



CRP Newsletter, Issue 3, August 2005

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Words from Gary Orfield, Director

The Civil Rights Project has just finished an amazingly busy year of work with the publication of its third book since last fall, *Higher Education and the Color Line*. We continue to be greatly encouraged by the tremendous collaborations we have found with organizations across the country, most particularly this year in a series of powerful events on the dropout catastrophe described in our book, *Dropouts in America: Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis*, and a series of regional reports. The recent conferences and new reports in Los Angeles and Atlanta stimulated widespread participation by civil rights and educational leaders, intense media interest, and demands for reforms in the West and the South. The close work with UCLA and Spelman College on these conferences greatly increased their impact. We were powerfully moved when religious leaders from metropolitan Boston gathered at Boston College to discuss the implications of our report on our recent survey of blacks and Latinos in metro Boston, "We Don't Feel Welcome Here." As many as a million visits a month to our website reflects the widespread hunger for good information about research and civil rights law in the country.

One of the very positive developments is the emergence of more and more effective civil rights research centers on campuses across the country. Particularly important for us is the creation of the Earl Warren Institute at the University of California at Berkeley, where former CRP Co-Director and current Berkeley Law School Dean Christopher Edley is creating a powerful new voice. As we promised last year, we are collaborating to make our enterprise "bigger, better and bicoastal" in the form of joint work on No Child Left Behind policy and on higher education access in a forthcoming conference at UCLA. On the legal front we were particularly delighted with an important decision by the First Circuit Court of Appeals in June affirming the right of school districts to take positive race-conscious action for racial integration even when there is no court mandate. This case relied to a considerable extent on findings from CRP research.

In the area of racial justice research and policy, there are continuing serious threats. The prospect of new appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court has obvious and serious civil rights implications considering the close divisions on civil rights issues on the current Court and the central role Justice O'Connor played in key decisions such as the University of Michigan affirmative action cases. This gives organized work on research on key unsettled questions and the viability of alternatives even greater urgency.

We see disturbing signs of racial insensitivity and discrimination. Market-based policies are adopted as if there were free choice and no discrimination in our society, but instead are spreading segregation and inequality. The expansion of incarceration as a social policy for minority men continues while the social safety net is shredded. Cuts in public resources are limiting access to higher education even as it becomes more indispensable. We are facing a very serious battle over the extension of the Voting Rights Act. Very few foundations and affluent donors are supporting civil rights advocacy and research and many are supporting think tanks that advocate more limited social, educational and civil rights policies, often on the basis of superficial but highly influential research.

As CRP completes its ninth year, we look back on a time of exceptional productivity, increasing awareness, collaboration and responsiveness. It is clear that there is declining confidence in the anti-government anxiety about the need for safety nets and opportunity. The population of the country is shifting quite rapidly and minorities are destined to have a much larger voice in the next generation. We have found a great many researchers and leaders around the country have not lost their commitment to racial justice and want a chance to contribute. There are breakthroughs occurring in parts of the country and an increasing number of state courts are dealing with hard issues such as the misleading reports of exaggerated graduation rates and the cover up of the dropout crisis.

2 New Releases: Reports



New Study: African Americans and Hispanics Feel Unwelcome in Metro Boston; Racial Discrimination Seen as Common Occurrence

Josephine Louie Releasing the Findings of the Report

African Americans and Hispanics in Metro Boston claim that experiences of racial discrimination are a regular part of their lives, according to a new CRP report, "We Don't Feel Welcome Here"; African Americans and Hispanics in Metro Boston. The study is based on a poll of 400 African Americans and Hispanics in Metro Boston, conducted last fall in collaboration with the Center for State and Local Policy at the University of Massachusetts-Boston.

Based on the poll, over half of African Americans and four out of ten Hispanics in Metro Boston say they are treated with less respect, offered worse service, called names or insulted, or confronted with another form of discrimination at least a few times a month. Almost half of African Americans and a third of Hispanics say they have felt unwelcome in Metro Boston shopping areas and restaurants because of their racial or ethnic background.

