Call for Papers

Association for Moral Education
39th Annual Conference

October 24 - 27, 2013
Montreal, Canada

Conference Theme
“Multiculturalism, Interculturalism and Education: Pursuing the Common Good through Dialogue and Recognition”

Submissions are welcome from scholars across the many disciplines that contribute to the study and practice of moral education and development, including psychology, education, philosophy, sociology, criminology, and cultural and childhood studies, among others. Plenary sessions and invited symposia will explicitly address the conference theme. We encourage individuals to submit proposals that address the theme or on any topic related to moral development and cultivation.

Submission deadline: April 15, 2013
For submission details, and/or to register for the conference, please go to the conference website:
https://oraprnt.uqtr.uquebec.ca/pls/public/gscw030?owa_no_site=3139

AME 2013 Conference Chair:
Bruce Maxwell, University of Quebec - Trois-Rivières
Message from the Chair, AME 39th Annual Conference

Bruce Maxwell

Members of the Association for Moral Education convene this fall in Montreal. At a time when multiculturalism is being called into question in various parts of the world, Montreal, a bilingual, bicultural and richly multiethnic city, seemed an appropriate setting for us to reflect collectively on multiculturalism’s successes, failures and prospects as a guide for research, policy and practice in moral education.

To help us do so, Tariq Modood, a leading public intellectual in the area of ethnicity and citizenship in the United Kingdom, has, to our great fortune, agreed to deliver the 2013 Kohlberg Memorial Lecture. Complementing Modood’s keynote will be several invited speakers chosen to represent the breadth of disciplines found within the AME. Among them is the director of the Montreal-based International Bureau for Children’s Rights, Nadja Pollaert. I am no less delighted to announce that Nancy Eisenberg will give a plenary address, offering delegates a privileged view into the ongoing research programme of this pioneer in the psychology of empathy and empathic development.

Being Canada’s second city and the cultural capital of French-speaking North America, it is safe to say that most people know Montreal as one of the continent’s most historic cities. Winter is very cold here and summer very hot but in late October the weather is generally mild and snow is a very unlikely occurrence. Best of all, the conference dates coincide with the time of year when the bright leaves of autumn are at their best.

As conference chair, I continue to make every effort to align my planning with the values of fairness, community, sustainability and creativity that I see as being central to the AME’s work. For example, the University of Québec, which will host the conference, is Quebec’s largest network of public universities. The conference site, UQÀM’s DeSève Building where most of the conference’s events will take place, was designed to meet the highest standards for green architecture. For catering, I am accepting bids only from non-profit organizations who have demonstrated a commitment to social reinsertion and local economic development. Finally, arrangements for the Saturday evening conference dinner, or “the Banquet”, will be handled by the Balmoral bistro, an off-site restaurant and concert venue whose proceeds fund the free activities offered during Montreal’s premier cultural event, the Montreal Jazz Festival.

With the April 15th deadline looming, now is the time to finalize your proposals. Please note that, while submissions that address the conference theme are particularly encouraged, proposals dealing with any topic directly related to moral education and moral development are welcome. I would also like to extend a special invitation to graduate students and new scholars. In keeping with the mentoring tradition of the AME, at this conference they will meet people who value their perspectives and support their projects.

For more information about the Montreal conference including details about travel grant opportunities, please visit the conference website (on the front page of this issue).
Observations from the 38th Annual Conference, San Antonio

The AME 39th Annual Conference was held in San Antonio, November 4 – 6, 2012, at the Historic Menger Hotel. The conference theme was “Civility vs. Incivility: Respectful Disagreement in a Divided World.” The conference, chaired by Rebecca Glover (Univ. of North Texas), was attended by 273 AME members (including 60 students) from 29 countries. On the next few pages are a few reflections offered by AME members who were at the conference.

Dawn Schrader (Cornell Univ.)

