

Leadership



Research Center for
Leadership in Action
NYUWagner

In This Issue

- Conference Highlights
Reflection and Action in
Research
- Top Scholars Evaluate
Challenges to Democracy &
Development in Latin America
- Women of Color Policy
Network & RCLA Pay Tribute to
Scholar & Activist
Walter Stafford
- Global Leaders Discuss the
Power & Practice of
Compassionate Leadership
- Using World Cafe to Facilitate
Complex Conversations



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FROM THE GROUND UP

NYUWagner

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service



RCLA & CARPP Action Research Conference
Photo: Peter Reason

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS REFLECTION AND ACTION IN RESEARCH

At an conference RCLA sponsored with the Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice, scholars from around the world challenged the traditional notion of researchers as detached observers and explored new research methods that bring together reflection and action. Attendees discussed experiences with action research, how narratives can catalyze change, and action research's contribution to leadership development. [» Learn More](#)

TOP SCHOLARS EXAMINE CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

In a new monthly event series, distinguished scholars examine the relationship between the state and civil society in tackling pressing leadership issues including the relationship between transparency and accountability; tensions between representative and participatory democracy; local notions of development and indigenous political participation; and violence, citizenship and public security in post-authoritarian Latin America. Presenters include former UN Undersecretary José Antonio Ocampo, Jonathan Fox and Carmen Medeiros, among other experts. [» Learn More.](#)

WOMEN OF COLOR POLICY NETWORK AND RCLA PAY TRIBUTE TO ACTIVIST AND SCHOLAR WALTER STAFFORD

Walter Stafford, a professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, passed away on September 13, 2008. He was a founding member and the principal investigator of the Women of Color Policy Network. As a respected scholar and a visionary, he mentored a generation of advocate researchers and made significant contributions to the larger academic community. The Network and RCLA join the community in remembering his extraordinary life and legacy. [» More](#)
[» Visit the Memorial Web site](#)

GLOBAL LEADERS DISCUSS THE POWER & PRACTICE OF COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP

The escalating crises in the world today offer two choices: continuing violence and conflict, or finding a way to move forward toward peace and greater understanding. In a groundbreaking dialogue, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Rabbi Irwin Kula, and the Sakya, Jamgon Mipham Rinpoche, a prominent Tibetan lama, discussed the power and practice of compassionate leadership. Based on their own traditions and experiences, they examined how their different paths can contribute to a shared vision of interdependence and global connection. [» View the Web Cast](#)

News & Events

- At ["Essential Tools for Essential Organizing: Training for Trainers,"](#) social change leaders in NYC can build skills and learn new methods for educating staff and constituents, October 9, 2008
- At ["Hope, Not Fear: A Conversation with Irshad Manji and Edgar J. Bronfman,"](#) the two visionary leaders share their thoughts on having the guts to defy dogma in one's own community for the greater good. October 29, 2008
- RCLA's [Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service](#) connects recent college grads working in public service in NY with unique career development opportunities. Applications due October 16, 2008
- Women of Color Policy Network Executive Director Nicole Mason weighs in on Sarah Palin's Vice Presidential candidacy on [NPR's "Talk of the Nation"](#)
- RCLA Visiting Scholar Irshad Manji draws on teachings from mavericks throughout history in a [Public Leadership and Moral Courage](#) course in Fall 2008
- ["The Challenge of Large-Scale Development: Managing City/State Mega-Projects"](#) brought together top NYC government officials to discuss the processes behind today's mega-projects.
- RCLA applauds Leadership for a Changing World awardee Will Allen for his receipt of a [MacArthur "Genius" Grant](#)
- [More News & Events](#)

PRACTICE NOTE: USING WORLD CAFE TO FACILITATE COMPLEX CONVERSATIONS

What originated as a largely improvised process among a group of innovators has become a method facilitators can use to spur the breakthrough thinking usually associated with intimate group settings, while also tapping the knowledge of a large group. This Practice Note draws on RCLA's experience using World Café in a Race and Leadership symposium to examine the central roles social identity, particularly race and ethnicity, can play in the work of social change organizations. Facilitators can use this method to enable a variety of rich, in-depth discussions, letting coherent themes emerge without imposing their own interpretations. [» Download the Practice Note](#)

