agreed that doing so could help identify differential risks.
- Citizenship education has become the "most pressing need in the world," so we must, as scholars, stand strong.
- Some people have had difficulty focusing on reality: it's scary.
- Disagreement with the idea that "civic education has failed." The Trump election is a civic act. This action by people who have felt left out of touch as globalization and neoliberal realities. They have not been helped to reconcile global and local citizenships.
- It is crucial to have an understanding of where young people are getting their information because the polarization is linked to diverse media landscapes. Although we know that young people engage with media very often, we don't know *what* media sources they engage with.

Ways to Action

- Being immersed in our work can mean that it is difficult to really understand the current political climate. Responses to this potential silo or blindness include:
 - Situating our work in the contemporary context while thinking about how we can impact citizenship education
 - Thinking through how/if democracy can be taught (versus it being acquired through experience)
 - If the above is an either/or proposition, we must think about what students experience in being taught citizenship—what do they "take away," from our spaces?
- The benefits of protests in reaction to policies includes meeting new people who are also active in these movements.
- Families have become, for many people, the places where we experience political challenges (rather than on university campuses)
- Self-reflective writing on the idea of a "good citizen" can be helpful to be sure that we "walk the walk," and is a good use of scholarly time. We can now ask questions of the U.S. realities that scholars once directed toward other national contexts.
- Taking these experiences to work (e.g. teacher training programs) can lead to "mov[ing] small steps everywhere."

- Lecturing on research can be an opportunity to give a theoretical background to students to help understand the experience we're currently living. Looking for new venues to share this knowledge is also of interest.
- There is now time and need for us to get into spaces that challenge us as academics.

Suggestions for next year

- Panel potential: Methodology with a focus on false dichotomies
- Alternative to Pre-Conference Workshop: CANDE Symposium (modeled on the Gender committee)
- A proposed panel for next year: comparative studies of nations with ideological divides, and how classrooms manage that.

CANDE SIG Elections Kristina Brezicha

- We are holding elections for a co-chair who will serve a two-year term.