AME 2012 was as unforgettable as the historic Alamo mission resides next door, but thankfully, no bloody massacre ensued! The conference theme, “Civility vs. Incivility: Respectful Disagreement in a Divided World” lived out its purpose. AME participants teemed with high emotions, while engaging friends and colleagues, and confronting divergent viewpoints. Conference Organizer Rebecca Glover posed the question “Is civility always good?” to stimulate our conversations, and to provoke revolution in our thinking. Rigorous debate over differences, some verging on drawing battle lines, challenged our own civil communicative discourse, as new ideas were advanced and old ones defended.

Alamo history threatened to repeat itself at the AME in the Mercer Hotel. Kohlberg Memorial Lecturer and plenary speaker Jonathan Haidt (New York University) challenged entrenched Kohlbergian views in his talk entitled, “Moral Psychology for the 21st Century,” addressing the primacy of emotion, the role of culture and politics in moral psychology, and his Social Intuitionist Model. Despite strong differences of perspective, civility won the day, as does Kohlberg’s legacy of calling together and engaging opposing viewpoints as opportunities for growth. Other plenary speakers included Don Reed (Wittenberg University) on “What Being Civil Makes Possible”, Gerald Torres (University of Texas, Austin) on “Citizenship and Human Rights,” and Aletha Huston (University of Texas, Austin) on the morality of policies for families and children in poverty. Regardless of where and how you draw the emotion-rationality lines, all our plenary speakers stirred our hearts and minds.

Between and after sessions, AME members took advantage of the River Walk, boat tours, and the ambiance of our congenial old hotel replete with easy rocking chairs redolent of the Deep South hospitality. Many of us strolled in the sunshine and lingered long in tucked-away cafés and bars, sipping sweet iced tea and Silver Patron. Evenings of Mexican cuisine, country line dancing, and music, organized and sponsored by AME, reunited attendees at the close of each day. AME San Antonio will remain in our memory long after the sun sets on the Texas bluebonnets and Becky Glover’s warm and generous family, friends, and colleagues who made us all feel welcome and well-cared for throughout the conference!

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Best Poster at the San Antonio conference was awarded to “The malnourished African: Disgust-evoking appeals, effectiveness information, and social engagement,” by Kellen Mrkva, Darcia Narvaez, and Emily Conlon. Congratulations!
Glimpses of the AME 38th Annual Conference, San Antonio

Jonathan Haidt delivers the Kohlberg Memorial lecture . . .

. . . and the discussion continues poolside.

Patricia King and Becky Glover (conference chair). Who would know from their smiles that they’re simultaneously making so many wonderful things happen?

Learning to line dance on the last night, with mixed ideas about which foot is left and which right.
Conference Observations . . . (cont.)

Elly Vozzola (St. Joseph’s Univ.)

Among the many photos and upcoming events flyers on the corkboard above my computer desk is a cancelled check to AME for $75 from 1992. That was the year I first attended an AME conference and I think I have made all but three meetings in the 20 years since that first inspirational time in Toronto. The 2012 San Antonio conference could not have been a more perfect way to mark my 20-year anniversary as an AME member. It’s hard to beat the great setting of the Menger Hotel and the city of San Antonio or the terrific intellectual stimulation of the lively sessions.

However, some of the moments that were most meaningful to me were the conversations between sessions as we not only caught up with cherished colleagues on our work and lives but also met new colleagues across the spectrum of discipline, culture and age. I’ll remember seeing keynote speaker Jonathan Haidt sharing a table with engrossed graduate students in the Menger courtyard during break; 2005 Kuhmerker prize winners Norm Sprinthall and Lois Thies-Sprinthall hosting a dinner at a restaurant on the River Walk with their intellectual children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and Bob Selman chatting with me in the lobby of the hotel about how "it all began" for him when he accepted a grant to work with Lawrence Kohlberg at Harvard. And giving new meaning to the credo that development is a process, not an event, who will ever forget the vision of a room full of Ph.D.'s doing our Stage 1 version of line dancing? Thanks for the memories, Becky!

