

**CRITICAL EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: A  
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF AERA  
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 Issue 1 April 2004**

This year we continue our work of defining the mission of the Social Justice SIG in ways that deepened and extend our work at a variety of levels, including importantly the concrete and practical. With 254 members, we are the 9<sup>th</sup> largest SIG in AERA. Our numbers enabled us to sponsor a large number of high quality proposals for the 2004 AERA Annual Meeting. We are continuing important collaborative work with other SIGS on developing Social and Environmental Justice Standards. We are sponsoring a special town meeting for members of our SIG to help us concretely in this work on Wednesday. (See announcements below) We have co-sponsored several important events/projects: The Latino Journal Reception, the Annual Reception for People of Color and Women, and a unique new AERA-affiliated event that will bring local, national and international activists together with scholars, artists and educational practitioners to discuss ways to forge alliances for achieving social justice through education.

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**SOCIAL JUSTICE SIG NEW PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Here is a draft of our new program criteria that will be implemented in the upcoming AERA Call for Proposals for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

1. Purpose of the research is relevant to the mission of the Social Justice Sig.  
Highly relevant      Somewhat relevant      Not relevant
2. Research provides a well articulated critical theoretical framework.  
Strongly articulated & relevant      Relevant but not clearly articulated  
Framework is articulated, but not from a critical perspective
3. Research is clearly located in current socio/political context of education.  
Clearly located      Somewhat clearly located      Not clearly located
4. Research has potential impact, in socially just ways, the lives of children, K-12 schools, and/or the communities in which families live.  
Highly significant      potentially significant      Little potential significance
5. Methodology is relevant and appropriate to research purpose.  
Relevant/appropriate to purpose      Somewhat relevant/appropriate to purpose  
Not relevant or appropriate to purpose
6. Conclusions or interpretations are well supported by the data.  
Highly supported      Somewhat supported      Not supported

7. Format for presentation is creative, interactive, and includes the participation of non traditional voices at AERA.  
Meets all three descriptors    Meets one or more descriptor(s)    Does not meet descriptors
8. Quality of writing style and organization  
Eloquent/clearly organized    Somewhat Clear/organized    Not clear/disorganized
9. Overall  
Outstanding    Adequate    Not acceptable

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**PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS REPORT - 2003-2004**

By Suzanne SooHoo with Cesar Rossatto

We received 9 group proposals and 16 individual proposals. AERA shoed we are the ninth largest SIG in AERA with 193 members, thus awarding us initially 5 substantive sessions, 1 business meeting and two roundtable sessions (up to 7 proposals per session.) In the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, AERA quickly decided to award on more substantive session to the top ten largest SIGs.

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**OUR SPONSORED SESSIONS AT AERA 2002 SAN DIEGO**

1. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Interactive Symposium:  
***A Call for Deliberative Dialogue Across Differences in Educational Research Methodologies: Democracy, Accountability and Credibility***  
Tuesday, 4/13/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Hyatt - Cunningham C, Fourth Level
2. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Paper Session:  
***Building Capacity for Critical Social Consciousness and Social Justice***  
Thursday, 4/15/2004 from 8:05 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.  
Marriott - Columbia 3, North Tower, Lobby Level
3. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Symposium:  
***Chicana/o Activism and Education: Theories and Pedagogies of Transformation***  
Tuesday, 4/13/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Hyatt - Emma A, Third Level
4. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Paper Session:  
***Design and Redesigning Social Justice***  
Monday, 4/12/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Hyatt - Cunningham A, Fourth Level

5. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Performance:  
***Placing Equity Center Stage: Preparing Critical Educators***  
Tuesday, 4/13/2004 from 12:25 p.m. - 1:55 p.m.  
Hyatt - Cunningham C, Fourth Level

6. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Interactive Symposium:  
***Town Meeting on Developing Standards for Social and Environmental Justice Education***  
Wednesday, 4/14/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Marriott - Rancho Las Palmas, South Tower, Fourth Level

7. SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Interactive Symposium:  
***Voices on the Margins: Collaborative and Individual Approaches to Addressing Whiteness in the Classroom and Sustaining an Identity as an Anti-racist, Critical Multicultural Educator***  
Tuesday, 4/13/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Marriott - Green Room, South Tower, Third Level

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**TREASURER'S REPORT - 2003-2004**

**by Audrey M. Dentith**

Our SIG is growing tremendously and we have much to celebrate! We currently have **254** active members of CESJ SIG and are one of the largest SIGs in AERA. Thanks to all existing members who have renewed their memberships  
Welcome to all new members!