"Many white residents may believe that racial discrimination in Metro Boston no longer exists," says Gary Orfield, Director of The Civil Rights Project. "But in fact, African Americans and Hispanics say that discrimination is a common experience. These experiences affect where minorities choose to live in the region, and can limit minorities' social and economic opportunities. The depth of this problem calls for a serious commitment to living up to the values we express."

Other major findings include:

- ❖ Eighty percent of African Americans and 50 percent of Hispanics say that racial discrimination in Metro Boston is a somewhat or very serious problem.
- ❖ Almost 70 percent of Hispanics and an overwhelming 85 percent of African Americans in Metro Boston say that members of their group miss out on good housing because they fear they will not be welcome in a particular community.
- ❖ One out of three total respondents who have attended a professional sports venue in Metro Boston say they have felt out of place or unwelcome there because of their race or ethnicity. One out of five total respondents who have attended a metro area museum say they have felt out of place or unwelcome in that setting.
- ❖ Minorities of higher socioeconomic status are equally as likely, and in some cases more likely, than their lower status counterparts to say they have experienced different forms of racial discrimination Metro Boston.
- ❖ A vast majority - over eighty percent - of African Americans and Hispanics in Metro Boston believe that more should be done to integrate the region's schools.

"Ongoing perceptions of racial discrimination are costly to the region," says Josephine Louie, author of the study. "Perceptions of Metro Boston as a place that is unfriendly to minorities can persuade talented minorities who come to study and work in the area to leave. People of color outside the area may decide not to come."

The study is the tenth in a series issued by The Metro Boston Equity Initiative, a research and community outreach effort at the CRP designed to study the region's changing demographics and to investigate patterns of segregation and social inequality as the metro area becomes increasingly multi-racial and multi-cultural.



Religious Perspectives on Racial Polarization in Metro Boston: A Conversation with Religious Leaders

L to R: Pastor William E. Dickerson II, Sheila Decter, Imam Mahdi Bray, The Reverend George Welles, The Most Reverend Seán Patrick O'Malley Archbishop of Boston

The CRP sponsored a conference on **April 20, 2005**, which brought together Metro Boston religious and community leaders to discuss the problems of racial discrimination and racial inequality within the region, and to explore how religious communities and people of faith can respond to these issues. Josephine Louie, HGSE Doctoral Candidate and CRP Research Associate, presented findings from the newly released CRP study "We Don't Feel Welcome Here"; African Americans and Hispanics in Metro Boston. Discussants on the panel were The Most Reverend Seán Patrick O'Malley, *Archbishop of Boston*; Imam Mahdi Bray, *Executive Director, Muslim American Society*; Sheila Decter, *Executive Director, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action*; Pastor William E. Dickerson II, *Greater Love Tabernacle Church, Dorchester*; and The Reverend George Welles, *Church of Our Saviour Episcopal, Milton*. The event took place at Boston College, and was co-sponsored by the Theology Department, the Lynch School of Education, the Jesuit Institute, and the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race & Culture at Boston College. The event was also co-sponsored by the Black Ministerial Alliance; the City-Wide Dialogues on Boston's Ethnic & Racial Diversity; the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries; the Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition; the Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action; the MA Foundation for the Humanities; the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation-Boston; the NAACP-Boston; the Urban League of Eastern MA; and the YWCA-Racial Justice Committee.

For audio link go to <http://frontrow.bc.edu/>.

To read full report, "We Don't Feel Welcome Here" see

<http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/research/metro/pollpaper.pdf>

For more on the initiative, see <http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/metroboston/synopsis.php>



Update on The Civil Rights Remedies Initiative CRRI: Thomas Hehir, professor at the Graduate School of Education and prior Director of OSEP under the Clinton administration will be joining CRRI in an advisory capacity. CCRI is a collaborative project focused on devising and evaluating better approaches to remedying racial inequality.

