

BEYOND THE BARS
**TRANSFORMING
(IN) JUSTICE**



5th Annual

**JUSTICE
CONFERENCE**

at Columbia University

March 6-8, 2015

COLUMBIA School of **SOCIAL WORK**

A Community Collaborative Event

Conference Schedule

March 6, 2015

FRIDAY NIGHT



DOORS AT 6:45 P.M. – EVENT STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

Michelle Alexander

Impact Repertory Theatre

Asha Rosa

Marlon Peterson

Eddie Conway

Hosted by Bryonn Bain

March 7, 2015

SATURDAY MORNING PANELS

Light breakfast will be available from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



10:00—11:30 a.m., Room 311-312

Transforming (In)Justice: Where Are We? Where Are We Going?



11:45—1:00 p.m., Room 311-312

Rikers Island: A Case Study in an Effort for Change

Lunch will be served in the concourse from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON PANELS

BLOCK 1



2:00—3:30 p.m.

Gender and Justice: Women in the Struggle

Sentencing and Parole Reform

Punishment for Profit: The Economics of Mass Incarceration

Responses to Violence: Safety, Accountability and Justice

Education and Transformation Across the Carceral Continuum

Criminalizing Queerness: The LGBTQ Community in the Era of Mass Incarceration

Alternatives to Incarceration: Inside and Outside the Criminal Justice System

Health and Mental Health in the Era of Mass Incarceration

BLOCK 2

 **3:45—5:15 p.m.**

Reentry, Reintegration and Resettlement: Beyond the Bars?
Racial and Economic Justice in the Era of Mass Incarceration
Police Accountability and Beyond: Developing Justice
Immigration, Incarceration and Justice
Families in the Struggle: Undoing the Harm of Mass Incarceration
Juvenile Justice: We Forgot They Were Young
Ending the Punishment Paradigm: Solitary Confinement, Life Sentences, the Death Penalty, Parole Denials, Violence Inside, Collateral Consequences...

March 8, 2015

SUNDAY ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS

 **1:00—4:00 p.m.**

FOR STUDENTS

Organizing Students to End Mass Criminalization and Incarceration (Facilitated by Students Against Mass Incarceration)

FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE FORMERLY INCARCERATED, THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS AND THOSE ORGANIZING IN IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

From Criminal Justice to Human Justice: Organizing Strategies for Shifting Paradigm and Practice - Facilitated by the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

FOR THOSE IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Grassroots Organizing: Seminarans for Justice - Facilitated by Jasbir Singh, Rob Robinson and Lorna Woodham

FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Towards Justice: Organizing for Faith Based Organizations - Facilitated by Jasbir Singh, Rob Robinson and Lorna Woodham

OPEN TO ALL

Abolish THE BOX: Organizing to Challenge the Role of Higher Education in Perpetuating Mass Incarceration - Facilitated by the Incarceration to Education Coalition

OPEN TO ALL

Organizing Against Empire: Realities of the People's Resistance - Facilitated by Tongo Eisen-Martin

OPEN TO ALL

FARMS NOT PRISONS: Using Food Justice to Change the Criminal Punishment System - Facilitated by Jalal Sabur and the Freedom Food Alliance

Saturday, March 7

Morning Panels

 **10:00-11:30 a.m., Room 311-312**

TRANSFORMING (IN)JUSTICE: WHERE ARE WE NOW? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Moderator:

Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York

Panelists:

Bernardine Dohrn, Former Director of Children and Justice Center, Northwestern University

Vivian Nixon, Executive Director, College and Community Fellowship

Barbara Ransby, Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago, Director, UIC Social Justice Initiative

Eddie Rosario, Associate Director, Prison Visiting Project, Correctional Association of NY

Nyle Fort, Community Organizer

 **11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Room 311-312**

RIKERS ISLAND: A CASE STUDY IN AN EFFORT FOR CHANGE

Moderator:

Soffiyah Elijah, Executive Director, Correctional Association of New York

Panelists:

Homer Venters, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Correctional Health Services, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

John Boston, Project Director, Legal Aid Society

Ismael Nazario, Case Manager, Fortune Society

Nick Marinacci, Senior Executive Director, Youth Justice and Treatment, New York City Department of Education

Victoria Phillips, Advocate/Cognitive Behavioral Facilitator, The Urban Justice Center, Mental Health Project

Afternoon Panels

BLOCK 1

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room C03**

EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE CARCERAL CONTINUUM

Moderator:

Bianca Van Heydoorn, Director of Educational Initiatives, Prisoner Reentry Institute at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Panelists:

Dave Stovall, Departments of Educational Policy Studies and African American Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago

Sean Pica, Executive Director, Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

Dionna King, Community Organizer, Education from the Inside Out

Fred Patrick, Director, Center on Sentencing and Corrections, Vera Institute of Justice

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room C05**

HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE ERA OF MASS INCARCERATION

Moderator:

Tracie M. Gardner, Assistant Secretary of Health, New York State

Panelists:

Bob Fullilove, Associate Dean for Community and Minority Affairs, Mailman School of Public Health

Mary Bassett, Commissioner, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Terry Hubbard, Jail Action Coalition

David Cloud, Senior Program Associate, Substance Use and Mental Health, Vera Institute of Justice

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room C06**

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Moderator:

Stanley Richards, Senior Vice President, Fortune Society

Panelists:

Rukia Lumumba, Director of Youth Programs, CASES

Daryl Mensa, CASES

Sharun Goodwin-Jones, Assistant Commissioner of Community Engagement, New York City Department of Probation

Divine Pryor, Executive Director, The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room 404**

CRIMINALIZING QUEERNESS: THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN THE ERA OF MASS INCARCERATION

Moderator:

Maria Torre, CUNY Graduate Center, Public Science Project

Panelists:

Judy Yu, Associate Director of LGBTQ Issues, Juvenile Justice Project, Correctional Association of NY

Juana Paola Peralta, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement, Silvia Rivera Law Project

Amós Santiago, Youth Leader at Streetwise and Safe

Lotus Ramos, Youth Leader at Streetwise and Safe

Crystal Sheridan, Member of Make the Road New York, Director at Mary Kay Cosmetics

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room 406**

SENTENCING AND PAROLE REFORM

Moderator:

Nicole Porter, Director of Advocacy, The Sentencing Project

Panelists:

Kassandra Frederique, New York Policy Manager, The Drug Policy Alliance

Mujahid Farid, Director, Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign

Michelle Grant, Neighborhood Defenders, Harlem

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room 305**

PUNISHMENT FOR PROFIT: THE ECONOMICS OF MASS INCARCERATION

Moderator:

Judy Greene, Co-Founder, Justice Strategies

Speakers:

Gabriela Catalina Pelsinger, Columbia Prison Divest

Renee Feltz, Democracy Now

Lauren Melodia, Milk Not Jails

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room 311-312**

RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE: SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND JUSTICE

Moderator:

Susan Gottesfeld, Associate Executive Director, The Osborne Association

Panelists:

Ernest Drucker, Ph.D., Research Professor and Director of the Academy for Public Health and Criminal Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Marshall “Eddie” Conway, Author, Educator

Erica Ford, CEO and Founder, LIFE Camp Inc

Marie Verzulli, Project Safe Neighborhood, Albany/Schenectady

 **2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Room 304**

GENDER AND JUSTICE: WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE

Moderator:

Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, Reentry Coordinator, NYCHA

Jeanne Flavin, Professor of Sociology, Fordham University

Andrea Williams, Director of Reconnect, Correctional Association of New York

Alumni from Reconnect

BLOCK 2

 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room 305**

IMMIGRATION, INCARCERATION, AND JUSTICE

Moderator:

Silky Shah, Co-Director, Detention Watch Network

Panelists:

Khalil Cumberbatch, Founder, Kinetic Solutions

Abraham Paulos, Executive Director, Families for Freedom

Conor Gleason, Immigration Attorney, Bronx Defenders

Mizue Aseki, Operations Coordinator, Immigration Defense Project

 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room C06**

JUVENILE JUSTICE: WE FORGOT THEY WERE YOUNG

Moderator:

Kyung-Ji Rhee, Deputy Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

Panelists:

Anjelique Wadlington, Raise the Age Campaign

Diane Sierpina, Program Director of Justice Programs, The Tow Foundation

K. Bain, LIFE Camp Inc

Rukia Lumumba, Director of Youth Programs, CASES

🕒 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room C05**

FAMILIES IN THE STRUGGLE: UNDOING THE HARM OF MASS INCARCERATION

Moderator:

Tanya Krupat, Director of the Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents, Osborne Association

Panelists:

Maya Schenwar, Editor-In-Chief, Truthout

Crystal Laura, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Chicago State University

Nyasha Perez, Youth Advocate

Velmanette Montgomery, New York State Senator

🕒 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room 311-312**

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND BEYOND: DEVELOPING JUSTICE

Moderator:

Julien Terrell, Lead Organizer, Brotherhood-SisterSol

Panelists:

Monifa Bandle, Director, Brooklyn Movement Center

Damon Jones, New York Representative, Blacks in Law Enforcement

Erica Garner, Daughter of Eric Garner

Jumaane Williams, New York City Council Member

🕒 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room 404**

ENDING THE PUNISHMENT PARADIGM: SOLITARY, LIFE SENTENCES, THE DEATH PENALTY, PAROLE DENIALS, VIOLENCE, COLLATERAL PUNISHMENTS...

Moderator:

Scott Paltrowitz, Associate Director of the Prison Visiting Project, Correctional Association of NY

Panelists:

Nicole Porter, Director of Advocacy, The Sentencing Project

Ronald Day, Associate Vice President of the David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy, Fortune Society

Five Mualimm-Ak, Incarcerated Nation Campaign

Lumumba Akinwole-Bandle, Senior Community Organizer, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

🕒 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room C03**

REENTRY, REINTEGRATION, AND RESETTLEMENT: BEYOND THE BARS?

Moderator:

Joanne Page, CEO, Fortune Society

Panelists:

Cory Greene, Community Relations/Training Manager, Center for NULeadership

Jim McGreevey, Former Governor of New Jersey

Yolanda Johnson-Peterkin, Reentry Coordinator, NYCHA

Andre Ward, Workforce Development Instructor, Osborne Association

🕒 **3:45 – 5:15 p.m., Room 406**

RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE ERA OF MASS INCARCERATION

Moderator:

Kendall Thomas, Director of the Center for the Study of Law and Culture, Columbia University Law School

Panelists:

Jazz Hayden, Activist

Kassandra Frederique, New York Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance

Jason Williamson, American Civil Liberties Union Mass Incarceration Campaign

Sunday, March 8

Organizing Workshops

ORGANIZING STUDENTS TO END MASS CRIMINALIZATION AND INCARCERATION ROOM 311-312

For Students - Facilitated by Students Against Mass Incarceration

Students Against Mass Incarceration's workshop will address strategies and challenges in organizing students to end mass criminalization and incarceration on college campuses. Starting with the importance of reconciling our many contradictions as students, attendees will consider questions like: what are students of color's stake in organizing for prison abolition? What is at stake in this work considering the privileges we hold as students? How can we stay organized, and balance our responsibilities as activists and students? Using the Columbia Prison Divest campaign as an example, SAMI will discuss how to develop strategies that reflect the group's politics, and that stay true to a larger abolitionist vision. Other objectives for the workshop include discussing the creation and maintenance of organizational structures, internal relationships and solidarity with student groups, other university campuses, and off-campus organizations.