As of January, 2004, our account balance is 3,388.61. This amount does not include the sponsorships we pledged to support at this year's annual meeting in AERA and some projected expenses for this past year's work, newsletter costs, AERA business meeting and sponsorships. A breakdown of upcoming and current expenses are as follows:

- ❑ Travel Expenses for January, 2004 SIG planning meeting= \$400.
- ❑ Secretarial and Newsletter Mailing expenses = \$175.
- ❑ Sponsorship of Latinos in Ed Journal Reception = \$800 (2003 & 2004)
- ❑ Sponsorship of Welcome Reception = \$75.
- ❑ Sponsorship of At the Edge of Each Others Battles Event = \$200
- ❑ AERA Business Meeting Refreshments = \$400

**Estimated NEW Balance: \$1350 (April, 2004)**

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## EVENTS WE WILL SPONSOR AT AERA 2004 :

### **1. THE EDGE OF EACH OTHERS BATTLES: SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS ORGANIZING ACROSS DIFFERENCES.**

**Monday, April 12, 2004 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm**

**The Sherman Heights Community Center  
2260 Island Ave, in San Diego**

This is a reception and conversation about cross-community alliance-building with local community-based social justice activists and social justice-oriented educators and educational researchers. It will also feature the film, *The Edge of Each Others Battles: The Vision of Audre Lorde*, a remarkable film documenting the "I Am Your Sister" conference that was held in Boston in 1991. The purpose of the Boston conference was to celebrate and realize Black Lesbian writer, educator, and activist Audre Lorde's vision of organizing across communities. This event will bring AERA members, local, national and international activists together for a community screening and discussion of the film along with time for socializing and conversing among audience, film-maker and a panel of local education activists. Topics for discussion will include (but not be limited to) organizing across communities for educational justice; and using documentary film-making for participatory educational research.

\*This event is about 1.5 miles from the Convention Center. It's seven blocks from the trolley line.

### **2. The Annual Welcome Reception for People of Color and Women at AERA**

Monday, April 12 from 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm

**Hyatt America's Cup A – Fourth Level**

THE SIG Research on Women and Education will host the traditional Monday evening Welcome Reception for People of Color and Women at the AERA Annual Meeting. This year, the group will highlight the Social Justice, Peace, and Environmental Education Standards Project (SJPEE) by inviting all the SIGS collaborating on this project. There will be tables that represent each participating SIG, a cash bar and additional refreshments. This will be held on Monday, April 12 from 6:15 – 7:45 pm.

### **3. Latinos in Education Journal Reception**

**Thursday, April 15 from 7:30 pm – 11:30 pm**

San Diego Convention Center

111 W. Harbor Drive

Rooms 11 A & B Upper Level

*Music provided by THE LATIN SOCIETY*

*and special appearance by MARIACHI CHULA VISTA & DANCERS.*

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**4. CESJ: SIG ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:**

Wednesday, 4/14/2004 from 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Marriott - Torrance, South Tower, Fourth Level

Special Guest Speaker: Antonia Darder, University of Illinois

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**Nominations for Representative Committee for 2004 – 2005.**

**Please note that all representative positions (SIG Rep, Fiscal Rep and Communication Rep) are OPEN for those interested in participating in the SIG leadership. If you wish to nominate someone or yourself, if possible notify Sally Thomas ([sally.thomas4@verizon.net](mailto:sally.thomas4@verizon.net)) or Peggy Laughlin ([margaret\\_laughlin@csumb.edu](mailto:margaret_laughlin@csumb.edu)) before the business meeting. Attach a one paragraph statement discussing your reasons for participating in the SIG leadership, your commitment to the criteria for leadership, and brief background information. If time does not allow, please bring this information to the business meeting with enough copies to share with the members attending the meeting.**

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Of special interest to CESJ: SIG is the following session to be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2004. This presentation represents the work of our members on the development of standards for social and environmental justice in education.

*SIG - Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) Interactive Symposium:*

***Town Meeting on Developing Standards for Social and Environmental Justice Education***

Wednesday, 4/14/2004 from 2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Marriott - Rancho Las Palmas, South Tower, Fourth Level

*Participant(s):*

Marta P. Baltodano - Loyola Marymount University (Chair)

Julie R. Andrzejewski - Saint Cloud State University (Discussant)

Panel: Suzanne Soo Hoo (Chapman University), Karen Cadiero-Kaplan (San Diego State University), Nola M. Butler-Byrd (San Diego State University & Claremont Graduate University), Margaret Laughlin (), Audrey Dentith (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee), Sally Thomas (Center for Language in Learning).