CCRI is planning to release a preliminary report this summer updating some of the research published in our book *Racial Inequity in Special Education* with a summary analysis of state level interventions since the 1990s. In addition to research and analysis CCRI will be responding to draft regulations scheduled to be issued by the Department of Education this spring and plans to produce a variety of resource materials for different audiences on the subject of racial disproportionality in special education including guidance specifically for state level administrators, education policy makers, parents and advocates. Soon we will be sending out grant proposals seeking the necessary support to continue this work.



RACIAL EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION: ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY

On **January 13, 2005**, the Civil Rights Project and The Brookings Institution hosted a roundtable on racial equity in transportation policy, regulation and investment. Representatives from the national civil rights and transportation advocacy communities, as well as selected researchers and policy analysts, convened a day-long meeting that included the presentation of eight scholarly papers commissioned by the Civil Rights Project. The event had two purposes: first, to generate a consensus about how the findings of the newly commissioned work, and those of existing research, should inform the development of national, state and local transportation policies (including TEA-21); and, second, to begin to develop strategies to infuse our insights into transportation planning and policy implementation processes at the federal, state, and regional levels.

We organized the eight research papers into three thematic areas relating to the interplay between urban form, equity, and opportunity; race, place, and alternative transportation modes; and the efforts of metropolitan planning organizations to devise better planning processes and generate more equitable transportation outcomes. The event also featured sub-group strategy sessions focused on developing performance measures, enhancing the capacity of advocacy groups, and broadening the constituency for the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC). Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy at the US Department of Transportation, delivered an update on the status of the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The research papers and short "framing" and policy papers are available here. Please note that these are draft documents; they should not be cited or circulated without permission from the authors. The summary of the roundtable discussion is here.

Several broad themes emerged in the course of the day. These included the need for:

- ❖ More data on and evaluation of critical programs (like JARC) and more documentation of transportation "best practices";
- ❖ Integrated analyses that attend simultaneously to land use policies, transportation infrastructures, the widely varying kinds and levels of social capital that distinct sub-populations bring to bear, the processes by some programs and services are stigmatized, and so on;
- ❖ Greater attention to the particularities of place ("Atlanta is not Detroit");
- Greater accountability from planning bodies such as MPOs and broader public involvement in planning processes;
- ❖ Truly "cross-sectoral" research, preferably in the metropolitan context, that considers how transportation policy and practice interact with educational, housing, employment, and fiscal policies and practices to shape outcomes of interest; and,
- ❖ More interaction between researchers and advocates, and more coalition-building across advocacy sectors.

5 For our Advocacy Community



PUBLIC RELATIONS 101

Disseminating information about civil rights issues is critical to forwarding the movement. We all have something to offer. Newspapers, radio programs, and TV news shows can be a great way to share your vital message with people around your community, state, or the nation. This guide provides the four basic steps to a successful PR strategy. Let your voice and message be heard loud and clear.

Messaging. Crystal clear messages about what you or your organization wants the media/the community/the government/the schools to know is critical to an effective media campaign. Make certain that everyone who will be speaking to media remains "on message" and speaks in one accord. These must be strong, short, clear ideas about what is it that you are doing, what information you're sharing, what the issues are, how the problems can be fixed, etc.

Develop an effective press release. A catchy, one page press release that shares vital and substantive information in a clear and catchy way is fundamental to any good press operation. The headline must reflect the gravity of situation you are sharing with the media, a local angle if possible, and must show relevance to the readership or viewing or listening audience right away.

Get ready to pitch! A successful pitch boils down to speaking clearly, quickly, relevantly, and effectively. If you need to, write down a few basic talking points, but remember, you only have about 30 seconds to speak with a reporter initially. Before you call make sure that you have worked out a pitch that gets at the main points of your message, shares relevant data or information in an interesting way, shares who you are and where you're calling from, and provides your contact info (maybe even twice). Also, be prepared for a longer conversation, if reporters are interested in your pitch. Always offer interview opportunities with local or national experts or with people who have experienced the problems you are speaking about. Media eat up the opportunity to speak with students or teachers. An event where broadcast media could gather some footage or talk to a group of people about a problem is also very enticing! Before you pitch, have a sense of news items going on in your area. See if you can capitalize on any of those, target reporters with a long-standing interest in your area, or avoid reporters who will be tied up with other orders of business.

