

# Diversity and Inclusion in Historical Documentation of Multicultural Architecture Education in the US in a Time of Pandemic

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**Abstract:** The global pandemic crisis has clearly exposed deep-seated gender, race, ethnicity-based inequalities in the US architecture education, and a strong need to support more diverse and inclusive mindset in the field. The roots of this problem are interlinked with how collective memory has been constructed by historical documentation practice in architecture education, its methods and politics so far. With this problem and some latest data & surveys by ACSA, NCARB, AIA, <sup>1</sup> etc. this presentation will elaborate a recent research project (2019) <sup>2</sup> on archives and collections at some pioneering schools of architecture in the US, discuss its findings and in particular, their significance for current pandemic crisis while lots of (underrepresented, minority and international) architecture students have been struggling with sense of belonging and social connections with communities in their programs <sup>3</sup> etc. As the research method, it will focus on archives and collections at schools of architecture whose graduate programs were selected among top 10 (2019) in the US. <sup>4</sup> With its findings, it will offer some suggestions for more effective and productive dialogues between architecture (education) and its historical documentation practice, such as collecting data, preparing surveys and reports regularly on diversity and inclusion in two fields, regular meetings to bring them together, digitization of historical materials with diverse and inclusive understanding for everyone in two fields, and general public, etc. In this respect, this presentation highlights this pandemic crisis as a potential to heal systemic oppression in the memory of architecture education for a better future.

*Notes:*

1. "ACSA": *The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture*, "NCARB": *National Council of Architectural Registration Boards*; "AIA": *American Institute of Architects*. 2. Dr. Ekincioglu has contacted all participants by e-mail and asked if they would like share an update on this research subject (from 2019 to July 2020). 3. For instance, see, a recent online architecture students discussion: "Students Respond: Health, Well-Being, and Response in a Pandemic" by ACSA National, 4.23.2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1ItJcy7UAK&t=238s>, last accessed on 7.25.2020; see for critical comments by some professors in architecture on how some architecture students are vulnerable to racist and other discriminatory attacks during pandemic due to some of their differences, social isolation, remote learning, etc., *Field Notes on Pandemic Teaching: 1, in Places*, <https://placesjournal.org/article/field-notes-on-pandemic-teaching-1/>, April 2020, last accessed on 7.25.2020; see for a recent statement by ACSA -during pandemic- on historical systems of oppression, and past efforts to transform architectural education have not been effective enough, Ng, R. (President), Dearborn, L. (First Vice President/President- Elect), Monti, M. (Executive Director), 2020, *ACSA Releases Statement Addressing Racial Injustice, Call to Action to Seek a More Equitable Future*, 6.3.2020, <https://www.acsa-arch.org/2020/06/03/acsa-statement-addressing-racial-injustice/>, last accessed on 7.26.2020. 4. For the top 10 graduate programs in the US architecture; <https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/13611-top-architecture-schools-of-2019>, last accessed on 7.25.2020

## About the author:

Trained as an architect, I am a scholar with a Ph.D. degree in postwar architecture history and the subjects of my academic study are politics of gender, multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion in my expertise field.

In this respect, I conducted my recent advanced academic research project at the MIT-History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture Program for two years. In my expertise fields, I was invited as a speaker by the MIT-HTC Program, the International Women in Architecture Symposium at Virginia Tech. (2017), the MIT-Women's and Gender Studies Program (2017), the Women's Studies Speaker Series at CUNY (2017), the 71st Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)-Annual International Conference where I was awarded by a SAH Fellowship (2018), WikiConference North America at MIT (2019)\*, the 51st NeMLA Convention, "Shaping and Sharing Identities" at Boston University (2020)\*, "Media in Transition 5 and 6", two international conferences organized by MIT (2007 and 2009). I was also a panelist at "Convergence" by the Harvard University-GSD, and "A Square and Half - The Colors, A Tribute by Ivaana Muse" at the MIT Museum (2018). Based on my Ph.D. dissertation research at Harvard and Columbia universities as a research fellow/scholar, I obtained my Ph.D. at Istanbul Technical University. In 2020, my conference abstracts were accepted by Midwest Archives Conference, and the Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting. As a certificate holder by Consortium for Graduate Studies, Gender, Culture, Women & Sexuality-MIT, my exhibition proposal were selected for the shortlist of Women Who Design's International Exhibition (June, 2020).

*\* These presentations were joint abstracts and a seminar by Citizen TALES Commons' members. Each speaker discussed their own research projects' findings in their own expertise fields.*