INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO JUSTICE AND SPIRITUALITY

SESSION I
10AM

Stephen Hale, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California: Evangelical Theological Metanarratives in Justice Education

Stephen Hale (MA Fuller Theological Seminary) is a freelance writer and Youth Director at Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Placentia, CA. He is also General Editor of the Sutherland Journal of History and Social Sciences. He can be found online at stephenhale.wordpress.com.

SESSION II
11AM

Sara Highhouse, Biola University, La Mirada, California: What Programs are Missing

Sara Highhouse (BA, MAT Biola University) thought that, upon completion of her schooling, she would be off to teach at an inner city school, working with students that found academic success a struggle. However, she abandoned that plan as she saw an even greater impact lying within community development. She left the comforts of a full-time teaching position, allowing God to redirect her, and has spent the last year and a half volunteering with Solidarity, a faith-based organization that does community development in low-income, primarily immigrant neighborhoods in Fullerton.

SESSION III
2PM

Tim Muehlhoff, Biola University, La Mirada, California: In Her Own Words: A Social Justice Response to the Narratives of Indian Women

Tim Muehlhoff (PhD University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is an Associate Professor of Communication at Biola University in La Mirada, California. His interests include gender, social justice, hate speech, and rhetoric.

SESSION IV
3PM

Ogechukwu Iben, Biola University, La Mirada, California: Multiculturalism in America: Justice, Spiritualism & Education

Ogechukwu Iben (BA University of Calabar Nigeria; MDiv Theological College of Northern Nigeria, University of Jos; Post Graduate Diploma in Theology Presbyterian Seminary, University of Uyo, Nigeria) is a Ph.D. student at the School of Intercultural Studies Biola University. He is an ordained pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and served as the president of Scripture Union, involved in international church mission planting in Togo and Benin as well as in his home country of Nigeria. He is the author of the book Stones for Pillows and is a regular keynote and conference speaker. He is married to Vivian; they are blessed with three children (Faithful, Divine and Livingstone).

SESSION V
4PM, CONT'D

Walter S. Augustine, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois: Provision or Partnership? Towards an Asset-Based Christian Ethic of Poverty

Walter Augustine (BBA Howard University, ThM Dallas Theological Seminary) is a Ph.D. Candidate in Theological Ethics and New Testament Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He is also an ordained Baptist minister who served as an Assistant Pastor at the Merrill Avenue Baptist Church on the South Side of Chicago for ten years, and at New Vision Ministries, a church plant in Fort Worth, Texas, for four years.

Michael Jimenez, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California: Teaching History and Balancing the Secular

Michael Jimenez (BA Biola University) is adjunct professor of history at Vanguard University of Southern California and Biola University. His interests are in historiography, secularism, Barthian theology and postmodernism.

April Reutter (Edmondson Elementary School, Norwalk, California): The Role of Prayer and Mentoring in the Public School Sector: A Case Study in Norwalk Public Schools

April Reutter (BA Biola University, MA Fuller Theological Seminary) has a heart for cross-cultural studies and children at risk. Founder of the Promise Program and Pray Norwalk, her passion is to see Jesus transform her city at all levels. She currently teaches 1st and 2nd grade at Edmondson Elementary School in Norwalk.

Donna Thoennes, Biola University, La Mirada, California: In Her Own Words: A Social Justice Response to the Narratives of Indian Women

Donna Thoennes (PhD Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is an Associate Professor in the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University. Her interests include philosophy of education, theology of adoption, Pauline theology, and the global orphan crisis.

Judson D. Bouchard, World Impact, Los Angeles, California: Relational Teaching in the Inner City

Judson Bouchard (BA Santa Clara University) has been in education for 12 years, working for over half of that time with Los Angeles Unified School District in elementary education in south central Los Angeles. He now teaches a combination K-1 class with his wife, Janice, at Los Angeles Christian School in Watts.

David Costillo, Biola University, La Mirada, California: The Leadership Institute, Orange, California: The Way, The Truth and the Life: Looking at Social Justice Through the Lenses of Spiritual Formation

David Costillo (BA Biola University, MA Talbot School of Theology) serves in recruiting graduate students to Biola’s School of Education and is also a spiritual director and retreat speaker in the southern California area with The Leadership Institute. With extensive travel in Africa, Europe and Asia, David’s previously served in church relations for World Relief. He and his wife have been married for 8 years and have one daughter. He can be found online at www.davidcostillo.com.
INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE

SESSION I 10AM

Robert Chao Romero (University of California, Los Angeles): Jesus and the Dream Act: Ministry to Undocumented College and University Students

Robert Chao Romero (JD UC Berkeley, PhD University of California Los Angeles) is an Assistant Professor in the UCLA Cesar Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies and founder and president of Christian Students of Conscience, Inc. In the tradition of Rev. Martin Luther King and Cesar E. Chavez, Christian Students of Conscience trains and mobilizes university students in inner city and global justice issues from a faith-based perspective. He is the author of The Chinese in Mexico (2010) and various publications on race and ethnicity in Latin America and the United States. He is also an attorney and ordained minister.