San Antonio, site of the AME 38th Annual Conference.

Montreal, site of the AME 39th Annual Conference.
Recent Books by AME Members


Recipient of the 2012 Kuhmerker Career Award:

Nobumichi Iwasa

Nobumichi Iwasa, Professor, Reitaku University and the Institute of Moralogy, was awarded the Lisa Kuhmerker Career Award for 2012. He has been a colleague, friend, and vital member of the Association for Moral Education, the Journal of Moral Education, the Moral Education Society of Japan, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education. Professor Iwasa has contributed immensely to developing, sustaining, and deepening East-West relationships and conversations about morality and moral education. Nobumichi served on the board of directors of the Japanese Moral Education Society (JMES) for eight years and has been an active contributor for many more.

Nobi sought to put the science of moralogy into an international science framework as well as to encourage research from that viewpoint. He has planned and hosted a series of East-West conferences over the past 30 years. The first was an Asian and Pacific Rim conference at which Larry Kohlberg was a key note speaker. This marked the beginning of real exchanges by scholars invested in moral theories and moral education. In 1987, only months after Larry Kohlberg’s unexpected, sudden death, Nobi and the Institute hosted a truly international conference that he and Larry had planned together, entitled Moral Education East and West, Tradition and Innovation.

Nobi has created, built and sustained East-West relations in another important way. Monica Taylor, Editor of the Journal of Moral Education for the past 35 years, emphasized in her letter of support that Nobi is one of the longest serving JME Editorial Board members: 21 years until October 2011. She lauded him for being committed to the journal’s integrity, being thoughtfully critical as a reviewer, encouraging others to write for the JME and to develop special issues, and attending board meetings making future-oriented suggestions after listening intently.

Nobi is now serving his second term on the AME board, having been a board member from 1993 to 1996 as well. He is currently Professor of Foreign Languages at Reitaku University and Visiting Professor at the Research Center that he so productively led for several years at the Institute of Moralogy Kashiwa, Chiba (a suburb of Tokyo), Japan.

Nobumichi Iwasa is called to the podium at the San Antonio conference to receive the 2013 Kuhmerker Career Award.
Recipient of the 2012 Good Work Award: 
Value in Decision-Making Department, Alverno College

In 2012 the AME Good Work Award was presented to the Valuing in Decision-Making Department of Alverno College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to be received by Dr. Marcia Mentkowski. The work of the Valuing in Decision-Making Department not only contributes to the flourishing of academics working in disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, science and to the well-being of professionals working in areas like nursing, education, business & management, professional communications and technology, but also to the well-being of the people that are served by those professionals.

Mentkowski describes the central aim of the department as: members engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning related to Valuing, maintain disciplinary expertise, and continue service to their disciplines and professions. Valuing members also expect themselves to develop interdisciplinary and inter-professional understanding and experience for optimizing each student’s learning of the Valuing ability, and to support each student’s learning and development in the campus culture.

Ann Colby says: “Alverno has been a leader in this field of supporting and assessing students’ moral and civic formation for decades. The work of that department, and especially its long-time leader Marcia Mentkowski, provide unique exemplars of the intersection of sophisticated and evolving theory; highly visible and recognized empirical research; effective educational practice; high quality, thoughtful, usable assessment; and broader institutional transformation. The work she and her colleagues have done on Valuing in Decision-Making Ability, as it is taught and assessed across the Alverno curriculum and co-curriculum, has been a shining example of a best practice in higher education for nearly 40 years and continues to rigorously demonstrate its long-term influence on student learning. I give it my highest recommendation.”

Through various publications -- Valuing at Alverno: The Valuing Process in Liberal Education (1980), Valuing in Decision-making: Theory and Practice at Alverno College (1992), and Learning that Lasts (2000) -- members of the Department have enabled other academics to serve their students and through them society at large. Moreover, members of the Department provide various workshops, give presentations at conferences and collaborate with other institutions.

