

***A Chance for a New Human Togetherness:
"The Technology of Difference: Thinking Multi-culturally"***

**A Provost Diversity Initiative Project
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Overview

The aim of this project is to invite scholars, faculty and students into the process of creating new understandings of self and others through an Anzaldua/Irigaray/Heidegger inspired phenomenology of difference. Difference is a reverential phenomenon that provides a ground for our being together. In turn, what is unfolding here is thinking as a way of being, an ontology of receptivity and affirmation of diversity, a letting-be, without discrimination or judgment, of the plurality that appears before and beyond us. The *techne* of this phenomenology is a *technology of difference*, which, in the words of Irigaray arises through "a logic of coexistence in difference." Further, it implies a pedagogical initiative: "the most important thing we have to learn and teach is: how to communicate in difference...And this is a crucial step for reaching another logic and entering into multiculturalism."

"A Chance for a New Human Togetherness: The Technology of Difference: Thinking Multi-Culturally," is unfolding on several fronts. It is the basis of new scholarly study in the area of multicultural theory and philosophy of education. To facilitate this part of the initiative, the project will host a week-long workshop in Summer 2013 on the phenomenology of difference with scholars from a Bowdoin College, University of Illinois, Montclair State University, Teachers College-Columbia University, and the University of North Dakota. Locally, a curricular effort is bringing Hofstra students into courses designed to implement the technology of difference. Specifically, a graduate level course (FDED 242) is organized around Anzaldua's concept of 'radical toleration,' and Irigaray's challenge of 'making a new logic of co-existence in difference.' A second graduate level course (FDED 252) is exploring the ethical implications of the technology of difference, with a focus on Heidegger and Irigaray. An additional front of the project is the venue of community radio (WRHU, Radio Hofstra University;

WMPG, Southern Maine Community Radio), where the technology of difference is happening as an experiment with Adorno's negative dialectics. Here the attempt is to interrupt the 'the old' logic of the culture industry and its commodification of difference. The work is being made through the production of two shows, *Musings* and *Black Diamond Discography*, that couples avant-garde music with philosophy based dialogue on education and culture.