De.SH(ie)

Designing Space of Hope (Interiors and Exteriors)

A University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Initiative

Presenter and Co-Founder:
Dr. Malaika McKee

Co-Founders:
Dr. Nicole Lamers, Dr. Ruby Mendenhall, Dr. Marci Uihlein

French Liaison:
Professor Michel Bondurand

March 7-8, 2016 - Paris
Overview

- Pipeline issues and demography
- The origin of De.SH(ie)
- Program components
- Professionalization of student experience
- Intellectual questions and further research
Current Climate and Demography

• Certain institutional Carnegie Classification dominate study abroad
• While study abroad has risen in general for American students, it has remained stagnant for students of color
• Uni-dimensionality of study abroad programs
• National initiatives to increase study abroad
• Declining foreign language majors
# Enrollment Figures for Study Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>U.S. Postsecondary Enrollment 2013-2014</th>
<th>U.S. Students Abroad 2013-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American or Black</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino American</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
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</tbody>
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[www.nafsa.org/explore.../study_abroad/trends_in_u_s__study_abroad/](http://www.nafsa.org/explore.../study_abroad/trends_in_u_s__study_abroad/)
Structural Issues: A Problem of Alignment

Financial
- Federal Financial Aid Policy
- Costs per credit by semester
- Pell Grants
- Federal Funds

Intellectual
- Lack of quantitative and qualitative research in study abroad as it pertains to students of color
- New emerging research on study abroad professionalization

Cultural
- First generation college versus first generation abroad
- Whiteness of study abroad
- Lack of social capital for students regarding study abroad
- Lack of popular media that highlights students of color engaged in stories of study abroad
The origin of De.SH(ie)

1. Diversity of Intellectual perspectives
2. Team of faculty members and university administrators
3. Across academic disciplines
4. Overlapping Research Interests
5. Diverse funds and social capital
6. Project is based in the community and anchored in participatory research

1. Started in 2015

Professor Malaika McKee
Afro-Studies (Afro-Abroad), Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities

Professor Marci Uihlein
Architecture

Dr. Nicole Lamers
Education Policy; International Education Specialist, Liberal Arts and Sciences

Professor Ruby Mendenhall
Sociology, African American Studies, Institute for Genomic Biology
Intellectual Inspirations

• David Adjaye
  Architect, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

• Dr. David Harvey
  Geographer and Author, *Spaces of Hope*

• Alejandro Aravena
  Winner, Pritzker Award 2016
Intellectual Inspirations

"The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class – it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity."
– Anna Julia Cooper

“Whether you have a Ph.D., or no D, we're in this bag together. And whether you're from Morehouse or Nohouse, we're still in this bag together.” - Fannie Lou Hamer
UIUC COURSE • French • English • IPP Course

Revolutionary Charette • Odyssey • Charette Révolutionnaire

DREAM • E-Portfolio • Monograph • Documentary • Digital scholarship

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The focus of the DREAM project is to improve the physical and mental health of those now living in neighborhoods with high levels of violence.
A program sponsored by National Endowment for the Arts and the UIUC Provost’s Office, which provides six free college credits in:

- Philosophy
- Literature
- US History
- Art History

for students who fall at or near the poverty line.
How Do We Design Spaces of Hope?

Michel Bondurand, University Programs in France

A STEM and Humanities based interdisciplinary project with a focus on civic engagement as an outcome.
Structural Issues: The Five F’s

Financial
- Federal Financial Aid Policy
- Costs per credit by semester

Intellectual
- Create quantitative and qualitative research in study abroad as it pertains to students of color
- Excavating the emerging research on professionalization of study abroad

Cultural
- First generation college versus first generation abroad
- Whiteness of study abroad
- Lack of social capital for students regarding study abroad
- Lack of popular media that highlights students of color engaged in stories of study abroad
Multi-Dimensional Study Abroad

Mutually beneficial program where students and faculty on both sides become a community of research and action

• Civic engagement and leadership on a global level
• Professionalization of student experience through solving social issues at home and abroad
• Stepping “off of the veranda” and engaging the community
• Actively seeking a partnership with citizens and their government for social change
Intellectual Questions and Further Research

- How does a study abroad experience that utilizes civic engagement change students’ perspectives on their identity?
- Use of academic analytics (participation rate, retention, achievement)?
- How do we expand the paradigms of our respective disciplines given the interdisciplinary focus?