Marcia Mentkowski
Good Work Award

Call for Nominations 2013

The Good Work Award is a non-monetary award that is designed to bring recognition and honor to those who foster links between moral theory and educational practice. Any AME member in good standing may nominate any person, team, practice, or organization. Selection criteria are below. The nomination shall consist of (1) a substantial narrative or description of the project or program being nominated, (2) an explanation as to why the project or program merits recognition by the AME according to the selection criteria, and (3) highlights of the curriculum vitae of the person(s) primarily responsible for the project or program, OR a history of the organization or sponsoring institution, as appropriate.

Please submit nominations via email to Doret de Ruyter, d.j.de.ruyter@vu.nl, by May 31, 2013. Awardees will receive a plaque and recognition in the AME newsletter and on its website and through other channels of communication such as press releases to the home institution.

Selection criteria:

1. The practice, intervention or research project shall aim at promoting a moral benefit for a community or group beyond that inherent in conducting research. This benefit will have a primarily moral cast—a contribution to the well-being or flourishing of the target group, for instance, by increasing liberty, opportunity, equality, safety, fairness or mutual respect and concern.

2. The practice, which can be a one-time or ongoing program, shall exhibit moral excellence. This would be demonstrated in credible testimony from participants, practitioners, or observers, or by research on the practice by the practitioner(s) or others.

3. The award may be given to a single practitioner, a team of practitioners, the project or practice itself, or a sponsoring institution, as the selection committee deems appropriate.

4. Although the practice need not be replicable beyond its own circumstances, it should be exemplary within those circumstances, and of significant interest to moral educators in other circumstances.

5. As this award is meant to recognize achievement in moral practices, outstanding scholarly achievements are not also required. However, scholarship by the practitioner(s) about the project or program can be a decisive reason if it proves impossible to decide between two practices.

6. The awardee(s) need not hold membership in the AME.
Kuhmerker Career Award
Call for Nominations 2013

The Kuhmerker Career Award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, long-term contributions to both the Association for Moral Education, in particular, and to the field of moral development, more broadly. Areas of consideration include, but are not restricted to:

1. Scholarly contribution to the field of moral development and/or education. This could consist of: a) long-standing contributions to ethical theory and philosophy; b) substantial and cumulative empirical contributions to the research literatures in psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc.; c) the development of an assessment instrument or strategy adopted by a significant number of researchers; d) the publication of resource material and critical analyses helpful to researchers and/or practitioners; and/or e) an innovative educational program adopted by a significant number of practitioners;

2. Service to AME, such as acting as a board member, office holder, program planner, or major presenter at conferences;

3. Excellence in teaching and mentoring, including doctoral student supervision, course development and teaching, conceptualization, realization or supervision of educational interventions; and

4. Special/innovative service to the public, workplace, or education.

This award is not limited to AME members, although involvement in the association is given serious consideration as one of the criteria.

Please contact Fritz Oser, fritz.oser@unifr.ch, with questions and nominations. The deadline for nominations is May 31, 2013.

AME Discussion Listserv!

Would you like to share your thoughts and opinions and engage in topical discussions with other members of AME? Then join the new AME discussion group listserv which just went live on April 13. To subscribe to the list serve, go to http://mailman.listserv.com/listmanager/listinfo/amediscussion

Once you have subscribed there, you will receive an e-mail telling you how to confirm your subscription request. (This e-mail will list three methods for confirming your subscription, but the second and third methods listed are more reliable than the first, so please use either the second or third method.) After you have confirmed your subscription and been accepted to the list serve (you will receive another e-mail indicating that you have been accepted), you are set to go. Happy discussions!
2012 Kuhmerker Career Winner: Eveline van Vugt

