ENGAGING DIASPORA in development
Tapping Our Trans-local Potential for Change
www.sfu.ca/diasporas

Dialogue Program
Improving Global Health

Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 6:30 - 9:00 PM
SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, 580 West Hastings Street

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Dialogue Purpose

This dialogue is part of an ongoing public engagement series that examines the unique role of the diaspora resident in Vancouver who are committed financially and personally to development activities in the global south. Diaspora-driven development efforts have a powerful impact in the global south that reverberates here in Metro Vancouver. While often informal or grassroots, these initiatives demonstrate the benefits and unique strengths of the diaspora – cultural awareness of communities of origin and residence, fluency working in dual cultures, awareness of local issues and concerns (trans-local), and long-term personal commitment to projects and communities.

This dialogue foregrounds the many ways diaspora leaders and partners are transcending borders to improve health through innovations in research, clinical services, and population-based preventive health practices.

Dialogue questions include:
• What are the unique skills and experiences of diaspora in improving global health?
• In what ways are initiatives experiences transforming health practices, and systems in the Global South?
• What are the current and potential impacts on people, health systems and institutions in both Canada and trans-locally?

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Project partners:

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Program

6:30 pm  Welcome

First Nations Welcome to the Territory
Shaheen Nanji, Project Co-Director and Director SFU International Development
Joanna Ashworth, Project Co-Director and Dialogue Co-Moderator
Ajay Puri, Coordinator, Ethno-Cultural Research Network and Dialogue Co-Moderator

Global Health Defined

Jerry Spiegel, Liu Institute for Global Issues and the School of Population and Public Health at UBC.

Dialogue:
• What does health mean to you?
• What are the unique qualities that you bring to your understanding of health and how to improve global health?

Global Health: Diaspora Stories

Shafique Pirani, MD, Royal Columbian Hospital
Steven Pi, President, Hands Across the World
Marj Ratel, Vancouver-based neuroscience nurse who founded Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation (KBNF) in 2000
Derek Agyapong-Poku, KBNF’s Vice President; President of Excellence in Africa Neuroscience and Health and the Canada-Ghana Liaison
Mohammad Zaman, Executive Director, Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice

Dialogue:
• What excites, inspires, or surprises you about what you have heard? What questions do you have?
• In what ways are these global health initiatives leveraging the trans-local potential of the diaspora communities in Vancouver?

Transcending North and South: The Potential of the Trans-Local

Lyren Chiu, Founder and President of the Canadian Research Institute of Spirituality and Healing

Dialogue:
• How are diaspora transcending boundaries and serving as a bridge between the Global North and South?
• What impact do these “trans-local” interactions have in transforming health practices, systems, and understanding in Canada?


Weaving: Parting Reflections and Implications for Practice and Research

Ashok Mathur, Director, Centre for Innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada, Thompson Rivers University

9:00 pm  Adjourn

Reception to follow in atrium
Speakers

DEREK AGYAPONG-POKU is KBNF’s Vice President; President of Excellence in Africa Neuroscience and Health, an operating charity, and the Canada-Ghana Liaison.

JOANNA ASHWORTH is Associate Director for the Bolivia Community Economic Development project and advises community organizations throughout BC on multicultural dialogue planning. She is a senior research associate at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development. Joanna is also co-director of the Engaging Diaspora in Development: Tapping our Trans-local Potential for Change project.

LYREN CHIU is Founder and President of the Canadian Research Institute of Spirituality and Healing. He has 25 years experience and training in both mental health care and spirituality. http://www.beautifulmindsconsulting.com/specialists/dr-lyren-chiu/

ASHOK MATHUR was born in Bhopal, India, and immigrated to Canada with his family in 1962 when he was one year old. Journalism school followed high school, and by 1981 Ashok worked as a photojournalist and was active in Minquon Panchayat, an activist artist collective comprised of First Nations artists and artists of colour that addressed racism in the arts on a national level. Currently, he is the Director of the Centre for Innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia.

SHAHIQUE PIRANI, MD has an Orthopaedics clinical practice at the Royal Columbian Hospital. His special interest is in Paediatric orthopaedics with an emphasis on clubfeet, paediatric hip abnormalities and the Ilizarov Method of treating musculoskeletal disorders. He is the principle organizer and driving force of the CAD $1.8 million Uganda Sustainable Clubfoot Care Project (USCCP) funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Enable Canada. The USCCP Goal is to reduce the consequences of disability from neglected clubfeet in Uganda with a public health approach by making available sustainable, universal, effective, efficient, and safe treatment (by the Ponseti Method) of the congenital clubfoot deformity. http://www.ponseti.info/uganda/

AJAY PURI, Coordinator, Ethno-Cultural Research Network and Dialogue Co-Moderator. Ajay is a Principal at Masala Consulting Services, Co-Lead and Co-Founder at Coop Culture, Co-founder at RangiChangi Roots, Doctoral Student at the School of Population and Public Health, UBC, lead at the Canadian Ethno-cultural Health Network and Research Associate at the Centre for Addictions Research of BC.

MAY J. RATER is the Founder of the Korle-Bu Neuroscience Project. The non-profit Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation was established in 2003 and May was the President since inception. She is also President of Korle-Bu Foundation, a public charity, since inception. Korle-Bu Neuroscience Foundation provides medical support for brain injuries and diseases to the people of Ghana and West Africa. KBNF is committed to assisting the people of West Africa for the long-term through the development of a world-class regional hospital and network, by providing specialist training to the doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who will work in their homelands, and by establishment of a neurological research unit. KBNF is also supporting health care infrastructure development for the West African region. http://kbnf.org/

JERRY SPIEGEL, PhD is an associate professor at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the School of Population and Public Health at the University of British Columbia. His research focus is on the strengthening of capacities to address determinants of health – and he currently leads active collaborative projects in Ecuador, Cuba, and South Africa focused on environmental and occupational health risks. He was founding President of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research.

MOHAMMAD ZAMAN, PhD is a Social Safeguard/Resettlement Specialist and Executive Director of the Society for Bangladesh Climate Justice – a voluntary, non-profit, advocacy group in Vancouver – dedicated to climate change awareness and global “climate justice”. Dr. Zaman has published in many areas including climate change impacts, natural disasters, displacement, migration, and development. http://www.bangladeshcalling.org/about_us.htm
Suggestions?

Seeking stories of Trans-Local leaders

Are you or someone you know doing exemplary development work in the Global South while based in the Metro Vancouver area?

Please email us at diasporas-info@sfu.ca

Next dialogue in the series:

Strategies for Education

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
SFU Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue

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Photography

NARRATIVE 360 is a non-profit organization advancing the role of the documentary arts in civil society and supporting their development in the areas of photography, audio and literary journalism. The organization is committed to intellectual discourse regarding media representation of societies, cultures and communities, and supports work in the documentary arts as a way of understanding the social and cultural fabric of humanity. Narrative 360’s last project was Kites, Guns and Dreams, a documentary photojournalism exhibition on Afghanistan that was exhibited in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.