

Chapter 1 : Get Involved | Common Experience | SDSU

Common Experience speakers' stories inspire our Texas State community to take fresh approaches in their own lives. Our new blog offers features and reflections on the innovation theme. Common Experience Blog.

What are some examples? What are some examples of things done, held, known, or experienced in common by human beings, notwithstanding their differences? There are countless examples. We have mentioned the love of children, the instinct to survive, the desire for health, knowledge and happiness, and the concern for the safety and happiness of loved ones. These are shared aspects of the human experience: We have mentioned our biological identity, our shared susceptibilities to injury and illness, pleasure and pain. In examining these and other examples, it is important for each of us to consider, "How significant is this aspect of my life? What part does, say, the health of my child, or my ability to use and understand words and numbers, or my love of nature, play in my overall experience, in my capacity to enjoy life, to function successfully in society, or to love and support others? If one or more of these were taken away from me, how profoundly would I be affected? In the end, we may ask: Is our common humanity -- is everything that is done, held, known, or experienced in common by human beings, notwithstanding their differences -- a matter of sufficient importance to justify a universal symbol of its own -- something to remind us always of our common bond, and to balance those symbols that we have used for centuries to represent and highlight our diversity, our differences, and our separation? Notwithstanding our differences, we live on the same, finite planet. We farm the land, and follow many of the same principles of horticulture and husbandry. We marvel at the same stars and heavens, and are touched by the splendor and power of nature. We are affected by the same natural forces of wind, rain and storm. Notwithstanding our differences, we age and are conscious of aging, and of our mortality. We experience aging the same: With age we attain a special wisdom, and we experience a growing acceptance of "what is. We tolerate some, and develop a special fondness for others, whom we call "friends. We seek their advice, and give advice. We make allowances for them, and overlook their shortcomings, knowing that they do this for us. We feel a loyalty towards them. Notwithstanding our differences, we are surrounded by the products and effects of humankind. Every road and footpath, every pane of glass, every belt and shoe, every building, fence, nail and garden; the airplanes overhead and the cars in the street; every curb, telephone, chair, book, shirt, cigarette, tin can, screwdriver, road sign, computer, ocean-going vessel, paper clip or flagpole -- is a product and effect of humankind. The sounds in the streets -- of cars and buses, of men and women conversing, of hammers pounding, of heavy equipment roaring to life, of babies crying, of music seeping out of homes and shops -- these are the products and effects of humankind. Even our private thoughts "play" in a language that is not of our own making, but is a product of humankind. The human experience is largely a shared experience. If, while you are reading these words, you can hear traffic noises beyond your window, or the sounds of children playing, or a television or radio playing in the background, or the hum of lights overhead, do you not think it is the same for the man reading this in Buenos Aires, Monrovia, or Frankfurt? Notwithstanding our differences, we experience love and sexual desire; we find mates and produce and raise children. We react to joyful or humorous events the same -- by smiling -- or by that strange, involuntary eruption in the lungs, laughter. We welcome periods of tranquillity, leisure, light-heartedness and well-being, for we know that life is uncertain -- that weariness, frustration, toil, depression, grief, or longing may not be far behind. All of these aspects of human life are the same for all human beings everywhere, notwithstanding their many differences. Again, there are differences -- important ones; but just as there are differences, there are these and countless other examples of our common humanity. One is not exclusive of the other; both are "at work"; both affect us each day throughout our lives. Every pair of eyeglasses; every pill; every bottle of beer or soda; every bicycle or motor vehicle; every song, poem, weapon. From the use of spoons to the use of computers, from the knowledge of swimming to the knowledge of the principles of quantum mechanics. The bridge you cross to go to work, or over which you may travel to visit a friend or relative, is a product -- of what? Yet these are but four relatively minor areas in a vast expanse of human knowledge -- a veritable ocean of shared knowledge which exists, and will continue to exist, and grow,

notwithstanding our differences. It is readily apparent -- is it not? Where would I place my capacity and desire for friendship -- or, my love of nature -- or, my ability to access information and communicate through the use of words and symbols -- or, my feelings of love for my child -- or, the fact that I was born into a world where I, or my loved ones, might someday be saved by life-saving medicines or medical procedures developed by humankind -- or, the fact that we my loved ones and I live in a world where countless products and know-how have been developed and shared by others which make life easier, safer, and more productive -- or, even the fact that I have in my lifetime experienced pain and disappointment and therefor can empathize with others who are injured, ill or discouraged -- where would I place these and other shared aspects of human being on the list if I were to try to list all aspects of my experience -- that is, those that are shared and those that are not -- in order of their importance? Surely, these are important human qualities. The Companion Flag is a simple gesture of recognition. It stands for the proposition that that which is the same in all of us, and about us all, is an integral part in the equation of each human life. It is not the only part; it does not overshadow our differences, and, it may not even be as important to us as some of our differences; but it coexists with those differences nonetheless in an ever-present duality.

Chapter 2 : Common Experience : Indiana University Southeast

The Common Experience facilitates meaningful, thoughtful interaction among campus members through an examination of a topic or issue that requires interdisciplinary thought and collaborative action.

Chapter 3 : Common Experience | Common Experience | SDSU

The Common Experience offers themed events, exhibitions, and performances throughout the year, including opportunities to interact with some of the world's leading voices.

Chapter 4 : The Common Experience | Dickinson College

The Common Experience program selects timely and relevant themes and invites participation from across the campus to prepare a series of lectures, seminars, and complementary academic activities by faculty, authors, community and civic leaders for the following academic year.

Chapter 5 : Common Experience | Common Experience | SDSU

The Common Experience covered the path to enlightenment propounded by different groups of thought -- namely Hindu, Sufi, Buddhist (various branches), and various Christian mystics.

Chapter 6 : Common Experience : Texas State University

The Provost's Office has announced that this year's Common Experience for expands on the theme of "In the Spirit of Innovation." The University community is encouraged to explore these concepts through the many Common Experience events and materials provided throughout the upcoming year.

Chapter 7 : The Common Experience by J.M. Cohen

Gallery of the Common Experience, San Marcos, Texas. likes 4 talking about this 40 were here. The Gallery of the Common Experience is located in.

Chapter 8 : Common Experience book authors emphasize creativity in innovation | The University Star

The Common Experience. August 31, This is a required program for all incoming students. Your first year mentor will determine the location for this program.

Chapter 9 : Project MUSE - The Common Experience of "Otherness": Ethnic and Racial Minority Faculty

Think Global, Act Local. The primary purpose of the Indiana University Southeast Common Experience Program is to develop a common dialogue among students, faculty, staff, and members of the local communities.