

May 12, 2011
Drexel International Office
CIES 2011 Recap

I was able to attend the Comparative International Education Society (CIES) annual conference in Montreal, QC this May 2011. At the conference, I presented my graduate research with a fellow Drexel Global and International Education (GIE) classmate. I attended several other presentations and was able to discuss some of today's most pressing issues in the field of comparative education.

Since I had never been to an academic conference before, I felt it very important to attend sessions prior to my presentation so I could gain an understanding of how the conference flowed. Many of the presentations related to topics covered in the GIE program and several of the authors we read were in attendance. It was an amazing experience to listen to research and have a solid foundation of new and old knowledge to consider. One of my favorite aspects of the CIES conference was the 30 minutes at the end of each session dedicated to questions and discussion. During this time, research and information was shared and new ideas for further investigation offered. It was truly a collaborative and inspiring exchange!

The CIES conference also provided a forum for me to network with others in the field. Scholars from all over the world were present, accessible and welcoming of an open dialogue. Additionally, due to the fact that the GIE program is online, I have not had the opportunity to meet, face to face, with professor and other students. Attending CIES was a great opportunity for me to connect with several of the GIE teachers, my advisor, and classmates. We had a great time sharing our experiences in the GIE program and discussing our future plans.

The opportunity to present my research was very rewarding. Although I was worried, once I began talking and seeing people in the crowd interested the nerves disappeared. My colleague and I fielded several questions regarding our findings with ease. We even had several people wait to talk with us individually to find out more. I left extremely proud of my research and our presentation. It gave me a new sense of confidence and the inspiration to conduct more research in the future.

Through attending this conference I can confirm that Drexel University has given me the tools to conduct quality research and contribute to conversations with up to date knowledge and a well rounded perspective. Despite completing a distance program, I felt supported and positively encouraged by my classmates, professors and advisor. All in all, CIES allowed me to connect with others who were passionate about similar topics and enhance my understanding of several issues I had been studying. It exposed me to the work of many brilliant researchers and provoked a desire to learn more. I am thankful that I received this travel award as it would have been very difficult to attend otherwise.

Thank You,
Haley Dervinis



Short-Term Study Abroad, Local Interaction, and Reflection

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