

towards a more egalitarian cultural exchange. At the same time, it risks ignoring the politics of cultural representation, possibly relegating it to "the icing on the cake", folkloric creations. D'Costa responded that Cultural Cooperation seeks to encourage working together, fusion and creativity rather than an attempt to "maintain" older ways only. Chullikal added that it is important to give the new generations something to be proud of as they are sometimes ambivalent about their parents' habits and traditions. The schools projects provide an opportunity for them to discuss their feelings about this. In addition, the projects take place over two years and thus provide for long-range and more substantial educational experience.

PANEL THREE: Citizenship and Grassroots: What are the Interfaces of Diaspora, Community, and the State?

Moderator: Dr. Susan Pattie (UCL); Speakers: Dr. Anny Bakalian (CUNY), Dr. Dina Kiwan (U. London), Dr. Birgit Brandt (Community Fund)

Three very different talks were presented on the local level of diaspora politics. Dr. Bakalian outlined her current work, researching the backlash against Arab Americans post-September 11. She noted lessons that can be learned from her work, including the suggestion that advocacy groups establish strong ties with local government and law enforcement officials; that diaspora groups should learn early to work with community governments even though they are often newcomers; they should develop coalitions with other ethnic and religious groups and be flexible enough to represent the various demands of their own community. They should promote voting and other civic duties and develop their priorities and strategies.

Dr. Brandt had studied transnational issues among the Turkish and Caribbean communities in Germany and the UK respectively, looking at different dimensions of citizenship. She explored the different issues behind dual citizenship and the transformation of attitudes towards this among Turks in Germany. Disentangling notions of belonging from those of equal rights, resources and participation propelled more young people to view citizenship as an emancipatory tool. It was acknowledged that one might have multiple identities.

Working with citizenship education, Dr. Kiwan noted that citizenship education is now mandatory in the UK but questioned how it is addressed in the curriculum. This is part of a gradual shift from an unstated policy of assimilation to one of integration. Concepts of citizenship involve three strands of traditions: social and moral responsibility, community involvement, and political literacy. Diversity is not necessarily part of the conception of citizenship but rather a source of worry for the government. Thus there remains a certain amount of incoherence in the curriculum about diversity, its nature and dynamics.

The discussion began by questioning what can be done to address the problems raised by the speakers. Issues of funding were raised but others added that organisations must beware of hidden agendas of funding - and on the other hand, be careful to make their own priorities clear. Importantly, education about diversity should not only be about information but about changing behaviour. In this regard, a recurring theme was again brought up - that it is important to educate journalists and others in the media, as

well as students and the general public. It was argued that the real issues go beyond education and are found in equal economic and political opportunity for adult citizens.

PANEL FOUR: Implications for Policy, Recommendations for Further Work

Moderator: Dr. Susan Pattie (UCL); Commentators: Dr. Razmik Panossian (LSE), Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian (LSE), Dr. Gloria Toticaguena (Nevada)

Each commentator was charged with summarising a panel and drawing out the issues and questions raised. Noting the different definitions offered for "diaspora" and "transnational", Dr. Panossian observed that one must remember that borders around diaspora communities and host societies are fluid, that diasporas are not only about politics and lobbying - though that is a very public and important facet - but also involving culture, cuisine, language, etc. Diasporas have an obligation not to seek the destruction of the host society but this is quite different from the right to peaceful dissent. Issues of representation - both within diaspora communities and from them - deserve more attention. Dr. Panossian questioned whether diaspora organisations can ever be democratic.

Looking at Panel Two, Dr. Tchilingirian noted that arts-based programmes aimed at educating the host society about minorities and diaspora groups also have a positive effect on the people producing them, the diaspora communities themselves. The trend has been towards a discourse of cultural diversity in the US and Canada and is now arriving in Europe. The arts are especially conducive to expressing that diversity. Dr. Tchilingirian questioned the precise role and motives of mediators in understanding diversity and cohesion, saying that these may become supportive elements in a concerted campaign.

Finally, Dr. Toticaguena repeated another theme of the day, that diasporas are indeed complex and should not be represented as monolithic and unified. Some elements are politically organised but everyone in a community does not think alike - and diversity must be accepted and acknowledged within such groups as well as between them. Diaspora communities themselves must also promote tolerance and acceptance. Similarly, in terms of citizenship, one can have both an ethnic and a civic identity - and diasporas bridge numerous spaces, including ethnic, religious and political.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Armenian Diaspora Today: roundtable discussion with leading diaspora scholars and experts. The day's participants were joined by Prof. Theo Van Lint (Oxford) and Dr. Pamela Young (Oxfam) in a discussion of the current issues in the Armenian diaspora. Chaired by Dr. Susan Pattie, the audience fully participated as speakers raised a variety of questions. Three brief presentations were made by Dr. Clare Mouradian (Armenian communities in Europe), Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian (the MidEast), and Dr. Razmik Panossian (Diaspora-Armenia relations). Dr. Khachig Tololyan raised the question of leadership in the diaspora - its changing nature and the difficulty of sustaining it as communities do indeed become more diverse and spread out.