

Wednesday Social/Dinner

June 9, 2010

Welcome Remarks

Michael Schuck

Welcome to this first gathering of the Democracy, Culture, and Catholicism International Research Project. I am delighted that we have *come together to work together* --beginning a collegial and scholarly bond that I hope will strengthen over the next two years.

We represent different continents, different institutions and different academic fields, but in this project we come together with a shared curiosity about democracy, its relationship to culture, and the role Catholicism has played in either its promotion or demotion. We have much to learn from one another about these matters; there is much we do not know; and we have much to give one another on these matters, for we are a very gifted--and graced--group of human beings.

So, welcome--and thank you in advance for your scholarly curiosity, collegial openness, and professional commitment to the DCCIRP.

We are not all gathered this evening, some participants are still arriving later this evening and tomorrow, but I do want to take this opportunity to introduce the research participants who are here this evening. Please raise your hand when I introduce you . . .

Fr. Robert Araujo, S.J., LUC, Law
Novita Dewi, Sanata Dharma University, English Language Studies
James Garbarino, LUC, Psychology
Christina Siwi Handayani, Sanata Dharma University, Psychology
Elizabeth Jones Hemenway, LUC, Women's Studies & Gender Studies,
History
Marcia Hermansen, LUC, Theology
David Ingram, LUC, Philosophy
William O'Neill, S.J., Theology, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara
University
Bren Ortega Murphy, LUC, Women's Studies & Gender Studies,
Communication

David Posner, LUC, Modern Languages and Literatures
Russell Powell, Seattle University, Law
Julia Pryce, LUC, Social Work
Peter Schraeder, LUC, Political Science
Antanas Saulaitis, S.J., Lithuanian Jesuit Community, Lemont, IL
Vidmantas Simkunas, S.J., Lithuanian Jesuit Community, Vilnius Lithuania
Güneş Murat Tezcür, LUC, Political Science

Not here this evening, but joining us tomorrow and Friday:

Jorge Aragón Trelles, Universidad Antonio Ruiz Montoya
Oscar Espinosa, UARM, Anthropology, Philosophy and Political Science
Christine Firer Hinze, Fordham University, Theology

Unable to attend due to illness:

Barry Sullivan, LUC, Law

At this time also want to introduce the staff members who have done so much to prepare the Chicago Workshop and who will be on hand over the next two days to help you and answer any questions:

Katie O'Donnell, Manager of the Joan and Bill Hank Center for the Catholic
Intellectual Heritage
John Crowley-Buck, Graduate Assistant at CCIH

We will hear from him a bit later this evening, but I do want to introduce Dr. Patrick Boyle, Associate Provost and Assistant to the President for Global Affairs and Initiatives and his assistant, Jason Obin. Dr. Boyle and his staff have been key collaborators with CCIH in the development of this international project and I know they will also be happy to help you in any way they can.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the financial support we have received from the Office of the President of Loyola University Chicago, Fr. Michael Garanzini, and from the Helen Brach Foundation to begin our three-year project.

The schedule for the rest of the evening is to enjoy dinner, renew acquaintances, make new ones, hear some remarks from Dr. Boyle at dessert time, get some details about tomorrow's schedule from John Crowley-Buck, and then find out if the Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup.

Before we head to the buffet table, I have asked Dr. Julia Pryce, Assistant Professor in Loyola University Chicago's School of Social Work to offer an invocation.