**PANEL DESCRIPTION:**

The goal of this town meeting is to provide a forum for the members of the SIG Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) to discuss the extend of the SIG's commitment to participating and writing social and environmental justice standards in conjunction with other 16 diversity-related AERA's SIGs. This town meeting will provide a forum to the constituencies of the CESJ SIG to discuss the wording of this document and to write collectively some of standards that will become the contribution of this SIG to the larger consortium of social justice-related SIGs participating in this work.

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**BY-LAWS OF THE AERA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)  
CRITICAL EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**Article I: Name**

The name of the organization is Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ)

**Article II: Affiliation**

The organization, Critical Educators for Social Justice (CESJ) is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), pays annual dues to AERA, and participates in the AERA annual meeting.

**Article III: Representative Authority**

This Special Interest Group is abides by the bylaws and articles of incorporation of the AERA. The SIG bylaws do not conflict with the bylaws and articles of incorporation of AERA.

**Article IV: Purpose**

The members of this Special Interest Group are committed to teach, promote, and implement the principles of critical pedagogy in order to establish an educational movement grounded in the struggle for social and environmental justice, human rights and economic democracy. The members of this SIG are committed to cultural, linguistic, political, and economic self-determination within our classrooms, schools and communities. A major goal of this SIG is to foment a serious educational process that cultivates intellectual rigor, creativity, critical engagement, and active participation in the world. We believe that education, as a form of critical understanding, plays a crucial role in transforming society; therefore, we recognize the significance of sustaining the committed participation of educators whose work is founded upon these principles. A significant objective of this Special Interest Group is to promote communication and collaboration among critical educators and researchers working in public schools, universities and community education programs through networking and the creation of multiple avenues for consistent communication and the establishment of alliances and goals between its membership.

**Article V: Membership**

Section 1 – Eligibility. Membership in CESJ is open to dues-paid AERA members.

Section 2 – Duration. AERA members join SIG/CESJ by paying dues through AERA Central Office. AERA members may join SIG/CESJ at any time, but membership expires along with a given AERA membership. SIG/CESJ membership may be for either 1 or 2 years, but members joining the SIG for 2 years must continuously be members of AERA for 2 years.

Section 3 – Voting Rights. All SIG/CESJ members in good standing, fully paid in SIG dues, may vote for SIG representatives.

Section 4 – Dues. The amount of SIG/CESJ dues may be modified by a majority of the SIG members voting by e-mail or at the annual SIG business meeting.

#### **Article VI: Representatives**

Section 1 – General. Representatives of SIG/CESJ are elected by a majority of SIG members voting each year prior to the AERA annual meeting. In the year in which these bylaws are accepted by the membership, voting will take place at the annual meeting. The elected representatives will comprise a Representatives Committee of SIG/CESJ and conduct the business of the SIG in the interim between annual business meetings. This committee will convene periodically during the year (with at least one physical meeting and other distance meetings as needed) to coordinate and support the work of the SIG. This work may include the following: membership, newsletters, program planning, supporting focus groups and/or other designated projects. It is also a responsibility of the Representative Committee to connect and network with other SIG groups of AERA to promote efforts within the mission of this SIG.

Section 2 – Eligibility. All members in good standing of both AERA and SIG/CESJ are eligible for election as representatives and to vote.

Section 3 – Terms. The terms of each representative shall be for 2 years, expiring at the end of the second annual AERA meeting after election. In the second year, each elected position shall serve as “past representative,” to mentor and coordinate work with newly elected representatives.

Section 4 – Elected Roles. The following roles shall compose the Representative Committee for SIG/CESJ. (1) AERA SIG Representative (2) Fiscal Representative (3) Communications Representative (4) Program Representative.

Section 5 – Other Roles. Persons to assist these representatives or to carry out the work of the SIG may be appointed by the Representative Committee. Such positions include any that will best embody the spirit and work that is part of the work of this SIG. Currently these roles include (1) an ongoing Program Co-Representative to provide continuity in terms of program technical processes (2) Webmaster to support a permanent website and assist the communications representative with posting the newsletter and other communications (3) Elders to maintain historical continuity and advice (4) Fire Starters to lead focus groups within the SIG.

