

5TH ANNUAL RACE POVERTY & SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

SCHEDULE WITH SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE - *INVITATION ONLY EVENT*

Friday, November 03 - 04:00PM to 05:45PM

Many Voices One Community

TALKING BLACK IN AMERICA

Friday, November 03 - 05:00PM to 06:30PM

Carolyn Gross, MA, Lisa Pierce, PhD, Sharon Foreman, PhD

Description: In cooperation with Neal Hutcheson (<https://news.ncsu.edu/2009/07/golden-moment/>) from North Carolina State, join us Friday, November 3, 4:00 p.m. at Lynchburg College, Hopwood Auditorium for a pre-conference a screening of "Talking Black in America," a new documentary from The Language and Life project housed at NCSU. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Carolyn Gross, MA, and Lisa Pierce, Ph.D.; moderated by Sharon Foreman, Ph.D. of Lynchburg College. THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Description: African American English is the most controversial and misunderstood variety of speech in America. Linguistic discrimination continues to affect speakers of the variety, and the ways it is linked to educational achievement and literacy are widely misunderstood by the public and by professionals in a number of allied fields. National discussions of language issues ranging from the proposed amendment to the Constitution to make English the official language of the United States to the public controversy about the decision of the Oakland Unified School Board to recognize Ebonics in their curriculum have indicated the critical, symbolic role of language differences in American society. With the perspectives of everyday speakers and the guidance of historians, linguists, and educators, Talking Black in America showcases the history and symbolic role of language in the lives of African Americans and highlights its tremendous impact on the speech and culture of the United States. The documentary addresses the persistent misinformation about African American speech and situates it as an integral part of the historical and cultural legacy of all Americans. Produced and Directed by Neal Hutcheson and Danica Cullinan Executive Producer Walt Wolfram

NETWORKING AND CONVERSATION

Friday, November 03 - 06:00PM to 06:30PM

Sponsored by the YWCA of Central Virginia

PERSPECTIVES: A CONVERSATION ON RACE, POVERTY & EDUCATION

Friday, November 03 - 07:00PM to 08:30PM

Arelia Langhorne, Leland Melvin, Rophenia Crawley

5TH ANNUAL RACE POVERTY & SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
SCHEDULE WITH SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 04 - 08:00AM to 03:00PM

WELCOME AND OPENING

Saturday, November 04 - 09:00AM to 09:25AM

“THE PERSISTENCE OF POVERTY IN LYNCHBURG”

Saturday, November 04 - 09:30AM to 10:30AM

John Abell, PhD

Description: Poverty has been on the rise in Lynchburg for a decade and a half, with the spread between Lynchburg’s poverty rate and that of the state of Virginia more than doubling during that time. Even after adjusting for the presence of college students, Lynchburg’s poverty rate is still twice that of the state. Lynchburg’s median household income of nearly \$40,000 does not provide a living income for any family configuration that includes children, decrying the notion that a low income here is to be expected because Lynchburg is a low-cost city.

A WHITE SUPREMACY PRIMER

Saturday, November 04 - 09:30AM to 10:30AM

Latesha Thornhill, Paul Boothby

Description: Presenters will provide a brief historical overview of the roots of white supremacy culture, including religious and political roots as far back as the 15th century, and how those early justifications for imperialist ambitions acted as a legal precedent for the exploitation and genocide of people of color by white Europeans. We then hand out printed materials which show the subtleties of white supremacy as it is active in American culture in 2017, and definitions of terms associated with a fuller understanding of racially based cultural biases. The presentation will be followed by a facilitated conversation in which attendees will be encouraged to offer their questions, insights, and experiences.

IMMIGRATION MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Saturday, November 04 - 09:30AM to 10:30AM

Rachel Thompson

Description: Immigration has been a hot topic in our country in recent months a years. But what is the truth? In this session, we will explore the complexities of our current lawful immigration system and discuss remedies like DACA, U Visas (for victims of crime) and Special Immigrant Juvenile status.