Bug the heck out of 'em - within reason. Once you've chosen your diverse set of media contacts, utilize the 'almost-stalking level' of communication to deal effectively with the media's attention deficit disorder. Reporters move from one story to another very quickly, so if they seem to have interest, move with them. Remember: If one reporter doesn't have any interest, they're a dime a dozen. Choose another and work it!

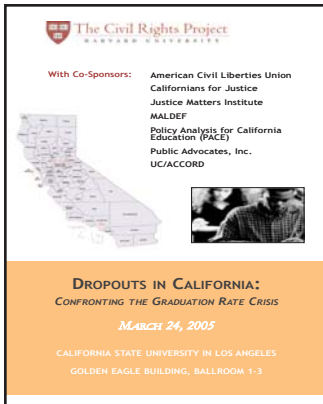
This piece came about in response to an interest in learning more about how to advocate in media following our recent Southern Dropout Conference (pg. 6).

*-Kimberly Fox, Ed.M. '05 and Research Assistant during the 04-05 Academic Year;
recently selected Harvard Fellow - Mexico City 05-06*



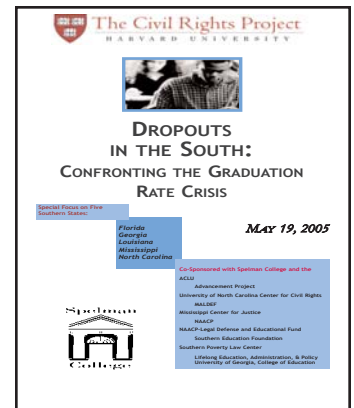
New Collaboration

The Civil Rights Project will be working closely with Law Professor Martha Minow to launch a new education research and policy initiative in the area of racial inequity in special education. The project will evaluate the efficacy of interventions designed to remedy problems of over representation, underrepresentation, and inadequacy in special education experienced by too many minority students. The project will begin by exploring the question of how do we know what works and carefully design a method for evaluating interventions. We will concentrate on those interventions intended to remedy racial inequities that are currently required as the result of impact litigation and federal law. Ultimately this analysis will be translated into detailed guidance for advocates and education policy makers.



California and Southern Dropout Conferences Make Front Page News

This spring, CRP held two major conferences to follow the release of our book, *Dropouts in America: Confronting the Graduation Rate Crisis*. The first, supported by the Hewlett Foundation, was a conference on trends in California schools. It was held at Cal State University in Los Angeles on **March 24th**. Over 400 educators, researchers, advocates and media attended the conference. Numerous co-sponsors joined forces



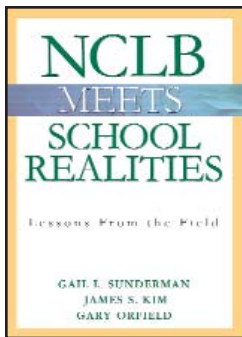
with CRP to put on the conference. The research illustrated how only half the Black and Latino students in CA were graduating "on time" with real diplomas, and how the problem was concentrated in the state's urban districts. In fact, fewer than half of all of the 9th grade students in LA graduated on time. These devastating trends were relatively unknown to the public. The report and conference made headline news in every major CA newspaper. A number of editorials and radio appearances by contributing researchers followed. In the weeks after the conference, CRP was invited to testify in a joint hearing in the state assembly on May 11th. Gary Orfield and other researchers outlined important steps that legislators should take to improve data collection and reporting. Advocates have continued to press for legislation that will remediate the crisis.