FROM CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO HUMAN JUSTICE: ORGANIZING STRATEGIES FOR SHIFTING PARADIGM AND PRACTICE ROOM C05

For people who are Formerly Incarcerated, Their Family Members and Those Organizing in Impacted Communities - Facilitated by Kyung-Ji Rhee, Divine Pryor and Chino Hardin from the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions

This workshop will be geared towards directly impacted community members, specifically formerly incarcerated youth and adults, and their family members, and community organizers who work with these communities. This workshop will introduce and explore the formula for and application of Human Justice – as the merger between Human Rights and Human Development – as developed and practiced by the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions.

TOWARDS JUSTICE: ORGANIZING FOR FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS ROOM 305

For those in the Faith Community - Facilitated by Jasbir Singh, Rob Robinson and Lorna Woodham

Come learn how people of faith are organizing local communities across the country to reduce gun violence, police brutality, and end mass incarceration, and to generate the public and political will nationally to end the institutions and policies that contribute to the dehumanization of black and brown Americans.

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING: THE MORAL MOVEMENT AND ORGANIZING AT THE INTERSECTIONS ROOM 304

For those in the Faith Community - Facilitated by Rob Stephens and Wesley Morris from Union Theological Seminary

This workshop will focus on the wave of faith-based movements that are changing the moral and political landscape of the collective movement for change in the United States. Workshop leaders will share their experiences of faith-based organizing in the North Carolina Moral Monday Forward Together Movement, Beloved Community Center initiatives, and the newly organized “Hub” at Union Theological Seminary. Be prepared for open dialogue and ways to get involved in actions and strategic planning that is happening in NYC right now.

ABOLISH THE BOX: ORGANIZING TO CHALLENGE THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PERPETUATING MASS INCARCERATION ROOM 404

Open to All - Facilitated by the Incarceration to Education Coalition

Mass incarceration affects our institutions: from housing and employment to education. For the past year, the Incarceration to Education Coalition has been organizing to Abolish THE BOX on college applications: most higher education institutions in U.S. demand applicants disclose their criminal records. This discriminatory process must be abolished. Join IEC organizers in an interactive workshop where we will discuss possibilities for practicing abolition in the context of institutional oppression. Can we build a future without punishment and oppression? Can we reimagine accountability?

ORGANIZING AGAINST EMPIRE: REALITIES OF THE PEOPLE’S RESISTANCE ROOM C03

Open to all - Facilitated by Tongo Eisen-Martin

In this workshop we will analyze state domestic military violence and incarceration against oppressed people in the United States. Every bullet, every bar, benefits a larger picture. We will deconstruct that larger picture, and from our analysis, we will determine organizing practices for contemporary work for liberation.

FARMS NOT PRISONS: USING FOOD JUSTICE TO CHANGE THE CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT SYSTEM ROOM C05

Open to all - Facilitated by Jalal Sabur and the Freedom Food Alliance

Participants will learn how to make the connections between food, farming and the prison industrial complex. Presenters will explain how an alliance of farmers, organizers and political prisoners created a model that addresses Food Access, Prison Reform/Abolition, Restorative and Transformative Justice, Transportation, Environmental Justice and Economic Justice. This will be an interactive workshop with a small powerpoint presentation on how our Freedom Food Alliance, our Vehicle Cooperative, and our Victory Bus Project are bringing families in urban areas of New York to prisons in rural areas of New York for a box of fruit, vegetables and dairy from farms in the Hudson Valley. We will also have a strategy session on how participants can bring this model back to their local areas and build a national movement to have more farms and less prisons.

Co-Sponsors

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University School of Social Work
Columbia University Students Against Mass Incarceration
Criminal Justice Initiative: Supporting Children, Families and Communities
Drive Change NYC
Health Equity and Social Justice Conference - The 7th Annual Health Disparities
Conference at Teachers College, Columbia University
Social Workers Against Criminalization
Students for a National Health Plan (SNaHp)
The Anti-Racist Alliance
The Association for Justice and Health (AJAH, Mailman)
The Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School
The Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University
The Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS)
The International Social Welfare Caucus at CSSW
The Mental Health Caucus at CSSW
The National Association of Social Workers-NYC
The Queer Caucus at CSSW
The Undoing Racism Internship Project

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