The 2012 AME Kuhmerker Dissertation Award winner is Eveline van Vugt, from the University of Amsterdam, for her dissertation entitled Moral Development and Juvenile Sex Offending. Her dissertation first showed moral development, more specifically moral cognition, to be a criminogenic factor. Second, it was found that certain offender characteristics, such as psychopathic traits and intellectual disability, are associated with lower levels of moral development, and indicate whether or not moral development should be a treatment target. Third, the dissertation showed that treatment should address moral deficiencies in a context sensitive way, as moral deficiencies were found to be context and situation specific. Finally, in order to support sentencing and treatment decisions, the examination of moral development may be improved by inclusion of objective assessment of scientifically based concepts of moral development to inform the clinician’s judgment of the juvenile offender’s level of moral development.

Eveline studied Educational Sciences and Criminology and has clinical expertise in social skills training and home-based family intervention targeting developmental and child-rearing problems. In November 2011 she completed her Ph.D project which focused on moral development of juvenile sex offending. Since August 2012 she has been working as an assistant professor at the department of Forensic Child and Youth Care Sciences at the University of Amsterdam.

Race and Multiculturalism Special Interest Group (SIG)

The Race and Multiculturalism SIG is concerned with the interface between issues of race and cultural plurality, and moral development and education. Race and culture are recognized to be major areas of individual, social, and political morality, and in line with the AME’s historic commitment to diversity in these areas, the Race and Multiculturalism SIG aims to encourage scholarly work and intellectual exchange within the Association, as well as considering practical issues faced by moral educators and researchers, in these areas. Our focus is not the same as that of globalization or international issues, which are also important to the AME.

The SIG is open to anyone whose scholarly interests fall within its scope. It does not involve dues or anything other than membership in the AME. If you would like to join, please send your contact information and a statement of your scholarly fields to Lawrence Blum, the coordinator of the Race/Multiculturalism SIG: Lawrence.blum@umb.edu

The Race/Multiculturalism SIG will have one meeting at every conference, and this will be listed on the program. The SIG also works with the program committee of each conference to try to put sessions of its members into different, non-overlapping time slots, and to indicate that a given session contains members of the SIG.
Executive Board Report

Kaye Cook, AME Secretary

San Antonio was an impressive conference, and the board met as usual at the beginning and end of the conference. We welcomed several new members to our ranks: Jenny Vaydich, Silvia Diazgranados Ferrans, Don Reed, and Yen-Hsin Chen.

The primary new challenge is fundraising for organization initiatives. We have identified five priorities, listed below. These ideas were originally outlined by a fundraising committee that met at the conference (Sharlene Swartz, Doret de Ruyter, Nancy Nordmann, Ann Higgins-d’Alessandro, Andrew Garrod, Kaye Cook, Sharon Lamb) and were further developed by Sharon Lamb:

- Traveling Workshops for World Change (international workshops to promote moral education on contemporary projects for social change)
- Priming Good Work Initiatives
- Teachers Teaching the Good (evidence-based resources for teacher’s web site development)
- Global Research Collaboration Initiatives (multi-country research collaborations)
- Trans-National Mentoring Project (global mentoring for new scholars in the field)

Further conversation, including at the February on-line board meeting, has refined these and plans have begun for several phases of fundraising. A folder of material has also been developed for distribution. Expect to hear more about these initiatives at the upcoming conference.

Kudos to John Snarey for his work in organizing and archiving conference records. He has completed this project, and the archives are currently available online for our use.

Larry Blum has spearheaded the organization of the Special Interest Group on multiculturalism and is working toward having workshops on the topic at the Montreal conference. Please be in touch with him if you have symposia or presentations that you’d like to offer.

The OpEd blog continues to receive contributions, and we solicit your input. If you haven’t already, read Elly Vozzola’s entry on “Revisiting Competing Conceptions of the Justice of Affirmative Action”, in response to the recent Texas affirmative action court case. Whereas priorities earlier seemed clear, contemporary complexities raise new and challenging issues. Also, join the discussion list available for your comments and express your own opinions!