The Southern Dropout Crisis Conference, supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation was held at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia on **May 19th**. In similar fashion, the alarming statistics made front page news in the Atlanta Journal Constitution the day of the conference. Radio and television appearances exposing the data and the work towards solutions hit the airwaves and television screens across the South. Terry Grier, Superintendent of Guilford County North Carolina, frankly acknowledged that he saw the same degree of crisis outlined in CRP's report and called for stronger actions by all. The conference ended with CRP's Gary Orfield outlining the research agenda and NAACP Education director, John Jackson, calling for stepped up advocacy at the school and district level. With the commitment of over 10 co-sponsors, including the Georgia ACLU, The NAACP, The Southern Poverty Law Center, The Southern Education Foundation, and the Mississippi Center for Justice, we anticipate further opportunities to collaborate and push for policy remediation.



CRP Staff and Research Featured on WGBH "Eye on Education" Forum

Gary Orfield, CRP Director, participated as a panelist in an hour-long televised Forum titled, "Beyond Black and White: Race in the Boston Public Schools," which aired at 9 pm on WGBH-Channel 2 on **April 7, 2005**. The Forum was produced by WGBH as part of its yearly "Eye on Education" series. Other Forum panelists were Charles Ogletree, *Harvard Law School Jesse Climenko Professor of Law*; Tom Payzant, *Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools*; and Melissa Colon, *Coordinator, Initiative - MA Education Initiative for Latino Students*. The discussion was moderated by Howard Manly, columnist at the Boston Herald. Issues discussed during the Forum included findings from "Racial Segregation and Educational Outcomes in Metropolitan Boston," written by CRP Research Associate Chungmei Lee and published by the CRP in April, 2004. The Forum also included a brief account of the history of racial segregation in Boston's public schools, as well as an overview of the current court battle over the voluntary school desegregation plan in Lynn, Massachusetts. Nancy McArdle, Research Director for the Metro Boston Equity Initiative at the CRP, and Josephine Louie, HGSE Doctoral Candidate and CRP Research Associate, served as advisors to the Forum's producers.



A new Civil Rights Project book, *NCLB Meets School Realities: Lessons from the Field*, condenses the extensive research on the No Child Left Behind Act conducted by CRP's Gail Sunderman, Jimmy Kim, and Gary Orfield into one comprehensive resource for educators and policy-makers concerned with the law's impact on low-income and minority students. The book was published by Corwin Press and in June 2005.

To examine the full impact of NCLB upon states, schools, and districts, the authors first closely examine the way that NCLB alters the traditional federalism structure that has accompanied educational policy. They then explore the unintended consequences of NCLB's accountability provisions and examine whether NCLB's public school choice and supplemental educational services programs have the potential of creating better schooling options for disadvantaged families. Teachers' perceptions of NCLB's impact in the classroom, which were gathered by CRP's Teachers' Voice Survey, are also presented. A final chapter by Dan Losen examines tragically low graduation rates across the country and argues for increased enforcement of graduation rate accountability under NCLB.

For more information about this book, or to order a copy, please visit the Corwin Press website at <http://www.corwinpress.com/book.aspx?pid=10915>.



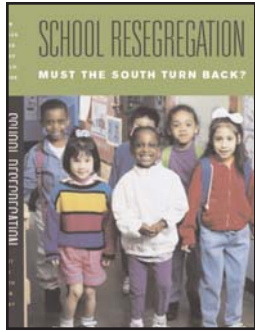
CRP Participation in Examining the Role of Latinos in Education and Leadership

CRP Director Gary Orfield along with other researchers and attorneys at the Project have participated in an unprecedented number of Latino issues forums at Harvard University this Spring, many of which were co-sponsored by the Civil Rights Project.

On **April 20, 2005**, Orfield, Al Kauffman and Stella Flores, HGSE Doctoral Candidate and CRP Research Assistant, organized the education panel for the Kennedy School of Government's Center for Public Leadership forum entitled, "Latino Leadership at a Crossroads." The panel's featured speakers included Dr. Juliet Garcia, *President of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost Community College* and Mr. Tom Saenz, *Vice President for Litigation at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund*. The panel addressed issues of educational concern for the Latino and larger U.S. community. Dr. Kim Williams of the Kennedy School of Government moderated the panel.

