

# ALL Sessions

## 8:00am (SJU) / 8:20am (CSB)

### IMAGINATION IN POLITICS AND AESTHETICS: FROM GERMAN IDEALISM TO ANGELA DAVIS

SJU – QUAD 264, 8:00AM

**Kurt Hollender, *Visiting Assistant Professor of German, Languages and Cultures***

On Nov. 6th, 2018, civil rights activist and scholar Angela Davis delivered a powerful address titled "Politics and Aesthetics" at New York University. In the talk, Dr. Davis states that "Art and the aesthetic realm are absolutely essential if we wish to extricate ourselves from this current [political] morass," because "[a]rt cultivates the imagination." (<https://nyulocal.com/dr-angela-davis-talks-politics-and-aesthetics-in-the-era-of-black-lives-matter-at-skirball-7134312ae7dc>). Davis' statement that progressive, forward-thinking politics is possible only through imagination – i.e. the faculty that can, according to Kant, whom she names in the talk, produce an original representation of an object preceding experience – highlights the crucial role of the arts in the civil rights movements. My presentation aims to explicate Davis' complex engagement with German idealist philosophy (her background includes a dissertation on Kant and the French Revolution, graduate work in Frankfurt, Germany and work with the philosophers Adorno and Marcuse) with a focus on Immanuel Kant's work on imagination and Friedrich Schiller's aesthetic education. The imagination allows for Dr. King to have a dream of a better future in the first place as well as for us to imagine what transformative inclusion could look like in our community. Davis is our contemporary advocate for the artists' role as educator in cultivating imagination for everyone.

### A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING FOR PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 8:20AM

**Mary Hinton, *President, Office of the President***

Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will." Our general communal good will is necessary – but not sufficient – for us to become inclusive institutions. In order for our institutions to thrive, everyone in the community has to recognize that incidental efforts to support inclusion and diversity must become more intentional and deepen. Within this presentation, I will address the following questions: Why is general good will not enough? How can we deepen one another's understanding of the challenges and opportunities surrounding inclusion on campus? As a leader, what am I called to do to deepen that understanding?

## 9:10am (SJU) / 9:30am (CSB)

### MLK AND THE POST-COLONIAL MOVEMENT

SJU – QUAD 264, 9:10AM

**Christi Siver, *Associate Professor, Political Science***

This presentation will raise attention to MLK's role in supporting post-colonial and self-determination movements around the world.

### MARTIN LUTHER KING: THE LAST YEAR

CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 9:30AM

**Ken Jones, *Professor, History Department***

The focus will be on the broader, more radical, and more challenging vision King offered in the last year of his life, and suggests that our current image of King usually downplays this part of his vision. This includes his recognition that war, poverty, and racism were inseparable. One key tool he proposed was the Poor People's Campaign, which emphasized racial inclusion as well as massive civil disobedience.

## 10:20am (SJU) / 10:40am (CSB)

### SILENT NO MORE: RESPONDING TO MICROAGGRESSIONS

SJU – QUAD 264, 10:20AM

**Pam Bacon, Professor & Chair, Psychology**

In this session, I will discuss microaggressions and then have bystanders practice intervening when a speaker says a microaggression to a member of a marginalized group. We will talk about ways for students, staff, and faculty to become advocates and allies.

### THE PRACTICE OF SPEAKING OUT: WORKSHOP

CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 10:40AM

**Karen Erickson, Professor, French, Languages & Cultures**

Inspired by the writing workshops created by Sister Mara Faulkner, this facilitated discussion and writing session invites participants to consider the practices and personal disciplines that prepare us, ground us, fuel us for effective advocacy. How can we use private writing as a rehearsal space for public speech, writing, or action? Where and when and how does speaking up open the path? What resources are needed to support our practice of open-hearted listening, itself an action in the Benedictine tradition of living within and for community?

## 11:30am (SJU) / 11:50am (CSB)

### LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL

SJU – QUAD 264, 11:30AM

**Vincent Smiles, Professor of Theology, Theology**

Focus will be on why MLK wrote the letter in his time, and why it remains relevant for understanding racism and the needs of the marginalized in our time.

### ROOTED IN THE PAGE: BOOK ARTISTS RESPOND TO UPROOTED LIVES

CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 11:50AM

**Kathy Parker, Director of Libraries**

Refugees, immigrants, victims of civic unrest or environmental degradation: the UN estimates that there are over 65 million displaced people worldwide, forcibly uprooted from their homes. Since they often have no legal standing of their own, we must ensure their well-being. This presentation of books from the CSB Artists Book collection will show ways artists have responded to uprooted lives. The arts have a special role in increasing empathy toward people whose lives are unfamiliar. These books, an intimate art form that calls for interaction, will immerse participants in the experience of displacement and offer an invitation to solidarity with the uprooted.

