

11:00 a.m. Schedule

We all Belong: Negotiating belonging in academic spaces that traditionally exclude 11 a.m. room 104

We know that women and persons of color are severely underrepresented in high paying and prestigious careers in computer science, engineering, and physical sciences. William Tate (2001) points out this underrepresentation reflects a larger violation of people's civil rights. Disparate access to quality science education and the STEM careers that people have access to as a result of that education, is one way that inequality persists despite the struggles for social justice by so many people. We will examine the disparities in educational attainment for women and students of color, we'll unpack some of the explanations and propose mechanisms by which we might combat exclusion.

Presenters:

Jason Babcock is the Director of the Learning Center at WCC where he occasionally teaches Math, English and Educational Planning. He recently completed his doctoral degree at UW with research on how students of color make decisions regarding persistence in STEM pathways.

Juan Serrano is a student employee at WCC pursuing a degree in communications while working at the WCC Intercultural Center.

Exploring Inclusivity with Children (ages 5-8) 11 a.m. in main auditorium

Parents, guardians, youth educators, and children (ages 5-8) are invited to join us to explore diversity through story-telling, interactive connections, arts, and research-based exercises to make a difference in our world! Children will explore concepts such as skin color and tolerance while parents will get tools and resources to continue courageous conversations. Research by Julie Bison states, "By the age of 5, children have developed a core sense of racial/ethnic identity and begin to explore what it means to be from one race compared to another". Children have ideas and questions about identity, so let's come together as a community to practice talking about race and equity.

Presenter:

Monica Koller earned a MS in Counseling from San Francisco State U. and worked with marginalized populations. A Bay area native, she moved to Washington in 2011 as an advisor at WCC. She provided diversity workshops and administered outreach to increase inclusiveness of underrepresented students in programming.

We are all the Same-Human: Lessons, Dialogue & an Experiential Exercise on Bias and Stereotyping to help break down barriers and build community: 11 a.m. room 105

This workshop aims to raise the average person's awareness of their hidden biases and stereotyping. By the end of the workshop participants will be able to: 1) define prejudice, discrimination, racism (4 types); 2) identify their prejudices based on an experiential exercise, 3) Recognize practices to help mitigate their biases; 4) name a variety of resources and local activist groups to continue their learning about bias and advocate for justice and equality.

Presenter:

Kim Harris is a professional bias awareness and diversity trainer from Bellingham. She has a master's degree in education from WWU where she completed her graduate courses in Cultural Pluralism and Group Dynamics. She is a world traveler who uses this experience in her workshops.

Immigrant Students and Parents Telling Their Own Stories 11 a.m. room 107

Using visual imagery, written narrative and the photo voice method in schools and communities, this interactive presentation will describe and demonstrate a research project that investigates the use of both community basked participatory action research and culturally responsive pedagogy as the foundation of a year- long co-researched study in Northern Colorado. Participants will learn about the Photovoice qualitative research method that was used as a form of community engagement and empowerment with immigrant families. The project was designed to break down barriers to access to equitable learning opportunities. The content covered in this presentation introduces culturally responsive pedagogy that found success in nontraditional parent and family engagement.

Presenter:

Kevin C. Roxas is an Associate Professor and Chair in the Secondary Education Department in the Woodring College of Education at WWU. His research interests include the contexts of reception for refugee students and their families in US public schools, the educational experiences of immigrant and refugee children and culturally responsive teaching. His most recent research focuses on the educational experiences of recently arrived immigrant students and their families and the ways in which communities and school districts can proactively and positively respond.

Rethinking Certainty: Art During Crisis 11 a.m. Room 108

Presenter:

Theresa Williams is an artist, writer, and poet. She has studied at Le Moulin à Nef in the Gascon village of Auvillar, France. Her work has been exhibited with The Wake Project's "*Listening voices of Color*" and the Whatcom County Artists Studio Tour.

Palestine, Islam, and the U.S.: A Joint Struggle 11 a.m. room 211

Within the scope of civil rights in the last 50 years, what was happening in Palestine since the 1967 war and what was happening in the U.S. in Arab and Muslim communities. This will be an open discussion to remember the history of violence and resilience in the indigenous Palestinian struggle in Palestine, and to honor the history and struggles of Muslim Americans. Specific topics will be divine and compare Islamophobia and anti-Arab sentiment. A brief history of Palestinians' resistance, the Diaspora and those experiences of Palestine-born Palestinians? What is the history of Muslims in the USA and what roles Arabs and Muslims take on during the Civil Rights Movement.