THE COMMUNITY ACTIVISM OF REBEL DIAZ: ONE LATINO HIP HOP GROUP’S ALTERNATIVE TO THE U.S. ELECTORAL PROCESS

Saturday, November 04 - 9:30AM to 10:30AM

Eunice Rojas, PhD

Description: Through the presidential election cycles of 2008 to 2016 the members of Rebel Díaz, a Bronx-based hip-hop duo of brothers with Chilean roots, have displayed dissatisfaction with all the candidates on both sides of the political aisle, advocating instead for a revolution against the U.S. political system through community activism. Rodrigo “RodStarz” Venegas of Rebel Diaz compares his group’s activism for social justice in the Bronx to his parents’ struggles against the U.S. backed military dictatorship in Chile during the 1970s. The duo, whose members are the children of exiles from the Augusto Pinochet dictatorship, rap in both English and Spanish about social justice issues and have participated actively in community organizing efforts in New York and Chicago. This paper examines Rebel Díaz’ involvement in presidential politics within the context of Antonio Gramsci’s theories about the difficulties of counter-hegemonic struggles for cultural power within elitist capitalist systems. Although the duo have engaged in electoral politics since the 2008 elections, RodStarz takes a Gramscian view of elections. In a 2016 interview RodStarz answered a question regarding which candidate he supported by criticizing the entire U.S. electoral process. “I’m gonna side with the people. I think that this country has a two-party dictatorship that’s ran [sic] by the corporations so I don’t really see any candidate doing better to represent the people.” The duo, therefore, draws on the political history of U.S. imperialist intervention in Latin America, specifically in Chile, to support and promote a counter-hegemonic alternative of community activism to challenge the U.S. political status quo.

“UNDOCUMENTED LIBERTIES; DETERMINING BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS FOR NON-CITIZENS”

Saturday, November 04 - 10:45AM to 11:45AM

Alessia Duran-Ynza, Camille Brenke-VillaNueva, Paolo Sanchez-Valdez, Vicente Gonzalez-Larraguibel

Description: This workshop will be an in-depth exploration of the story of immigration policy in the United States. We will examine the historical stages of racial animosity against various migrant groups and the political ambitions which motivated such rhetoric. We will address the major ethnic groups throughout history which have endured extensive profiling, relocation, and deportation proceedings; Chinese, Japanese, Mexican. Workshop components are as follows: -Immigration 101: No Human Being is “Illegal” -“A Peoples History of the United States” Indigenous/Black/African/Immigrant POC Migrations and Forced-Migrations -Neo-Colonialism: How U.S. Foreign Policy Influences Migration -9/11 and the Formation of Homeland Security and I.C.E; The Age of Islamophobia -The Business of Deportation: Prison Industrial Complex, Privatization, and Public Policy -Unaccompanied Minors, DACA, and DAPA; Migration Under Barrack Obama -The Trump Administration and the repeal of DACA: Modern Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric -Brown in a Black and White World: Immigration in the Age of Black Lives Matter

BLACK ECONOMIC POWER

Saturday, November 04 - 10:45AM to 11:45AM

Derek Polley

Description: Black economic empowerment is the new civil rights movement of the 21st century, and we want to ensure that all African-Americans get their piece of the American pie! Black economic empowerment is a collective effort, by Black people who wish to take control of their financial future, as well as that of their family, and the Black community. We can no longer sit back and complain about the state of our community while waiting for "someone else" to come from outside our community to solve the problem. The solution has to be organic; the answer must come from us! We will discuss plans and action steps designed to help rebuild Black Wall Street.

DIALECT DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM: THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING AND VALUING RACIAL AND REGIONAL DIALECTS

Saturday, November 04 - 10:45AM to 11:45AM

Leslie Layne, PhD

Description: This workshop will give background on the equal status and complexity of dialects of English, focusing on African-American English (AAE) and Southern English (SE) and how they contrast with Standard American English (SAE). Then we will look at how dialects shape speakers' self-perceptions and create stereotyped perceptions outside of the speech community. We will look at some creative methods for incorporating dialect diversity into the classroom in positive ways. Finally, participants will be invited to share and discuss ideas about approaches in the classroom that would allow students to value and appreciate their dialects.

DISRUPTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE AGENDA

Saturday, November 04 - 10:45AM to 11:45AM

Lisa Taylor, Reason Chandler

Description: From the New River Valley to the Eastern Shore, Virginia Organizing leaders are changing school discipline policies for the better. Learn about our current campaigns, restorative justice, and how to bring these lessons back home. Objectives - Gain an understanding of the school-to-prison pipeline and who it affects - Learn about past and current Virginia Organizing campaigns - Develop action steps to address this issue in more areas

KEYNOTE LUNCHEON

Saturday, November 04 - 12:00PM to 01:00PM

Rev. Robert W Lee IV

"MUSIC AS A WEAPON OF RESISTANCE.

