

2nd International Conference

Cultural Difference and Social Solidarity Network Building Solidarity and Protecting Difference: Meeting Central Tensions in Contemporary Societies

www.differenceandsolidarity.org

Hosted by
Middle East Technical University-Northern Cyprus Campus
3rd - 6th July 2012

Cultural Difference and Social Solidarity Network is an ongoing project which organizes annual conferences to facilitate the development of a network of intellectuals that are broadly concerned with difference and solidarity. The issues of social solidarity and preservation of cultural rights, works and values within divided communities and across communities of difference, is one of the defining features of contemporary societies. Across the globe, communities are struggling to negotiate cultural differences, reflecting religious, political, ideological and identity-based roots. The role of the conference is to help develop a trans-disciplinary network of intellectuals with a global reach, across a broad range of disciplines and spanning theoretical, empirical, cultural, aesthetic, legal, political and policy domains.

After the first decade of the 21st Century, one of the central and persistent problems across the globe is that of reconciling differences in contemporary societies and building social solidarity. These problems are manifest in a range of different contexts: revolution and civil war in North Africa and the Arab States; renewed famine and infrastructural failures in Africa; Islamophobia and right wing racism and mono-culturalism in Europe and the former Soviet states; the intractability of reconciliation and unification in divided societies like Cyprus; the temporal frailty of aspiring new nations such as Palestine; and signs of breakdown in law and order in inner cities in the UK and Germany.

This conference seeks to provide a space for scholars to take stock of the present context and share knowledge – specific or general, empirical or theoretical, with a view to develop and explore the possible ways forward to minimizing violence, discrimination, exclusion and oppression as the means by which difference is managed by political structures. It is hoped the conference will facilitate the development of more constructive, democratic, participative and inclusive means of promoting solidarity without negating difference and diversity. The conference is intended to be cross disciplinary and welcomes papers from scholars whose research crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. Papers and panels are sought for presentation at parallel sessions where each paper will have a strict maximum of 20 minutes presentation time on panels of 2 papers with 25 minutes per paper discussion time.

The main themes for which papers are sought are:

- Reconciling diverse communities and fragmented communities
- Analysis of effects, uses, failures, or successes of cultural products (literature and the arts)

- The role of states, NGOs and international structures in exacerbating or alleviating problems arising from difference
- Ideological politics and the theorizing of difference, diversity and solidarity
- Language, media and propaganda
- After Multiculturalism?: Monoculturalism, Polyculturalism, Cosmopolitanism and the Theory and Practice of Difference within common space
- Migration, Borders, Diasporas and Solidarity in Changing Communities
- Economics, Crisis and the Impact of Difference and Solidarity
- Ethnocentrism, Eurocentrism, Solidarity and Difference
- Cultural Translation and interpretation, Solidarity and Difference
- Contrasting Theories of Solidarity and Difference
- Academic Research, Intellectuals and Activism
- Technology, Solidarity and Difference
- Solidarity and Difference in Radical Theory/Politics
- New Thinking and Theories of Solidarity/Difference
- Aesthetics, Solidarity and Difference
- Solidarity and Difference – Theory and Empiricism
- Immigration and Diasporas
- Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Emergent Solidarities
- Difference, Solidarity and the Ethics of Strangers

These themes are not exhaustive and the organizers will consider other papers relevant to the conference theme.

We expect a selection of papers from the conference to be brought together in a publication.

There will be two keynote plenary sessions with speakers to be announced.

- Deadline for submission of Abstracts by: 15th April 2012
- Notification of Acceptance and Rejection begins: Tuesday 6th March 2012
- Conference Registration to be made online by Monday 30th April 2012
- Conference Fees to be paid by Friday May 11th 2012

The Conference Language is English and all papers and presentations should be in English.

The conference fee is 350 Euros.

This includes:

- Registration fee
- Transport to and from Ercan Airport in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to METU-NCC Campus
- 4 nights at Campus Guest House with breakfast
- 4 lunches
- 3 Dinners
- Guided Historic/Cultural Excursion

Abstracts of no more than 350 words may be submitted online only at:

www.differenceandsolidarity.org

For any questions or concerns please see our website, including the FAQ page, or contact the conference organizers at the email address below.

Conference Organisers:

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