Keep up the good work, and let us know what you too are doing. We look forward to seeing you in beautiful Montreal!
Scholarships for Participation in 2013 Conference, Montreal

The Association for Moral Education will award a number of scholarships to a maximum value of $1000 each, to be spent on attendance and participation at the Montreal Conference in 2013. These scholarships are intended to assist graduate and postdoctoral students who otherwise would be unable to attend. We will also be giving several grants to young scholars (i.e., individuals in the first 5 years of an academic appointment) with the knowledge that young scholars have a number of conferences they might go to and we hope that they will find AME is a welcome home for their work. It is hoped that these grants will also enable the participation of delegates from regions of the world that might otherwise be under-represented.

These awards will be administered, and applicants selected, by a committee consisting of Bruce Maxwell (University of Quebec - Trois-Rivières; 2013 Conference Chair), Sharon Lamb (University of Massachusetts, Boston; AME President), and Phyllis Curtis-Tweed (Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, MI; AME Treasurer).

Scholarships may be used to support travel costs, payment of the conference fee and/or accommodation and subsistence, depending on individual circumstances. Applicants will also be expected to obtain funding from other sources so far as possible.

Applicants will be required to submit, by email and in English:

1. Full name and contact details including mailing address, phone number and email address.
2. A cover letter of no more than one page summarizing the applicant's reasons for wishing to attend the conference, and the importance of the scholarship in making this possible. Applicants should indicate whether they have applied for or intend to apply for funding from other sources (e.g., the academic institution at which they are employed or are studying).
3. An estimated budget for their participation in the conference, including details of their travel costs and accommodation and subsistence. The budget should state the amount of funding requested from the scholarship fund and what applicants intend to spend this on.
4. A CV of no more than one page including degrees obtained, current academic affiliation and publications (if any).
5. A conference proposal, including title of paper or other presentation, nature of the presentation (individual paper or otherwise), abstract of up to 150 words, 500 word summary.
6. A letter of recommendation from an academic supervisor, colleague or employer.

Applications should be sent by email to Bruce Maxwell (conference chair), bruce.maxwell@uqtr.ca, by June 15, 2013. Please include “AME Montreal scholarship application” in your subject line. The Committee will request further information if necessary with a view to deciding on applications by the end of June, 2012. The Committee's decision will be final.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013

If you attended the November AME conference in San Antonio, your dues are automatically paid for the year 2013. If you did not attend the 2012 conference, and have not renewed online, you may renew on the AME Website, or mail the form below (with the appropriate dues).

Membership is $95 for regular members and $65 for students. Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly Journal of Moral Education and the semi-annual AME Forum.

Applications for reduced AME membership rate in cases of hardship for full-time students, unemployed individuals, and untenured faculty in developing countries (as defined by the IMF) are available on the AME and Annual Conference Websites.

To renew your AME membership online at the AME Website (using Paypal), go to http://www.amenetwork.org/membership_dues.html. To renew your AME membership by mail, please complete the following:

Name _____________________________________________________
Institution __________________________________________________
Business phone _______________________ Home phone ______________________
FAX ________________________________ E-mail _____________________________

Mailing Label:
Line 1 (name)___________________________________________________________
Line 2 __________________________________________________________________
Line 3 __________________________________________________________________
Line 4 __________________________________________________________________
Mark as appropriate:
_______ Regular dues: $95.00 (includes 4 issues of The Journal of Moral Education)
_______ Student dues: $65.00 (includes 4 issues of The Journal of Moral Education)
_______ Donation to the Kohlberg Memorial Fund: $________.00
_______ Total enclosed. Make your check (or money order for those outside the U.S. or Canada) payable in US dollars to Association for Moral Education. Mail this form and your payment to:

AME c/o Phyllis Curtis-Tweed
Dean, Academic Affairs, Oakland Community College
27055 Orchard Lake Road
Farmington Hills, MI USA 48334
(pcurtistweed@aol.com)