

OHRM Sponsors Faculty Fellowship Publishers Roundtable

The Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (FFPP) began in 1998 as part of the University's long-term plan to promote pluralism and diversity. This program assists junior faculty with the design and execution of high quality scholarly publications by bringing untenured faculty together with senior faculty mentors who conduct seminars and serve as writing facilitators and counselors to their junior colleagues.

One of the highlights of the FFPP is an annual Publisher Roundtable where the mentees hear from and meet with publishers to get the inside perspective on publishing—from crafting a proposal that catches the publisher's attention to creating and polishing a publishable work. During the most recent Publisher Roundtable held on March 11th at the Graduate Center, this year's cohort of participants heard from Ken Wissoker, Editorial Director of Duke University Press and Director of Intellectual Publics at the CUNY Graduate Center. Among his comments, Wissoker remarked on the emerging relevance of social media in both the writing process and networking for publication:



Ken Wissoker

"To be able to write as if you could convince somebody that you're invested in something—to write the way you want to write and be read—write in a voice that will make people want to read it. Social media is one way to get the stiffness out of our writing and say things in a conversational way that will make people want to read. Blogs are another ... plus, if someone comes to me and I already know who they are and that they are already circulating, and I know that people are already interested in what they have to say, that makes it easier to sell. Even the dialogues out there on Twitter are a means of participation for people."

Other sessions delved into the details of getting published in the different disciplines, including Education and Social Sciences, the Humanities and Cultural Studies. Editors from the Cambridge University Press, NYU Press, Rutgers University Press, *WSQ* (The Feminist Press) and the *English Journal* and lent their expertise to the participants in these sessions.

In addition, a diverse panel of CUNY faculty administrators offered practical advice on the reappointment, tenure, and promotion process. The presentation helped dispel some of the mystery new faculty often feel about this process. The information provided demonstrates the University's commitment to its faculty's success.

Vice Chancellor Ginger Waters and Dr. Shelly Eversley, FFPP Academic Director, welcomed the participants, mentors and guest speakers. They were followed by Dean Arlene Torres, University Director of Recruitment & Diversity, who noted:

"My goal is to provide and respect different forms of knowledge engendered by diverse members of our society. Your participation in the FFPP is one way of achieving this. We have a responsibility to provide our students with a learning environment that enriches their understanding of themselves and others. This means that we must continually affirm our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in policy and practice at all levels because the expertise a diverse faculty brings to CUNY profoundly impacts our student population. Your intellectual contributions as researchers, scholars, and teachers are vital to our educational mission."



Dean Arlene Torres

Since the FFPP was established, more than 500 faculty members have completed the program. This year's cohort is comprised of 61 participants representing each of CUNY's senior and community colleges.

For more information on the Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, contact Maryann.McKenzie@cuny.edu.