Saturday, November 04 - 01:15PM to 02:15PM

Eunice Rojas, PhD, Kara Dean, PhD, Lindsay Michie, PhD

Description: This presentation will focus on the ways freedom songs were used to challenge racist authorities in the final years of apartheid, and the role they continue to play in reaction to the legacies of oppression that South African society still struggles with today. Music has acted as an agent of resistance for black people in South Africa from the era of conquest and colonialism up the present and has been a strong presence in every form of political action challenging the inequality and racism inherent in apartheid and its aftermath. This presentation will focus on the ways freedom songs were used to strike back at racist policies and legislation in the final years of apartheid and the role they continue to play in reaction to the legacies of oppression that South African society still struggles with today. Learning objectives: Exposure to the history of anti-apartheid movements in South Africa and their connection to struggles against racism and inequality in the U.S.; Understanding how performance and music can be powerful tools in combating oppression.

EXPLORING OUR PAST, ENHANCING OUR FUTURE

Saturday, November 04 - 01:15PM to 02:15PM

Ramona Battle, Wayne Gannaway

Description: This workshop will provide participants with a view of two independent organizations that bridged the divide by creating an organic partnership that has led to many positive outcomes. It explores the developing relationship between a Thomas Jefferson plantation historic site, which had been directed by and for white donors and audiences, and a locally based African American History Museum. The presenters offer insights into building relationships and activities for a successful movement towards social justice, community visibility, and racial equity acceptance.

TAKE A STEP FORWARD

Saturday, November 04 - 01:15PM to 02:15PM

Akossiwa Togbe

Description: Attendees will learn about their own privileges and how to use their privilege to become an advocate for poverty elimination. This presentation informs and cultivates an inclusive environment where attendees are not made to feel ashamed of their privilege but are able to identify their privilege and use it as a means of lending a hand to the most vulnerable.

WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY? AN EXAMINATION OF LYNCHBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT INTERACTIONS

Saturday, November 04 - 01:15PM to 02:15PM

Kyle McKinley, Quan McLaurin

Description: This workshop includes a presentation describing research that has been conducted on Lynchburg Police Department and their Use of Force interactions over the last couple of years. This is part of a larger project to gauge where Lynchburg police interactions stand. There will also be an opportunity to discuss how to improve LEO interactions with the communities and what future research could be pursued.

SOCIAL JUSTICE THEATRE: "NOW YOU SEE ME; NOW YOU DON'T"

Saturday, November 04 - 02:30PM to 03:30PM

Teresa Harris

Description: Social Justice Theatre uses performance art as a form of storytelling to promote awareness of and spark conversation about race, poverty, class and other issues that impact economic and social disparity. The workshop will consist of a vignette depicting actual slaves that lived at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest plantation (originally performed at Poplar Forest on May 19, 2017) followed by several activities and discussions on race, social identity, and how current race relations are inextricably linked to the past; and more specifically, slavery. The workshop will focus on the double standard that exists for blacks regarding visibility. Blacks are very visible as the objects of racial profiling and shoplifting suspects; but not so favorably visible in corporate boardrooms, when waiting in line for service, or when challenging the system. The session will also show how the performing arts can be used as a vehicle for change by provoking thoughtful and intellectual dialogue on issues in which people, otherwise, find difficult to engage in constructive conversation.

THE POWER OF PRIVILEGE AND POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES

Saturday, November 04 - 02:30PM to 03:30PM

Liz Dobson, Nakesha Moore

Description: Recognizing and addressing privilege can be a challenging topic to discuss. First, we will explain, via a power-point presentation, a timeline displaying how slavery and subsequent oppression has impacted today's society. We will expand our focus past race to include gender, race, sexual orientation, and religious affiliations (or lack thereof). Our timeline will include the end of slavery, Jim Crow laws, the Civil Rights Movement, Women's Liberation, and the perceived blurry lines of gender and sexual orientation. Following the presentation, there will be a moderated discussion.

WALKING EQUITY: BUILDING MORE WALKABLE COMMUNITIES WITHOUT GENTRIFICATION!

Saturday, November 04 - 02:30PM to 03:30PM

Nina Polley

Description: In addition to being a fundamental human right, walking has always been a powerful source of change. We've walked for justice, health, economic opportunities, and freedom. The walkability of a neighborhood is an important element of the community's livability and quality of life. Come and address common barriers to walking in your neighborhood and how to overcome them.

FEAR OF A BROWN PLANET: BACKLASH AND THE RISE OF WHITE NATIONALISM

Saturday, November 04 - 03:45PM to 05:00PM

Carolyn Gross, MA, Charles Walton, PhD, Khyati Y Joshi, PhD, Ted Delaney, PhD

Visit us at www.mvocva.com to register and learn more about the conference.