SESSION II 11AM

Paul Rood (Biola University, La Mirada, California): Understanding the Compassionate Gospel Welfare Orientation of the Biola Founders

Paul Rood is Lecturer, Politics & Economics at Biola. In addition to teaching courses on government, international relations and economics, Paul write and conducts research in economic, religious and social history. Paul is currently writing a critical biography on Lyman Stewart (1840-1923), Biola’s founder and prominent industrialist and Christian leader of a century ago. After education at Claremont and University of Chicago, Paul spent twenty five years as a management consultant with Ernst & Young and Deloite & Touche, and as a corporate executive with national healthcare organizations.

SESSION III 2PM

Sara Kapadia (Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California): Early Childhood Experiences of Adult Artists and Scientists - The Values that Intersect

As an early childhood educator, a science curriculum specialist and an artist, Sara Kapadia interested is in the creative processes artists and scientists experience in their early years. Having taught in London, UK, and Los Angeles, USA, it was Kapadia’s role in education at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) that exposed her to leading scientists and their discussions about their aspirations for their young children. Her doctoral research focuses on the bridges between the arts and sciences that enhance creativity in the early years.

SESSION IV 3PM

Tim Stranske (Biola University, La Mirada, California): Using Education Reform to Assist in Healing Post-Genocidal Burundi

Born in Khartoum, Sudan, Tim Stranske (BA Biola University, PhD Claremont Graduate University) was raised and educated in Africa in the 50’s and 60’s, and has a heart for Africans. After spending 28 years as a teacher and administrator in preschool-12 schools, Tim began working at Biola University full-time in 2003. He teaches educational psychology and philosophy of education at Biola University and serves as the Assistant Dean of their School of Education.
THE PURSUIT OF ACADEMICS AND JUSTICE

**SESSION II**

**10AM**

**Ndindi Kitonga** (Star Prep Academy, Culver City, California): *A Non-Western Perspective: Engaging in a Culturally Responsive Socially Responsible Study*

Ndindi Kitonga (BA and MA Biola University, PhD Chapman University) was born in Nairobi, Kenya. She moved to the United States to attend university. For the past eleven years Ndindi has been teaching and designing high school science curriculum and has conducted research in areas relevant to the issues of education and social justice for immigrant youth and adults. She is specifically interested in how immigrants become integrated into communities in the United States, how they perceive themselves and how they develop socio-political agency.

**Cynthia Geary** (Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California): *Meaningful Engagement for Gifted and Talented Students*

Cynthia Geary (BS University of Southern California, MA Ed Cal Poly Pomona) is a fifth year doctoral candidate in the School of Educational Studies with an emphasis in Special Education at the Claremont Graduate University. With extensive overseas experience in Honduras and China, Geary has created and organized trainings for midwives, primary health care workers, and sanitation control workers and researched the second hand effects of gangs on non-gang students. Her work in the United States has helped 400 fourth through eighth grade teachers and their administrators be trained in literacy strategies. She has taught for the Claremont Graduate University, Cal Poly Pomona, University of La Verne and Azusa Pacific University. She sees her work at CGU as a means of uniting her knowledge and experiences working with immigrant and language acquisition populations with the powerful strategies for special education students, which has led her to look deeply at issues in the gifted and talented student communities. It is her heart’s desire to strengthen and empower students in K-12 classrooms through education.

**Christine Curtis** (Biola University, La Mirada, California): *Spirituality and Ethnicity: Meeting Students’ Needs*

Christie Curtis (BA UC Riverside, MA Biola University) is an assistant professor at Biola University pursuing her Ph.D. degree in higher education. As part of her doctoral program, she is pursuing spirituality and student outcomes and will present her preliminary findings on the spiritual needs of several ethnic groups. A native Californian, Curtis specializes in grammar and writing curriculum development. Curtis has been married for 40 years to her husband Bob. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren, whether surfing, going to national parks or their annual week of summer camp at Forest Home.

**Katherine Grothe** (Millikan High School, Long Beach, California): *Closing the Achievement Gap: A Recommended Approach to our Nation’s Struggle with Educational Inequality*

Katherine Grothe is in her sixth year teaching English and AVID at Millikan High School in the Long Beach Unified School District. She plans to graduate with her Masters in Education from Biola University in the fall of 2012. Katie enjoys living, working, attending church, and building community in the wonderfully diverse city of Long Beach with her husband, Jan.

