Can citizen engagement be transformative?

October 27, 2010, 1 – 3 pm
ED 122

Fiona Cavanagh, David Kahane, and Heather McPherson, a panel of scholars and practitioners committed to public and citizen engagement, will address the intersections between public engagement and citizenship education.

At this seminar, the panellists will initiate discussions related to visions of engaged citizenship, asking participants to consider how citizen engagement can be fostered in various educational contexts.

The seminar will be chaired by Lynette Shultz.

Fiona Cavanagh is the Project Manager for the Centre for Public Involvement, a new partnership between the University of Alberta and the City of Edmonton. Prior to her current role, Fiona demonstrated leadership skills as a Program Manager at Change for Children Association, a non-profit, board governed international development organization where she has worked for the past six years. Fiona graduated from the University of Alberta with a Masters Degree in Education Policy Studies in 2003 and has been using her extensive education to create and develop public engagement and education programs.

David Kahane is Vargo Distinguished Teaching Chair in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta. He is Project Director of Alberta Climate Dialogue (ABCD), a new five year project that will bring Albertans together to deliberate about how to respond to climate change within municipalities and in the province. ABCD is a collaboration between provincial and municipal elected officials and civil servants, environmental NGOs, businesses, international experts in designing participatory spaces, and scholars from 20 universities.

Heather McPherson is the Executive Director of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation, a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. Prior to her involvement with ACGC, Heather worked with Canada World Youth both as a Program Officer and a Project Supervisor, supervising a trilateral team of youth from Kenya, Tanzania and Canada working in partnership with winners of the United Nations Development Programme Equator Initiative Prize. Heather has a Masters Degree from the University of Alberta in Educational Policy Studies in Cultural, Theoretical and International Studies in Education.

Lynette Shultz is Assistant Professor and Co-Director of CGCER in the Department of Educational Policy Studies. While the common focus of all her teaching and research is education and social justice, particular areas of work include international perspectives on educational policy, children’s rights, citizenship education and organizing for change. She has a background in international development and educational leadership.