



N.A.M.E. Conference  
(National Association for Multicultural Education)

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Las Vegas, Nevada

“Changes in the Landscape of Truth-Telling as a Result of the Obama Presidency”

by Joelyn (“Jo”) K. Foy

This presentation is a natural progression from the paper presented (Foy, 2010) at the Race, Gender, & Class conference in New Orleans, February, 2010 and my AAACS presentation in Denver, April, 2010. My session will be an interactive dialogue with other educators on the use of *Push* (Sapphire, 1997) and “Precious” the movie (Daniels et al., 2009) in the teacher education classroom. If there are secondary educators present, the conversation could also include appropriateness at the secondary level since *The Color Purple* (Walker, 1983/2007) was banned as recently as 2008 in Morgantown, NC because of “parents concerned about the homosexuality, rape, and incest portrayed in the book”<sup>1</sup>. What if *Push* and “Precious” are similarly banned in U.S. school districts? What can we learn from Claireece Precious Jones? What do we learn about how public schools view Claireece? How did changing schools change Claireece’s point of view about education? About her possibilities?

I am a graduate student in Curriculum & Instruction at Kansas State University. My research interests include critical theory, educational reconstruction, narrative inquiry, mathematics education, Indian education, and LGBTQI concerns. I teach a developmental math course to incoming freshman at KSU, as well as three similar courses at a local community college. I taught sophomore and junior/senior biology at an inner-city high school for one year before attending Kansas State University following a career as a working scientist.

Daniels, L., Winfrey, O., Heller, T., & Perry, T. (2009). *Precious: Based on the novel “Push” by Sapphire* [Motion picture]. United States: Lionsgate.

Foy, J. K. (2010). I hear you now: How the Obama presidency has raised expectations and inspired truth-telling. *Race, Gender, & Class Journal*, 17(3-4), (in press).

Sapphire. (1997). *Push*. New York, NY: Random House.

Walker, A. (1983/2007). *The Color Purple*. London, UK: Weidenfeld & Nicolson

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<sup>1</sup> See “Banned and/or Challenged Books from the Radcliffe Publishing Course Top 100 Novels of the 20th Century,” American Library Association, 2010. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedclassics/reasons banned/index.cfm>