

**Cambodia, from then to now:
memory and plural identities in the aftermath of genocide
May 5th, 6th and 7th, 2011
www.curakhmer.org**

Michael J. Kersten

“Asian History in Action: Cambodia”

Dear Organizing Committee:

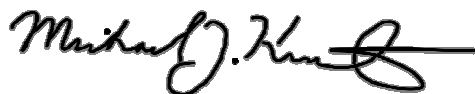
In a globalized world with increasing inequality and looming crises, the importance of young people developing a social conscience could never be greater. Dr. Marty Schmidt of Hong Kong International School has designed a pedagogy that facilitates this development through holistic, experiential learning. The basic idea is that for students to be transformed by history, they must not only become aware of the past, but also emotionally engaged in the present, with the opportunity to take real world action to make a difference in the future.

This semester, I am teaching a new course at Hong Kong International School which studies Cambodian history according to Dr. Schmidt’s pedagogy to guide students on a potentially transformative cognitive, affective, and behavioral journey. We are taking two trips to Cambodia as part of our course (see attached course overview).

At the Cambodia: Then and Now colloquium I would be honored to share **how I have taught Cambodian history** according to Dr. Schmidt’s proposed three essential roles of the social conscience educator: curriculum innovator, pedagogue of critical thinking, and empathetic mentor. I will also share **student outcomes** from our first semester of the course (currently ongoing) with respect to the “journey of social conscience” from awareness to emotional engagement to action.

I hope that by introducing this course, a full semester elective dedicated exclusively to Cambodian history in an international high school, we can open a unique and lively conversation.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Kersten
Hong Kong International School
Humanities Teacher

