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Fall 2016 Teaching Skills Study Award Final Report

Applicant: Ahlam Muhtaseb, Communication Studies, amuhtase@csusb.edu

Conference: National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Conference, November 10-13, 2016 • Montréal, Québec

Program URL: <http://www.nwsa.org/conference2016>.

Description of Teaching Strategy or Method: Transformative education or pedagogies when teaching race & gender to mainstream students.

Explain What Was Learnt/Attended

For years, I have struggled to teach about controversial topics such as race, gender, and sexual orientation, especially when these topics are combined with issues of colonialism and world hegemony. With the current atmosphere of intolerance in the US, this job has been more difficult, so NWSA last year decided to focus on these issues and on decoloniality in different contexts, including the academy. Therefore, last year, they had an impressive line up of different short courses and panels that discuss different feminist pedagogies, with a special focus on transformative curricula & pedagogies. **Here are the panels/sessions I was able to attend during the two days I stayed at Montreal:**

- Making Revolution Irresistible: Reflections on Transformative Pedagogies by Early/Mid-Career Educators from (De)Colonizing Spaces
- "Is this About Me?" Challenges/Choices in Teaching Race and Gender Issues to Conservative Students
- Creative Intersectionalities: On Feminist Art and Pedagogical Practices
- Rethinking Common Knowledge: Case Studies in Methodologies and Pedagogies
- North-South Dialogues: Decolonizing Women's/Gender/Sexuality Studies Pedagogies and Practices
- Race and Coloniality in the Academy

Application in the Classroom:

Last year, I was bought out of the rest of my classes for the Winter and Spring quarters, so I was not able to apply these great pedagogical strategies; however, I was able to participate in the Extensive Writing Summer Institute organized by TCR and I was able to create a totally new class on using post-colonial school of thought and deconlonialty to create a new class in Palestinian Cinema, which I am offering in Winter of 2018. I hope to apply more of these techniques in future classes such as Race, Gender, and Media (COMM 401), Muslim Women in Media & Society (COMM 550), and Applied Communication and Social Justice (COMM 564)