



NEWSLETTER

Dear SIETAR members and supporters,

We are sure you will all agree that intercultural work is extremely enriching and exciting. However, most of us hardly get to meet and inspire each other. Our short and informative newsletter sent out every trimester seeks to fill this gap in a very modest manner. We hope this newsletter will also help to bring to light research, publications, events, resources, generated in India in this field, in order to do this, SIETAR India needs your participation. So please do not hesitate to write to us, should you wish to contribute to our newsletter or share information about any event or publication that might be of interest to people who share a passion for intercultural work. To start this effort, our President, Sunita Nichani has contributed a book review in the Editorial Section.

EDITORIAL

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - Remember to send in your proposals for our fifth annual SIETAR India Conference no later than May 1. Join fellow SIETARIans from all over the world when they come together in Mumbai in February 2013 to share and discuss some of the most important questions facing intercultural education, training and research. Do not miss this opportunity to share knowledge, research and best practices with other passionate and committed professionals. See www.sietarindia.org/conference for more details.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - As we are updating our database, we request all members to please complete and send in the attached Membership Form with your Annual Renewal Fee or New Membership fee as applicable. Click here for a direct link to the website with our membership form. Please do confirm your membership by renewing if you have not already.

EDITORIAL REVIEW

CONFLUENCES - Forgotten histories from East and West
AUTHORS: Ronit Hoiskole and Ilja Trojanow
PUBLISHED BY: Tada press, India
BY: Sunita Nichani

This extremely well researched book delves into history to remind us that cultures are never monolithic blocks, but have always been marvelous hybrids. The examples given by the authors range from the trivial to the profound. Today, most of us associate forks with Western dining etiquette and eating with fingers is still stigmatized in polished circles. The authors point out that the fork was indeed introduced to the Western world (Italy) by the East (Constantinople). This custom iconatized the Venetians and over time gained acceptance to the point that it became indigenous! But "polished" history tends to erase such cultural debts, insisting on a certain imagined cultural purity. In the bargain, we forget that cultures evolve through enrichment from the cultural "other". To quote the authors, "What is of interest in the study of civilizations, is not the differences that hold people apart, but the heritage that people are able to share across borders". This is a powerfully humanistic message in a world that is more and more conflicted and paranoid.

EDITORIAL REVIEW

SIETAR INDIA NOW ON LINKED IN: Please join the SIETAR India group on Linked In to keep in touch with other members, see postings about learning events, share information and to engage in discussions.

SIETAR USA CONFERENCE - SIETAR-USA is planning their Twelfth Annual Conference for October 17-20, 2012 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They are accepting proposals for the conference, themed *Navigating Complexity in an Intercultural World*. Due date for submission is May 15. Please see www.sietarusa.org for more information.

YOUNG SIETAR CONGRESS - Young SIETAR is having their Annual Congress in September 2012, to be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland. For more details visit www.youngsietar.org.

The next few months are going to be very exciting! We look forward to receiving your conference proposal and your inputs for our next newsletter. Have a great summer!

Best wishes,
The SIETAR India Team

