



*Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
E-Newsletter – February 19, 2003*

Announcements

Cornwall Center moves to new headquarters

With the “new smell” still in the air, the Cornwall Center staff settles into its new headquarters at 47 Bleeker Street, Newark. Construction on the building began in April of 2002 and was completed at the end of January 2003. The building includes a conference room, a reception area, seven offices and graduate student workspace. Feel free to stop by and see the new building. A public opening is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2003.

Abbott Leadership Institute

In the landmark case of *Abbott v. Burke* the New Jersey Supreme Court issued a series of rulings that established the state’s responsibility to reform educational programs in disadvantaged school districts across the state. The *Abbott* rulings sought to correct significant disparities faced by many urban school districts, Newark among them, as compared to their suburban counter parts.

The Abbott Leadership Institute (ALI) at Rutgers-Newark was established to increase the capacity of parents, community members, and various school personnel, to support the reform process. Housed at the Cornwall Center and affiliated with the Department of Education and Academic Foundations, the ALI provides stakeholders with the tools to effectively participate in school decision-making and related activities.

The Institute's director, Junius W. Williams, is an accomplished writer, attorney, and community advocate with more than thirty years experience as a leader in Newark. The Institute began its first 4-week training module, Data Based Advocacy, in February. For more information contact Mr. Williams at 973-353-1750 ext. 229.

Faculty Publications

FASN faculty recently published the following articles:

Mara Sidney, Department of Political Science

"The Role of Ideas in Education Politics: Using Discourse Analysis to Understand Barriers to Reform in Multiethnic Cities," November 2002, *Urban Affairs Review* 38 (2) 253-279.

This article examines how the presence of multiple racial and ethnic groups complicates education politics. It suggests that to understand the multiethnic political terrain, we need to study how diverse groups understand their interests, and it proposes that discourse analysis offers an effective method for doing so. In four cities, coalitions across racial minority groups did not emerge to pursue education reform, despite shared dissatisfaction with the schools. Analysis of

interview data shows a complex arena of problem definitions and assessments of reforms, one so infused with issues of race and ethnicity that groups agreeing on some elements of "the education problem" may be kept apart by their differing interpretations of its racial dimensions. The findings suggest that divergent ideas about how race intersects with education problems and solutions pose barriers to collective action and meaningful education reform in multiethnic cities.

Kimberly DaCosta Holton, Department of Classical and Modern Languages

"Bearing Material Witness to Musical Sound: Fado's L94 Museum Debut," December 2002, *Luso-Brazilian Review* XXXIX (II) 107-123.

This essay analyzes the acclaimed fado exhibit at the *Museu Nacional de Etnologia* (MNE) organized for the "Lisbon 94" European City of Culture Festival and its unorthodox mixing of material objects and auditory artifacts. The objectives of this article are twofold. First, I argue that by combining multi-sensoriality with innovative exhibition dramaturgy, the MNE curators disrupted ethnomuseology's visualist paradigm, creating a dynamic of embodied spectatorship where museum-goers were alternately engaged at critical, emotional and sensual levels. Secondly, I examine the nationalist functions of mixing science with sentience. By integrating both artifacts and sounds into the exhibit, the curators attempted to "dignify" fado, a ballad form known for its historic association with crime and "perversion," through empirical study. In the context of Lisbon 94, the exhibit presented fado not only as expressive patrimony worthy of European celebration, but also projected Portugal's social scientific voice into a broader international arena.

News

Federal Programs for the Poor Face Change, Cuts, Elimination Under Bush Administration Proposed Budget

President Bush's proposed 2004 budget calls for substantial changes in programs targeting the poor, including housing subsidies, unemployment benefits, health insurance, and the Head Start preschool program. The proposal shifts Section 8 rental vouchers from local public housing authorities (PHAs) to the states, increases the minimum rent PHAs can charge their neediest tenants, and eliminates funding for the HOPE VI program. In addition, late congressional action is likely to drastically reduce Section 8 funding under the 2003 budget.

Related articles: "Bush Seeks to Recast Federal Ties to the Poor: States Would Gain Control Over Services; Funds for Some Programs Would Be Cut." Washington Post, Sunday, February 9, 2003.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45601-2003Feb8.html>

"Renters Receiving U.S. Aid to Pay More Under Proposed Budget." New York Times, February 10, 2003.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/11/politics/11HOUS.html>

For ongoing, updated information on HOPE VI & Section 8, visit the free Knowledgeplex e-mail clipping service at:

<http://www.knowledgeplex.org/fmfportal/mypage/mypage.asp?UserID=2&>

2003 State of the City Address

Newark Mayor Sharpe James delivered his 17th state of the city address on Thursday, January 30, 2003. The speech is available in audio or full text at:

<http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/Speech/Speech.htm>.

Newark School Board Delays Controversial Superintendent Vote

The nine-member Newark school board determined to delay the vote for a superintendent following a raucous meeting on February 13. The board had previously communicated its intention to recommend (in a 5-4 split) Waterbury, CT Superintendent David Snead for the job. Following intense and vocal support for Acting Superintendent Marion Bolden the board tabled the decision until February 25th.

Related articles: "School Chief Vote Postponed." Star-Ledger, Friday, February 14, 2003.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1045207882303680.xml>

"Chaos Erupts at Meeting on Future of Newark School Superintendent." New York Times, Friday, February 14, 2003.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/14/education/14NEWA.html>.

Upcoming Events

Ethics Colloquium Series

The Prudential Business Ethics Center and the Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at Rutgers-Newark, in association with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, will host the first in a series of colloquia exploring the ethical responsibilities of community stakeholders in urban development. ***"Ethics and Urban Development: The Role of Higher Education"*** will be held in the **Dana Room, Dana Library at Rutgers-Newark on Thursday, February 27, 2003 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am.** Breakfast will be served.

The colloquium will feature presentations and discussion among representatives from Newark's five local universities: New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), Essex County College, Seton Hall, and Rutgers University. Rutgers-Newark Provost Steve Diner will lead the discussion.

For additional information or to RSVP contact: Irene Welch 973-353-1750 or by email at

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