

Rethinking “AMERICAN” Conference

When: Saturday, May 15, 2004
Time: 9:30am to 5:00pm (Registration starting at 9:00am)
Where: Kane Hall and Parrington Hall, University of Washington Campus
Seattle, Washington
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Seattle, WA – The DIALOGUE Project is hosting its second annual conference, Rethinking “American.” Throughout three focused sessions, we will encourage students, educators, and community members to question what it means to be “American” and to acknowledge the voices of those marginalized by our current national narratives. In opening up a space to discuss the changing significance of American identities, the DIALOGUE Project hopes to create a forum through which we can explore how national identity is interpreted and reconstituted by government structures, grassroots movements, and international perspectives.

About Our Sessions

Rethinking “Patriotism”

Through multiple breakout sessions, we will look at the issues surrounding the definition of “American,” and when these definitions cease to be lucid. At many points in American history, minority populations have been forced to defend their rights to equal citizenship and inclusion within the social structures of this country. This session will explore how the lines of nationality and citizenship are blurred by immigration, international conflict, and the legal system.

Developing Global Citizenship

There are many organizations within the Seattle area working to broaden citizens’ understandings of what it means to be “American.” Heightening international awareness by developing innovative educational curriculum, initiating community activities, and designing international programs, these groups will encourage attendees to consider the importance of global citizenship and participation.

Diasporic Dialogue: Listening to the world through hip-hop

This session will focus on a variety of American ethnic groups and how we express our stories, cultural heritage, and at times even our political voices through the expressive medium of hip-hop. The presentations will focus on a transnational perspective by introducing comparisons between local artists and international hip-hop movements. We will also think more historically about the emergence and popularization of the term “hip-hop generation” and think about ways it might help us theorize a specific kind of global citizenry.

For more information about each session, please visit our website <http://www.dialogueproject.org/rethinkingamerican/> or email us at info@dialogueproject.org.