Section 6 – Election Procedures. Each year prior the annual AERA meeting, the Representative Committee will appoint two Nominating Representatives, one of whom is the Past Nominating Representative. Members of the SIG are encouraged to nominate candidates and/or self nominate. We encourage active participation of the widest number of people possible. These representatives will present a list of candidates to the SIG/CESJ members 90 days prior to the annual meeting. Voting will take place between 30-60 days prior to annual meeting. The Representative Committee will tabulate the votes and communicate results to the CESJ membership no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Election will require a majority of the votes cast.

#### **Article VII: Representative Responsibilities**

Section 1 – AERA SIG Representative. The SIG AERA Representative coordinates and works with the Representative Committee to carry out the work of the SIG.

- Maintains official contacts with AERA
- Works with other AERA SIGS on issues and projects related to the mission of the SIG
- Co-facilitates meetings with past SIG Representative and other representatives.
- Provides agenda for annual business meeting in collaboration with other representatives.
- Communicates with and encourages Fire Starters
- Coordinates at least one meeting a year for Representative Committee in addition to the annual business meeting.
- Past SIG Representative supports newly elected SIG Representative in order to provide continuity and serves as one of the Nomination Representatives.

Section 2 – Fiscal Representative. The Fiscal Representative has the following responsibilities:

- Handles all fiscal matters for the SIG and prepares an annual fiscal report.
- Receives and maintains membership list from AERA
- Helps recruit new members by providing information on website and in SIG newsletter on processes for joining SIG, paying dues, and so on.
- Arranges refreshments for the annual SIG business meeting

Section 3 – Communications Representative. The Communications Representative has the following responsibilities:

- Keeps minutes of official meetings
- Oversees the webmaster/website
- Organizes the newsletter and other communications in collaboration with other representatives and the membership at large.
- Sends newsletter and other information to the list serve.
- Mails newsletter and information to the membership

Section 4 – Program Representative. Serves with the Appointed Program Representative to plan and implement process for choosing SIG proposals to be included in the AERA program each year.

- Accepts proposals
- Assigns reviewers
- Sees that reviews are returned
- Makes decisions about proposals based on program criteria
- Checks to be sure authors of proposals are notified and the proposals have been listed in the AERA program
- Seeks advise of current representatives, elders, and/or the membership when issues arise
- Revises program criteria in response to SIG membership input in collaboration with Representative Committee

#### Section 5 – Appointed Roles.

- Program Representative serves with elected Program Representative to ensure continuity of the proposal process and technical assistance with regard to AERA program procedures. May be appointed for more than 2 years.
- Webmaster. A webmaster will be appointed to develop and maintain the SIG website and the SIG List Serve. This will be a paid position overseen by the Communications Representative

#### Section 6 – Other Roles.

- Elders. The Elders serve as the “weavers” of the SIG’s history. We want to build on previous work and intentions in order to understand more fully our present and future directions. Anyone significantly involved in building the SIG can join this circle.
- Fire Starters. We know there are special interests and critical issues that arise within the membership of this SIG. We encourage members to organize others around these issues and to make use of the website, the list serve, the newsletter and the business meeting itself to communicate. Fire Starter groups may want to propose areas of focus for proposals for the following year’s AERA meeting.

#### Section 7 – Criteria for serving in any formal capacity.

- Commitment to the SIG and its mission
- Have a realistic vision about the time necessary to participating in the SIG and its related activities
- Be willing to meet at least once a year in addition to the annual business meeting. Travel costs will be paid from SIG dues.
- Be willing to work collaboratively with others in SIG leadership roles

### **Article VIII: Meetings**

Section 1 -- Annual Meetings. There shall be a SIG/CESJ business meeting held each year in conjunction with the AERA annual meeting. Arrangements for the time and place of this meeting are the responsibility of the Program Representative.

Section 2 – Additional yearly meeting. There shall be one addition annual meeting of the Representative Committee to carry out the work of the SIG.

**Article IX: Ratification and Amendments**

Section 1 – Ratification. These bylaws will take effect upon a majority vote of those members voting the next business meeting.

Section 2 – Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a majority of members voting at the annual business meeting.

**Article X: Discontinuation**

In the event that the purpose if SIG/CESJ is fulfilled by another organization or it is unable to maintain membership in AERA, the organization may be discontinued by a majority vote of the SIG members. Should the SIG discontinue, its assets will be used to pay all outstanding debts and obligations. Any remaining funds will be donated to the American Educational Research Association.

2003-2004 CESJ: SIG Reps and Newsletter Authors

Sally Thomas, AERA SIG Representative  
Peggy Laughlin, AERA SIG Representative  
Suzanne SooHoo, Program Representative  
Audrey Dentith, Fiscal Representative