



CONFERENCE ON APPLIED INTER-CULTURALITY RESEARCH (CAIR)

University of Graz (Graz)

Date: April 7-10, 2010.

Place: University of Graz, Austria, hosted by the *forum for Applied Interculturality Research (fAIR)*.

Deadline: August 31, 2009.

Each abstract submission must have at least two authors, one primarily representing a specific research project in a relevant discipline and the other primarily representing a specific intervention (practical project or activity) in civil society or government. The first author may be either of these two, and should have made the greater (or greatest) contribution to the combined project.

The text should begin with the title (6-12 words), the author(s) with their affiliation(s), the email address of the first author, and the preferred mode of presentation (spoken or poster). (Spoken papers will last 20 minutes followed by 7 minutes of discussion and will be presented in parallel sessions of no more than three papers simultaneously. Posters will be standard DIN-A0 size, presented during dedicated sessions – i.e., not in parallel with any other event – and remain on display throughout the conference near the presentation and refreshment rooms.)

The main text should be structured with the following headings: (1) Background in... (the main academic discipline/s), (2) Background in... (the main area of practice, or kind of intervention), (3) Aims, (4) Research/Theory, (5) Intervention/Practice, (6) Implications, (7) References. The two Background sections should summarize relevant knowledge without directly referring to the specific research or intervention. The Aims section should clarify the concrete link between the research and the intervention. Both the Research/Theory and Intervention/Practice sections should describe both approaches (paradigms, schools, methods) and outcomes (insights, results, developments). The Implications section may address any relevant political, social, cultural or academic consequences of the described interaction between theory and practice. The References may be presented in any format. Authors are asked to write in a way that they cannot be identified after their names and affiliations have

Interculturality has always been a part of the human condition, but is becoming increasingly relevant and critical in a globalized world in which social and cultural configurations are constantly changing and their representations being renegotiated; technological advances and economic constraints provoke and promote the transnational mobility of individuals, cultural groups and cultural goods; political parties and decision makers of all approaches and persuasions increasingly regard intercultural issues as central to their strategies and programs; global issues such as environment, defence, finance, and the distribution of wealth and resources are – or should be – increasingly negotiated across cultural boundaries, and intercultural conflicts pose a constant threat to world peace and stability.

Interculturality research addresses all kinds and aspects of intercultural interaction.

Topic areas include

- ethnicity, group membership and identity,
- alterity (Otherness) and difference, and their (de-) construction,
- racism, xenophobia, intolerance, discrimination and prejudice,
- the history of academic racism,
- cultural and evolutionary theories of altruistic and xenophobic behaviors,
- cultural diversity and interaction – linguistic, religious, artistic, behavioral and traditional,
- migration, interactions among majority/minority cultures and generational differences, and
- intercultural aspects of gender and sexuality.

Relevant disciplines include aesthetics, anthropology, biology, cultural studies, economics, education, ethnology, genetics, geography, history, law, linguistics, literature, musicology, politics, physiology, medicine, peace and conflict studies, psychology, philosophy, religious studies, sociology, translation/interpretation and zoology.

Intercultural projects, activities and interventions in civil society and government can involve conflict resolution at local, national and international levels; community interpreting and the promotion of minority languages and multilingualism; culture (art, music, literature, theater, etc.); education and public awareness; employment, equal opportunity, affirmative action and diversity management; immigration and asylum; integration of cultural majority/minorities; legal advice; medicine and therapy; military peace-keeping operations; poverty reduction and economic development (local and global); relationships: marriage, families, sexuality and reproduction; and religion, spirituality, interfaith dialogue/pluralism and ecumenism.

The Conference on Applied Interculturality Research (cAIR) aims to empower researchers to contribute positively to social and political developments; to support civil society and government through relevant research; to enable and promote constructive interactions between academics and practitioners; and to establish Applied Interculturality Research as a visible and productive area of interaction between research and society.

cAIR brings together communities of practice of three distinct kinds: (1) NGOs and government, from local to global levels; (2) academic disciplines and their various epistemologies; and (3) cultural groups in the everyday sense of languages, religions and traditions.

cAIR regards all such groups, actors, approaches and opinions as equally legitimate and valuable, provided they are consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. cAIR also respects existing boundaries between communities of practice, however blurred. On that basis, cAIR encourages constructive discourse among communities with related goals. At the same time, cAIR strives for high standards of quality, relevance and impact by carefully evaluating the projects and activities of participating communities and their outcomes. As far as possible, evaluations are carried out within corresponding (sub-)communities, and evaluation procedures offer helpful, constructive suggestions and information – regardless of whether the submission in question is accepted or rejected for presentation at the conference. cAIR does not support unlimited freedom of speech



been removed from beneath the title. The entire text, including all headings and administrative detail, should not exceed 800 words. Abstracts must be submitted in the English language as email text or attachment (pdf or word) to cair10@uni-graz.at. Reviewers' comments and notifications of acceptance or rejection will be sent to first authors by 15 November 2009. First authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to revise their abstracts for publication by 31 December 2009.

All submissions to cAIR10 will be subject to anonymous double-blind peer review by two international experts corresponding to the submission's specific academic discipline and area of practice or intervention. The acceptance or rejection of submissions, and the classification of accepted submissions into spoken presentations or posters, will depend on the quality of the described research according to the research reviewer; on the quality of the described intervention according to the practice reviewer, and on the following factors, as judged by both reviewers: the relevance of the submission for current issues of interculturality; the strength of the link between theory and practice; the description of the interaction between theory and practice; the relevance of that interaction for other current research and interventions in the area of interculturality, and a general recommendation of acceptance (as spoken presentation or poster) or rejection.

cAIR10 is hosted by the Forum for Applied Interculturality Research (fAIR), supported by researchers in diverse disciplines at the Univ. of Graz, representatives of diverse Graz NGOs, and leading international researchers and practitioners in corresponding areas, financed by a grant from Zukunftsfonds der Republik Österreich, modeled on an international series of Conferences on Interdisciplinary Musicology, and open to both active participants (who submit abstracts and present their work at the conference) and passive participants (any interested person or group that attends the conference). cAIR10 is directed by Richard Parncutt and Simone Schumann at the Univ. of Graz.

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and will not offer a platform to any project that the organisers or reviewers feel might exacerbate xenophobia or discrimination of any kind. To our knowledge, no previous international conference has aspired to achieve these or similar aims.

The main thematic focus of cAIR10 is the application of interculturality research, understood to mean any constructive exchange, interaction or dialogue between theory and practice in any area of interculturality. The conference program will include a range of presentation and exchange formats including keynotes, parallel sessions, poster sessions and open-space plenary/workshops, as well as opening reception, concerts and closing festivities.

