Centre for International Health

- Conversation Series 2010 -

TITLE: Courageous Conversations: Beyond Cross-cultural training

Presented by Malcolm Fialho

Abstract

Central to University of Western Australia’s (UWA) vision is the development of cultural competence as a key graduate and staff attribute, essential to their success in terms of both employability and global citizenship. UWA recently implemented ‘Courageous Conversations about Race’ workshops that encourage participants to engage with race both intellectually and emotionally.

‘Courageous Conversations about Race’ represents a departure from conventional ‘trait based’ (‘Muslims are like this; Chinese are like that’) cross-cultural training approaches that have sometimes undermined the development of meaningful cultural competence. ‘Courageous conversations’ are competency based, and challenge members of the University community to think through the various ways race affects their life and professional practice. Participants are provided with a unique opportunity to unpack their own unique racial story, better understand the concept of race ‘privilege’ and utilise the insights gained to develop a more nuanced understanding of the issues.

A workshop recently conducted with a group of early academics through the UWA Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (CATL) underscored the value of a competency based approach to sustain and deepen the dialogue. This paper will scope the ‘Courageous Conversations’ model, and describe the process of ‘illumination’ that occurred during the CATL workshop.

When: Wednesday 11 August 2010
Time: 12.30-2.00 pm
Where: Health Sciences Boardroom 400:405
RSVP: By 6 August 2010 to j.katzenellenbogen@curtin.edu.au

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

About the Presenter

Malcolm Fialho has 20 years experience in the diversity and human rights sector in Western Australia. Prior to taking on the position as Diversity Officer at University of Western Australia in 2000, Malcolm held leadership positions in the diversity area across the Commonwealth and community-based sectors. Malcolm holds postgraduate qualifications in cross-cultural psychology and is passionate about further developing and deepening an informed understanding of ‘race’ through enquiry, dialogue and debate.