Seminar participants then divided into small groups where work sessions focusing on the research being conducted by the graduate students would be discussed. Students gave detailed presentations of significant components of their studies and discussed challenges that their topic and approach posed. Each student received substantive feedback from peers and scholars.

After hours of intense and useful work, participants adjourned their groups to dine and listen to a panel of distinguished faculty who discussed various aspects in the search for an academic position. The panel was introduced by Dr. Michelle D. Young and comprised of Dr. Mark Gooden, Dr. Margaret Grogan, and Dr. Andrea Rorrer. The panelists’ comments were insightful and sparked an interesting exchange of questions and comments between members of the panel and seminar participants.

Each year, students are chosen to participate in the seminar through a rigorous selection process: first, they are nominated as candidates by their department chair or dean; second, they develop a detailed research proposal which outlines salient features of their study; finally, the proposals are blind reviewed by members of the planning committee, which selects the forty highest-ranking nominees.

Participants engaged in a variety of activities designed to enrich their professional development as researchers. Sessions began on Friday, April 25, with a formal welcome from Dr. Patrick Forsyth (representing AERA Division A), Dr. Catherine Marshall (representing AERA Division L), and Dr. Michelle Young (Executive Director of UCEA). This greeting underscored the rich tradition of the seminar, both in terms of distinguished scholars who have participated as facilitators, and with respect to the consistently high quality of graduate students over the seminar’s tenure.

After the welcome, Dr. George Petersen introduced a panel session titled, “Applying the Lens of Practice: An Examination of Current Issues Facing Schools.” Local educators, Mr. Marty McGreal, Ms. Lori Huebner, Dr. Carmen Sanchez, and Dr. Carlos Azcui­ita discussed pressing issues that face teachers, administrators, students, and parents in the Chicago Public Schools.