



Symposium Guidelines

In preparation for the symposium we are providing some additional guidelines regarding your presentation.

Aims

We are anticipating the symposium will yield meaningful response to a wide range of issues confronting multicultural education and multiculturalism more broadly. The Rethinking Multiculturalism/Reassessing Multicultural Education (RMRME) Project conceives of multicultural education as having a range of interrelated dimensions including programs supporting students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; school organisation and culture; curriculum content; classroom pedagogy; community relations and anti-racism education.

We are keen to explore how multicultural education programs services the specific needs of students with increasingly culturally complex heritages and migration histories. Old assumptions about a general relation between ethnicity and educational disadvantage no longer hold, while patterns of poor outcomes amongst some ethnically-defined groups persist. Many educational strategies and programs, however, continue to operate on the basis of relatively simplistic understandings of the cultural backgrounds of their students and the very nature of multiculturalism. Moreover, if multicultural education aims to provide all students with the skills and knowledge for participating in an ethnically diverse world, how well suited are these programs for understanding increasing cultural hybridity and complexity? These are timely questions for theorists and policy makers in the field and of particular relevance to the Australian context given the move towards a National Curriculum which is underpinned by a focus on intercultural understanding.

Outcomes

The RMRME Project team will:

- produce a report providing an overview of presentations, the issues addressed and also symposium recommendations which will be forwarded to all attendees.

We also hope the symposium will lead to the following outcomes:

- an academic output, eg, a special issue of a relevant international journal;
- inform the shaping of the RMRME Project professional development of teachers;
- development of a network of professionals and academics to further dialogue;
- other events to address symposium recommendations.

Presentation Guidelines

As indicated in the flyer:

- International academic invitees are asked to present a 30 minute paper detailing recent research and a brief overview of policy and issues around multicultural education in their country.
- Government Department and Agency invitees are asked to present 20 minute reports providing an overview of multicultural education in their state, recent initiatives and current issues.

If you are using powerpoint, please email your file by **August 22** to c.mcauliffe@uws.edu.au for uploading so as not to waste time on the day. Please keep your number of slides to a minimum - 12 max. It will be a packed program and we want to have plenty of time for discussion. We are intending to record the event to assist with the report writing. Please notify us if you are unwilling for your session to be recorded. Please forward any dietary and access requirements in advance. If you have any further enquiries please don't hesitate to contact Megan Watkins m.watkins@uws.edu.au or Cameron McAuliffe c.mcauliffe@uws.edu.au. Looking forward to an enjoyable and productive event!