Presenters:

Nadya Sharif is an American Born Palestinian who currently studies Environmental Science with a Marine Ecology emphasis at WWU and a member of Students United For Palestinian Equal Rights (SUPER) on WWU campus

Alia Taqieddin is a member of Arab American Diaspoa and a student at WWU and member of SUPER at WWU.

Najla Mohamedlamin is a member of the Muslim Student Union at WCC.

The Rose That Grew From Concrete: Flipping the Script on Marginalization 11 a.m. room 212

In a 1999 a collection of poetry, written by poet Tupac Shakur, was published entitled, *The rose 'That Grew From Concrete'*. In the collection, the title poem speaks to the way Shakur dreamed he--and others in his circumstance--would be viewed by the powers that be.

This discussion is aimed to shift the view of underprivileged students, challenging workshop participants to refocus their attention on the valuable perspectives and experiences these students bring with them, rather than solely focusing on the ways these populations may be deficient or at-risk. This paradigm shift must be upheld not only by the institutions that serve these populations, but by the students who have internalized their marginalized identities through years of schooling. Use of discussion and listening partnerships will help guide workshop participants deeper into the ways they can better support and empower students.

Presenter:

Joshua Durias, M.Ed. navigated the U.S. school system as a first-generation, low income, child of Filipino-immigrants and he brings these experiences with him every day as WCC's coordinator for Student Success and Retention.

Racial And Ethnic Identity Exploration for Youth (ages 8-11) 1:00 p.m. in main auditorium

Parents, guardians, youth educators, and children (ages 5-8) are invited to join us to explore Inclusivity through interactive connections and resources to become stronger agents of change. This workshop will lead youth through exercises that address privilege, identify challenges, and offer ways to become empowered through the use of counter-narratives. Parents and guardians will gain valuable resources and connections to support them in talking about race with kids. Julie Bison's research shows, " By 9 or 10 years attitudes about diversity have solidified. At this point a youth's racial/ethnic attitudes tend to stay constant unless the child experiences a life changing even that consistently challenges then to rethink their beliefs" . What a critical time in a child's developmental stage to address concepts of inclusivity! For social change to occur for future generations our goal as care takers must be to work towards normalizing conversations about diversity.

Presenter:

Monica Koller earned a MS in Counseling From San Francisco State U. and worked with marginalized populations. A Bay area native, she moved to Washington in 2011 as an advisor at WCC. She provided diversity workshops and administered outreach to increase inclusiveness of underrepresented students in programming.

Heart Mapping - writing and Listening from the Heart 11 a.m. room 216

In times of chaos and communities building across differences it is useful for each individual to ask ourselves and each other "What matters most to you?" If we want to create change in the world, it is vital for us to be able to articulate what it is that we are fiercely passionate about. Based on Georgia Heard's "Awakening the Heart", we will each create a visual "map" of your heart, placing people places, times, memories, experiences, values, movements, that are important to you in relationship to the center of your heart. Heart Mapping is a chance to know ourselves deeper and to give us the courage to face ourselves and each other.

Presenters:

Fialau'i'a Lamositele is a WCC student (Human Services focus), Intercultural Center student-staff, Native Indigenous Student Association.

Jacqueline Rumble is a WCC student (Physical Therapy program), Intercultural Center student-staff, Black Student Association.

Lummi Peacemaking Circles - An Introduction 11 a.m. room 217

Peacemaking Circles are a way to build and strengthen community and develop leadership through a tradition of deep listening based on Indigenous practices that honor the stories told by participants. The Lummi Peacemaking Circle process has been used for many purposes, including to: celebrate, learn together, find consensus from conflict, and create space for community healing from historical traumas. Come learn about the Lummi Peacemaking Circle process, by sitting in circle speaking your truth, and listening to others.

Presenters:

Lummi Peacemaking Circle leadership Team members: Shasta Cano-Martin and other members of the leadership Team. Bio's to be presented when presenters known.

Being Neighbors In a Time of Deep Change 1:00 p.m. room 104

We live in a time of pervasive and deep change in our culture, economy and environment- challenging our sense of who we are and how we form human community. With such uncertainty, many are defining themselves by differences instead of commonalities creating dynamics that could lead to our mutual diminishment. Faith communities can respond to this dehumanizing tribalism by creating spaces for authentic relationships between diverse people and groups. We are being invited to find a way through this time of change and loss by recognizing and loving our neighbors and finding ourselves as human again.