## 12:40pm (SJU) / 1:00pm (CSB)

### IMPACT OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S NONVIOLENCE MOVEMENT ON MLK

SJU – QUAD 264, 12:40PM

**Kingshuk Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Global Business**

This presentation will discuss Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolence movement of the struggle for freedom in India and its effects and impact on MLK and MLK's movement in a discussion-based presentation.

### KATHERINE DUNHAM: A LEGACY OF SOCIAL ACTIVISM THROUGH DANCE

CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 1:00PM

**David DeBlieck, Visiting Assistant Professor, Theater**

Katherine Dunham was an internationally-recognized dance artist, social activist and cultural anthropologist who changed the face of the American dance stage by incorporating dances from the African diaspora in her choreography and by presenting danceworks that explicitly addressed social issues of her time. Although she was a contemporary of Martin Luther King, Jr. and active in her pursuit of social justice during the civil rights era, her work is not known to most people outside of the dance world. This session will reveal important aspects of Dunham's work, including an examination of Southland, a dance from 1950 that depicted the lynching of a black man in the racist American south. This session will also explore how Dunham's legacy is continued through the Institute for Dunham Technique Certification and the training of today's dancers in her

African-based dance technique as well as her social philosophies. The session will also include reflections on my participation in the Institute's intensive training program in the summer of 2018 and a description of how I plan to apply Dunham's strategies and theories to engage CSB/SJU students in the creation of a new dancework that addresses themes of social justice.

## **1:50pm (SJU) / 2:10pm (CSB)**

### **UNITING THROUGH SONG**

**SJU – QUAD 264, 1:50PM**

**Susan Vollbrecht, *Assistant Professor of Music Education, Education/Music***

Singing played a powerful role in creating community, sharing powerful messages, lifting spirits, and inspiring all to not give up during the long march to freedom. Join together to sing We Shall Overcome and other songs from this improvisational singing tradition. All are welcome, no prior singing experience is required.

### **GETTING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR INNER RACIST**

**CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 2:10PM**

**Charles Wright, *Associate Professor of Philosophy, Philosophy***

Racial equity in the United States will remain elusive until people – especially white people – are willing to be honest about racial prejudices that we didn't choose, but for which we are responsible.

“Racist” and “racism” are typically used as terms of moral condemnation, meaning that a person is morally corrupt. People typically want to believe of themselves that they are good people, that they are morally upright. To be labelled “racist” means that someone is supposed to be a bad person. Nobody wants to accept that. White people who reject deliberate and habitual racism, who do their best to treat people of all races equitably, typically reject the idea that they are “racist.” The suggestion that they (we) are “racist” typically makes us highly defensive, for reasons just reviewed. But such well-meaning white folks overlook how implicit racism is. To the extent that certain racist ideas circulate in the culture at large, we cannot avoid internalizing them. What I try to show is that the ideas are in circulation and that there are reasons to believe they are widely internalized by people of all colors.

The takeaway: White folks have a special responsibility to practice self-awareness of and honesty about their inherited racial biases because for centuries, we have been (and still are) the beneficiaries of a system of racial oppression. Until white folks who are sincerely opposed to racial inequity are ready to engage in this kind of self-reflection, I don't think it will be possible to make much progress in race relations in the United States.

## **3:00pm (SJU) / 3:20pm (CSB)**

### **YURI KOCHIYAMA, CIVIL RIGHTS ICON SPOTLIGHT**

**SJU – QUAD 264, 3:00PM**

**Jeffrey DuBois, *Assistant Professor of Japanese, Languages and Cultures***

After Yuri Kochiyama (1921-1914) and her family were incarcerated along with other Japanese Americans in the 1940s, she became a lifelong activist fighting for civil rights. She supported redress and reparations for those incarcerated, advocated for black liberation, fought bigotry against minorities, and promoted global nuclear disarmament.

This screening aims to shed light on a forgotten population (Japanese Americans whose lives were shattered after forcible relocation and incarceration), but also aims to show how Yuri Kochiyama sought a solidarity within and across the broader civil rights movement, as she advocated for causes that far exceeded the concerns of Japanese Americans alone.

This screening is co-sponsored by the CSB/SJU Libraries and Asian Studies Program.

### **THE SKIN I'M IN: AN EXPLORATION OF THE MULTI-ETHNIC EXPERIENCE**

**CSB – ALUMNAE HALL, 3:20PM**

**Kira Munoz, *Area Coordinator, CSB Residential Life and Housing***

This presentation will explore the experiences of belonging to two or more ethnic backgrounds. We will discuss the intersectionality of identity based on self-perception and the perceptions of others; and discuss implications these perceptions have on those we work with and for. The Skin I'm In: An Exploration of the Multi-Ethnic Experience will be based on the presenter's interactions with balancing intersecting identities.

This presentation discusses racial and ethnic identities, as well as other intersectional identities individuals hold; will cover examples of oppression and privilege, why it's important to be aware of perceptions and what people can do to be more proactive about their perceived assumptions; and talks about experiences of isolation and not belonging based on identities, which is done to help others understand how important inclusivity is.

# SJU Sessions

## 8:00am

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