**Chris Devers** (Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana): *Discussing Difficult Topics in Online Environments*

Chris Devers is Associate Professor in the School of Education and Director of Research for the Center for Learning and Innovation at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU). Prior to joining IWU, Devers was a professor at the University of San Diego, where he taught graduate courses on cognition, learning, and technology. Professor Devers’ research focuses on the processes and environments in which technology promotes learning. In particular, he has focused on the specific nuances in cross-cultural (multicultural) online courses and how text-based (content) interaction systems may influence learning.

**Fred Ramirez** (Biola University, La Mirada, California): *Discussing Difficult Topics in Online Environments*

Dr. Ramirez was born and raised in Santa Barbara, California and is Graduate Chair of the School of Education at Biola University. Prior to that, he served as an associate professor of education at California State University, Fullerton from 1998-2008. His research interests include families and schools, international education, social justice, and diversity. He has worked with a variety of school districts around the country to develop school-home strategies, and his educational endeavors have taken him to the countries of Burundi and the Dominican Republic. He believes that the issue of “diversity” is more than skin color, and is more about who each individual is as a person and how they identify themselves, rather than how others identify them. This personalized diversity framework assists educators to better understand themselves as individual people, as well as their K-12 students. Dr. Ramirez is married and has three children. In his spare time, he enjoys watching his children play a variety of sports and traveling. Dr. Ramirez is also a certified PADI scuba instructor.

**Matthew Jimenez** (Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California): *And the Moral of the Story Is...*: The Bible, Les Misérables and Narrative Ethics

Matthew Jimenez (BA Biola University) is a native of Southern California. He is currently finishing his M. A. in Theology and the Arts at Fuller Theological Seminary and lives in Gardena, California. His interests are in theology, children’s literature, film, and political theology.

**Claire Sibold** (Biola University, La Mirada, California): *Using Children’s Literature as a Vehicle for Teaching Social Justice*

Claire Sibold (BA and MA University of Washington, PhD Arizona State University) specializes in literacy for both elementary and secondary levels, curriculum development, children’s literature and writing of credential documents for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. A former teacher and editor, she has published numerous articles in journals and yearbooks including Innovative Learning Strategies, Today’s Evangelizing Child, ASCD journal, and the Claremont Reading Conference Yearbook, and has published chapters in books on study skills and adult literacy and continuing education.
Michelle Rho (Biola University, La Mirada, California): *Fulfilling the Developmental Needs of School-aged Students Through Multiage Instruction*

Michelle Rho (BA and MAT Biola University) is an ELL (English Language Learner) Coordinator and a Korean interpreter in the Brea-Olinda Unified School District. She has taught in a wide variety of places, the most challenging yet rewarding being in Seoul, South Korea, where she taught approximately seven hundred elementary level students for a year and a half. Her most valuable teaching experience was working for the alternative education unit (Orange County Department of Education), working with students in juvenile hall, homeless students, and students from underprivileged areas. This reignited her passion and purpose for teaching and her calling to fulfill some of the long-term developmental (intellectual, social, emotional) needs of students so they can become healthier, productive citizens of society. In her spare time, she enjoys eclectic cooking, bodyboarding, swimming, and having picnics with friends.

Joy Ogbonnaya (Biola University, La Mirada, CA): *Achievement Gaps in Schools*

Joy Akuchinyere Ogbonnaya (BS Home Economic University of Agriculture, Makurdi; MS & PhD Human Nutrition University of Ibadan, Nigeria; MA Teaching Biola University) is Nigerian-born and is the fourth child among seven children. Throughout her life, she has been continually placed in leadership positions: top scholastic honors each grade during elementary school, library prefect and editor-in-chief of the press club during secondary school, Assistant President and later the president of the Anglican Student Fellowship in University. She worked with the Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Nigeria from 2000-2009 as a lecturer, where she also served as the department’s examination officer and academic adviser. Her interests are broad and varied. As a teacher and a pastor’s wife, she plays a variety of roles in and outside the classroom: educator, motivator, counselor, and disciplinarian.

Dana Chisholm (BA University of California, Santa Barbara, MA Biola University, PhD Intercultural Education student at Biola University) has spent 20 years working on sanctity of human life issues, and currently serves in leadership development in San Diego County. She also spends time teaching at universities in China and training new field workers for Educational Resources and Referrals China. She recently lived and worked as a social studies teacher at an international school in China teaching Asian History, Comparative Politics, Geography, and American History.

Dana S. Chisholm (San Diego, California): *"It's a Girl!" Gendercide and Our Christian Response*

Denise Reid has over twenty years of experience in working with college students with disabilities, providing services and accommodations to meet individual needs to ensure the successful completion of college. Denise has provide consultation in this area to high school teachers in private K-12 schools as well as to foster parents. She is currently a doctoral student in Education with an emphasis in Disability Studies at Chapman University, and has served as an adjunct professor at Biola University, Hope International University, Cal State Fullerton, and Fullerton Community College.

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