

SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

FRIDAY 10:30AM – 11:45AM

Faith and Social Justice: Rupture, Resilience, and Liberation within Communities and Traditions

McIntyre 103

Is there room for God in social justice work? Recognizing and naming the deep histories in which issues of race and racism have been present in the work of faith traditions and communities has often been difficult. Such issues have enacted violence on human beings and fractured our body of beliefs. Scholars and practitioners discuss the history of race, racism and social justice in Islamic, Judaic, and Christian faith traditions. What possibilities live at the intersection of theology and action, of theory and practice? Panelists share narratives of rupture, resilience, and liberation, inviting the audience into conversation about reimagining the role of faith in creating justice.

Immigration, Advocacy, Activism and the Northwest Detention Center

Kilworth Memorial Chapel

In addition to being the home of the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma is also the location of the Northwest Detention Center (an immigration prison run by the private corporation Geo). Though the city has branded itself as the “City of Destiny,” Tacoma has become, as activist Maru Mora Villapando has pointed out, a “synonym of detention across the nation.” This panel will engage with some of the activist work done around the Detention Center and the broader national and transnational contexts in which issues of incarceration, citizenship and race collide. Members of the audience who are working on these issues in their organizations, campuses and communities will be invited to network and share their experiences.

Sites and Struggles of Welcoming

Upper Marshall Hall

Six local artists responded to an invitation to “reimagine public spaces and notions of welcoming” on The University of Puget Sound’s campus. This invitation/initiative is grounded in a commitment to explore and foster public practices and spaces of reckoning, healing, and aspiration. The artists generated ideas, envisioning possibilities that harness art as a force in shaping the evolving values and culture that inform the University as a space for teaching and learning. Four of the six artists are participating in this panel.

The Calculus of Racism in America: Undoing Miseducation and Criminal Justice

Rausch 003

White supremacy animated by classism—settler colonialism, enslavement, ongoing genocide, and the use of violence as a means of education and justice—generates the ugly realities of contemporary racism this spotlight addresses. Twelve years ago, we painted a dire picture of the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionality of punishment; today we must include kindergarteners and first-graders in those statistics. Eight years ago, we discussed the impact of incarceration on families; today the increase of women behind bars has produced devastating outcomes for their children’s educational attainment. Each speaker uses race as a lens to expose the destructive links between the systems of education and state incarceration. Each presenter will identify three hot-button questions that action-planning teams will address during Part II on Saturday morning. Each attendee will receive a change-agent worksheet to use as they navigate conference activities. Attendees are encouraged to attend both Spotlights.

THE PATHS WE HAVE TRAVELED: We are Puyallup Nation the Welcoming and Generous People

Schneebeck

Everyone has a story and everyone’s story is important. As we reflect upon our journeys we ask ourselves “did we make a difference?” What legacy are we leaving for our children? The earth does not belong to us, we borrow it from our children. In this session you will hear stories of journeys walked, decisions made all with the thought of our children, our children’s children and our children’s, children’s, children. We are continuously trying to break the cycle of historical trauma and heal for the next generation to come up strong and diligent in keeping our sacred way of life alive. You will hear the stories of language revitalization, leadership, traditional lifestyles and historians and educators.

Theater of the Oppressed: Interactive Performance and Dialogue on Race

Norton Clapp Theatre

Using the evocative and universal language of theatre, members of the audience will deconstruct a real life scenario as a springboard to explore racism. We will use physical imagery and improvisation to make visible the various fears, desires, as well as collective history that may be happening below the surface of the interaction. This dynamic process invites critical thinking, empathy, and creative problem solving. This will be a unique and compassionate way to learn about oneself as well as humanize the “other”. The Rainbow of Desire is one technique from the Theatre of the Oppressed, which uses theatre as a tool for community dialogue and social change.