Presenter:

Rev. Terry Kylo is a pastor serving as the director of Neighbors in Faith, an interfaith effort to recognize Muslims as neighbors and partners in building a more peaceful world, authorized by Episcopal and Lutheran churches in western Washington. He is the author of two books, *Being Human* and *Apprenticeship*. He is the recipient of Faith Action Network Interfaith Leadership Award in 2016, The Interfaith Leadership Award from the Muslim Association of Puget Sound in 2017. He serves as president of the Treacy Levine Center.

American Born and Immigrant Families Investment in Their Child's Life Span Education 1:00 p.m. room 105

Learning the differences between how American Born and Non-American Born families invest in their children's education. I will address the different ways of learning that are limited in western education. As an immigrant student, I lived without family support while attending school and to this day those issues are still affecting my education and the way I learn. Struggling to learn English I was also required to act as my family's translator. The cultural and language barrier made it so my family was hardly involved in my education. Due to barriers not considered by the educational system, my experience shows me students can be misplaced in system.

Presenters:

Juan Serrano is a student at WCC and works at both the Simpson Intercultural Center and with AIM at WCC.

Nancy Shippentower: A Native Born Activist 1:00 p.m. room 107

Nancy shares her life story beginning with being the daughter of Jeanette McCloud, a prominent community organizer and social justice activist during the turbulent Indian Fishing Wars of the 60s and 70s. Today Nancy continues her mother's legacy by staying active in the preservation of wild salmon and promoting the Salish way of life.

Presenters:

Nancy Shippentower, Puyallup is a member of the Northwest Indian Fish Commission, Daughter of the Late Jeanette McCloud.

Darrell Hillaire, is the Executive Director of Children of the Setting Sun Productions

Rethinking Trauma: What Children and Youth with Histories of Trauma and Domestic Violence Have to Teach Us 1:00 p.m. room 108

As a society, we do not openly discuss domestic violence (DV) and yet its reality is front and center for children and youth whose lives are deeply shaped by it. The school landscape is bleak for many children and youth and are the largest populations of youth being pushed into school-to-prison pipeline. They are often objectified as socially and emotionally troubled, dramatically shaping their experiences in school and community based organizations. The session directly addresses the conference question: How can we work together to build a healthy, just, and sustainable community and avoid chaos that accompanies fear, racism and injustice. Participants will come away with two considerations: 1) an alternative way of thinking about trauma and DV, 2) what rethinking trauma means for children and youth with histories of DV in their families.

Presenter:

Tracey Pyscher, PhD is an assistant Prof of Secondary Education in Woodring College of Education At WWU. Her research interests include understanding and naming the social and cultural experiences of children and youth with histories of domestic Violence., their navigation of school and critical literacy and learning. She has published several articles and chapters in books, a few titles: *Dismantling the School To Prison Pipeline* (2016) and *Throwaway Youth* (2017).

The Best Apology Is Adjusted Behavior 1:00 p.m. room 211

Throughout African-American /Black History, into current events, Black community within the US consistently resume life within white supremacy culture, enduring many everyday occurrences of anti-blackness, systemic violence, racial prejudice, and implicit bias. While Black people remain ever resilient to the oftentimes expected, maltreatment, neglect and silent treatment, there is great need for repair and recognizing of harm done. Through education, people are able to learn and unlearn internalized behaviors that have exclusively demanded Black people's response to White people's feelings. This workshop is designed to challenge and encourage participants to be more reflective and creative with their responses to Black people and the Black community pertaining to the urge to connect and empathize with any hate, harm and inhumanity they experience."

Presenters:

Stevona Burks is a liaison for working class families living in project housing, parent leader and advocate at her children's school. She addresses issues of inequities and equity in the education system. She in on the Board of Directors for Whatcom Family and Community Network and Bellingham Community. Her goal is to increase diversity training for educators and staff so children have equitable access to education.

Exquisite Erika is a recent Bellingham resident and liberation practioner. She enthusiastically applies time, energy, focus and principle to ensuring her actions, intentions and presentations embrace and reflect freedom of mind and spirit. She is dedicated to reflecting on and entertaining the dreams of her

unresolved African-American Ancestors. As a community organizer, she is committed to thoughtfully holding willing (and resistant) White people accountable to the ways they exclude Black People, disregard Black reality and contribute to anti-Blackness."