Later in April, Orfield participated as the featured education speaker at the joint conference of Latinos in Public Policy sponsored by Latino student groups at the Kennedy School of Government and the Law School at Harvard. In a forum designed to highlight research on the status of Latinos locally in Massachusetts, Orfield, Nancy Mcardle and Josephine Louie presented their research on segregation patterns of Latino students as well as findings from a study on perceptions of racial discrimination in the Metro-Boston area at an **April 29 forum**. The forum which was entitled, "Latinos in Metro-Boston," was sponsored by the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) and convened a number of scholars conducting research on Latino communities throughout the New England area.

Finally, on **May 13, 2005**, CRP co-sponsored the student-led 2nd Annual Harvard Latino Studies Research Symposium entitled, "Beyond Huntington: Harvard Student Research on Latino Studies." The event, which was entirely student run, was co-organized by Stella Flores and graduate students from the Department of Anthropology and the Kennedy School of Government. The keynote speaker for this year was Marcelo Suárez Orozco, from New York University and formerly of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His talk entitled, "Everything Professor Huntington Wanted to Know About Latinos But Was Afraid to Ask," drew standing room only crowd with participants from Harvard, both professors and students, as well as from the larger New England area.



**Anticipated CRP/UNC
 Launching Event
 September 7, 2005
 in Atlanta**

Confronting a reality that many policy makers would prefer to ignore, contributors to this volume offer the latest information on the trend toward the racial and socioeconomic resegregation of southern schools. In the region that has achieved more widespread public school integration than any other since 1970, resegregation, combined with resource inequities and the current "accountability movement," is now bringing public education in the South to a critical crossroads. This book is to be published by the University of North Carolina Press and will be available in August 2005.

In thirteen essays, leading thinkers in the field of race and public education present not only the latest data and statistics on the trend toward resegregation but also legal and policy analysis of why these trends are accelerating, how they are harmful, and what can be done to counter them. What's at stake is the quality of education available to both white and nonwhite students, they argue. This volume will help educators, policy makers, and concerned citizens begin a much-needed dialogue about how America can best educate its increasingly multiethnic student population in the twenty-first century.

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For more information about this book, or to order a copy, please call The University of North Carolina Press at 1-800-848-6224.

9 Order Form

K-12 Voluntary School Desegregation Manual



Collaboration of the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, & the Center for the Study of Race and Law at the University of Virginia.

Although seldom discussed as part of school reform and improvement, this new manual for administrators, teachers, parents, advocates, school board lawyers, and other concerned citizens shows that school desegregation and integration remain important and attainable goals. Despite prior progress, today U.S. public schools are in a national crisis of resegregation.

The manual not only presents information on school resegregation, but explains why the integration of K-12 schools remains critical, including the harms of segregation and the benefits of integration. A legal summary of desegregation provides insight on what the law requires and what it allows, and a practical section on putting theory into practice outlines what strategies can legally be pursued school-wide and within schools. Suggestions on what can be done in your own community will assist in coordinating efforts to provide more equal and integrated schools for all children.

Available Summer 2005. To order email crp@harvard.edu subject line: Order Manual, or contact Erica Frankenberg at (617) 496-4753, or clip and send this form to her attention at CRP- Harvard University, 125 Mt. Auburn St., 3rd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Your name and mailing address:

Email address:

CRP Staff News and Other Milestones

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to sign up to receive more information about CRP activities.

to opt out of future newsletters please visit

http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/news/newsletter_remove.php

We appreciate suggestions/comments on our inaugural year newsletters to cnahi@law.harvard.edu.

Congratulations to Michal Kurlaender who received her Ed.D. at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on June 9, 2005.

Johanna Wald, Senior Development & Policy Analyst, has joined nearby Boston College as their Senior Associate Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations.



The Civil Rights Project
Harvard University