Beyond me Versus You: Strategies for Meaningful Dialogue 1:00 p.m. room 212

This workshop is presented by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC) and it is interactive exploring strategies to communicate effectively even during challenging conversations. Starting with increasing our own self awareness, we will learn and apply communication strategies that invite others to participate in a meaningful dialogue. You will take away tools and techniques to deepen communication for home, community and the workplace.

Presenters:

Britt Sullateskee is the Training Coordinator with the WDRC and in this role is largely responsible for coordinating a variety of adult conflict resolution trainings that the center offers to the community. She has her MA in conflict Resolution and is passionate about sharing her knowledge and helping others learn new skills that enable them to get through conflict productively.

Emily Machin-Mayes is a trainer and mediator with the WDRC where she manages the Youth Program, bringing highly rated conflict resolution to hundreds of youth and educators each year. With a BA in Theatre and Masters Certificate in Restorative Practices, she is passionate about creating meaningful learning opportunities for youth and adults alike.

Our Dreams Go Beyond Our Borders 1:00 p.m. room 216

I like to think my parents selflessness and love traveled across our native land, across the US/Mexico border with only the best intentions for my little sister and I . Never would they have imagined what the US had in store for us, the political turmoil, the abuse of an oppressive system outside of home, the stress and anxiety of not making it home at night or being taken from your family. Of course not. How could they? Sacrificing everything with no idea how we would survive, but anything was better than what we had. I often think about the millions of people who make this decision. I'm just the living product of that decision. I plan to address myths and common questions about the undocumented community with bits and pieces of my story and how our lives play such an important role in our political movement. We are reclaiming a country that we have devoted our lives to. We are the backbone of this country. we are an intersectional community fighting for liberation and we refuse to give up, we are here to stay. Millions of us are living under dangerous conditions and the worst is yet to come.

Presenter:

Victoria Matey Mendoza is an Undocumented student at WWU who has lived here 21 years. She has dedicated many years to educating folks about the undocumented community and organizing on campus with other undocumented students.

2:30 Schedule

Unlock the Power of Polarization 2:30 p.m. room 104

This moment in our history feels intensely polarized, painful, reactive and stressful. A time where it's difficult to know how to orient ourselves. In this session, we will work to ground ourselves from the outside in: by exploring prior social movements, the dynamics that characterize different stages of change, & surprising turning points in these movements. And we will practice using powerful strategies

for transforming high levels of reactivity, - from the inside out - into spiritual fortitude and a clear sense of our role at this moment. Together, let's hone our capacity to forge community out of the reactive, polarized energy we're experiencing nationally and personally.

Presenter:

Molly Ware, Associate Professor at WWU and founder of We Evolve consulting, is fascinated by how large systems change. A seasoned change leader & creative catalyst in support of organizational & institutional evolution, she specializes in supporting the inner and outer work of change.

The Community Rights Movement: Protecting People, Communities and Nature 2:30 p.m. room 105

As Dr. King said, "We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one destiny, affects all indirectly." The continuing assault on the environment is an attack on the human rights of all. Why does the environment keep getting worse when we've had the major environmental laws on the books for 40 years? Why do corporations have greater rights than people, communities and nature? Why have 200 communities in the US had to adopt local laws to protect themselves from corporations? The program will describe this national movement and its background and invite those attending to help make it happen in Bellingham.

Presenters:

Stoney Bird – After serving in the Peace Corps, Stoney worked for many years as an international corporate business lawyer. Stoney moved to Bellingham in 2011 to be a part of the campaign for a Community Bill of Rights that focused on the coal trains.

Ronna Loerch –After a 45-year career in nursing, Ronna has turned her energies to Occupy Bellingham, which aims to protect people, communities and nature. She has lived in Whatcom County since 1975. Her activism goes back to the 70s when she helped form "Nurses for Peace" to resist the Vietnam war.

Workshop title: Decolonizing Misconceptions of Indigenous Peoples 2:30 room 107

This session will examine institutional and community-based efforts to challenge distorted views of Indigenous Peoples. Two examples will be highlighted. Northwest Indian College is doing a comprehensive review of courses to identify areas where course content is biased by inaccurate portrayals of Indigenous histories and cultures. The goal of this work is to ensure that Indigenous perspectives are represented fairly in the curriculum. The second example comes from British Columbia, where First Nations and sport groups are trying to share salmon fisheries on the Lower Fraser River. An ongoing analysis is revealing how some fishers use social media to foster negative views of Aboriginal fishing.

Presenters:

Stan Goto is an Associate Professor of Adult and Higher Education at Western Washington University. He is a member of the Fraser River Peacemakers and a former board member of North Sound Trout Unlimited. Stan.Goto@wwu.edu,

Rudy Vendiola, Jr. is the Two-Year Program Coordinator at Northwest Indian College. He is a descendant of Visayan, Lhaq'temish and Swinomish tribes. Former Chairman of Washington State Indian Education Association. rvendiola@nwic.edu

Stephen Magnuson is the Outdoor Center Programs Coordinator and a graduate student of the AHE Program at Western Washington University. His primary responsibilities revolve around leadership development for the members of WWU's Outdoor Center Programs. Stephen.Magnuson@wwu.edu

The Price of Peaceful Resistance 2:30 p.m. room 108

We all want peace. But what are we willing to do to achieve peace? When there is injustice in the world, when people are being displaced or do not have basic human rights, or are being killed, how do we hold on to peaceful means of resistance? This workshop will start with a brief introduction to peaceful resistance through the examples of MLK and Mandela. We will then introduce the struggle of the Saharawi people and our long history of peaceful resistance. Through open discussion we will talk about why peaceful movements are often ignored by the international community, what people can do to support peaceful resistance movements and why it is important to support the growth of peaceful resistance.

Presenter:

Najla Mohamed-Lamin Salma is an international student at WCC. I work in the Simpson Intercultural Center and currently President of the WCC Muslim Student Association, co-president of the WCC sustainability club and a member of Nova Western Sahara, a group that works with youth to promote peaceful resistance.

Developing a Growing Foundation of Equity-Based Principles 2:20 room 211

Building a healthy, just, and sustainable community requires that we be actively engaged, reflective, and focused on creating an equitable society wherever we live and work. Attendees will participate in an introductory workshop that utilizes REACH (Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage) Center principles to engage in cross-cultural activities that honor human diversity, develop cultural self-awareness and promote a deepening understanding of equity and cultural humility.

Presenters:

Masa De Lara is an educator who has worked in public schools for over 10 years, providing innovative programming for children from preschool through high school. She is a REACH, ACES and NEAR sciences trainer, providing adult education opportunities in Washington State.

Julie Mauermann has been working in the early childhood education field for over 25 years, implementing programming in public school, community college and public library settings with a focus on increasing inclusion of all young children and their families. She is a REACH trainer.

Bystander Intervention Training 2:30 p.m. room 212

Bias crimes and people treating other people abusively has been on the rise. If you feel angry when you see that justice is being violated and you are moved to do something about it, this training is for you. Bystander intervention is based on the principles of nonviolence, like those used by Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. and Gandhi. Dr King laid out principles that state: nonviolence is a way of life for 1) courageous people, 2) seeks to win friendship and understanding, 3) defeat injustice and not people, 4) holds that suffering can educate and transform, 5) chooses love instead of hate and 6) believes that the universe is on the side of justice.

Presenter:

Ty Schroyer has worked to end men's violence against women for over twenty-five years through activism, training , counseling and education. He is currently employed as a national trainer by the world renowned Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs -The Duluth Model.

Coming of Age Presentation 2:30 p.m. room 216

The Coming of Age workshop is a presentation regarding Dine ceremony for those who reach the age of maturity. Through this presentation we will cover the basic teachings within the ceremony, and present that in the modern world we still practice our ways given the past history of unfortunate events.

Presenter:

Naiyahnikai N. Gorman, is a student and staff member at the Intercultural Center at WCC.

Introduction to African-Caribbean hand drumming 2:30 p.m. on auditorium stage (workshop is mainly for youth 9-18)

Adults are welcome if the 20 available slots are not filled by younger people. Participants will learn basic drum techniques and work on one piece which can be performed for a larger group. By learning to listen to each other, we learn not only to drumming but community-building skills. (Young people who want to continue after this introduction may be interested in joining our ensemble, Zefen Abusore.)

Presenter:

Marti Dimock has taught elementary school music and movement in a variety of settings over 25 years, including two Waldorf schools, a charter school for the arts, a Balkan Women's Chorus, the Dances of Universal Peace and the Bellingham School District. In addition to her position with the Blaine School District teaching Music and Motion, she currently teaches the World Music Drumming Curriculum.