

NIAGARA SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Brock University

Pass the Mic!

9:00 - 9:30 AM	Welcome	Sean O' Sullivan Theatre
9:30 - 10:45 AM	SESSION 1	
Activisting in Niagara <i>Presented by Bhonita Singh and Kerry Duncan</i>	Becoming politically active can take many forms and draw on a range of skills. In this workshop, you will have the chance to reflect on your own activist skillset and passions while getting to know what others are working on. You will learn about more ways to get involved in local social justice-focused initiatives, including volunteer initiatives and ways to support local communities on a day to day basis. The ultimate goal of the workshop is to strengthen a broad network of <i>good people knowing good people doing good things</i> .	TH256
Decolonizing the Museum <i>Presented by Lisa Mercier and Robyn Bourgeois</i>	Museums are institutions of power, socially constructed over time to selectively remember and forget. More and more, museums in the 21st century are transforming themselves into activist spaces and spaces of inclusivity, often presenting difficult histories. In this workshop, the Town of Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre asks, "What does de-colonizing the Museum look like?" You will be invited to share your knowledge about social justice with this local memory-keeping institution. Graphic facilitator, Dr. Robyn Bourgeois will produce a graphic representation of the discussion that can serve as evidence of the need to disrupt dominant societal control of Niagara's history and make the museum a place of shared authority and collaboration.	TH257
Immigration Facts and Fictions <i>Presented by the Social Justice Research Institute Fellows, Elvia Lopez and Zabrina Downton</i>	What do you know about immigration and immigrants to Turtle Island? Why do some people seek to immigrate here? What does the immigration process look like? This workshop will help you distinguish facts from fiction about immigration and immigrants. You will learn to debunk common misconceptions and also see how issues of immigration are complicated by multiple intersecting inequalities related to class, race, country of origin, religion, gender, sexuality, language, age, ability, and more. Information about justice-seeking organizations in the area of immigration will serve as a spark for learning more.	TH258
Going Against the Flow: Menstrual Equity in Niagara's School Systems <i>Presented by Hannah Legault</i>	The Red Box Project Niagara is a grassroots movement whose short-term goal is to provide free period items to students. The long-term goal is to have Niagara's school boards fund menstrual items in order to reduce "period poverty" and its repercussions for education equity. Taking the Red Box Project as a model, this workshop will help you think about the "what" and the "why" of any grassroots advocacy movement, including the short and long-term goals and the underlying social inequities of the social initiatives that ignite your passions.	TH259
10:45 - 11:00 AM	Information Fair in the Thistle Corridor	
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	SESSION 2	
Solidarity with those who have Done Time <i>Presented by Kirk Morrison</i>	This workshop presents stories from the Ally Centre in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and elsewhere in Canada, to provoke conversation about how to act in solidarity with people facing extreme social marginalization upon their release from prison. The Ally Centre is a harm-reduction and community development organization that supports people who have criminal records and ongoing illicit substance use. Recognizing the widespread political neglect of the opioid crisis, this workshop explores policy changes needed to save and improve lives. Significantly, the workshop will challenge and guide you to actively and respectfully work <i>with</i> formerly incarcerated/illicit drug users as opposed to working <i>on</i> their behalf.	TH256
A Multi-species Approach to Social Justice	Single-minded opposition to 'animal cruelty' that is divorced from social justice ethics can perpetuate racist, colonial and class violence. This workshop opens a conversation about what needs to happen in instances where human and non-human animals are adversely affected by the failure to view struggles through a multi-species lens. Responses to animal suffering, in cases of animal hoarding or those experiencing homelessness, for instance,	TH257

<i>Presented by Brittany Campbell and Bridget Nicholls</i>	need to recognize that human and animal well-being are interconnected. This workshop offers the lens of 'multi-species social justice' to help you think through complex issues of human and animal interdependence within a fundamentally unjust and unequal society. A guest therapy dog may be present.	
(De)colonial Understandings of Sexual Violence <i>Presented by Jane Theriault-Norman</i>	This workshop will introduce new ways to understand sexual violence from the perspectives of history, bioethics and healing methods. The workshop will describe how sexual violence has been used to colonize Indigenous and BIPOC Nations. We will discuss the ways in which racism and sexual violence are inextricably tied together and how health care systems have both perpetrated violence and perpetuated the underlying conditions that make sexual violence prevalent. To conclude, Jane Theriault-Norman will present solutions proposed by Indigenous academics and activists.	TH258
Gender Anarchy: Theorizing Transgender Identities Outside of Capitalism <i>Presented by Mo Constantine and Eli Quirk</i>	What is gender and how has it been privatized so that people are denied access to their own genders? How are trans people creating alternative economies to break down these barriers and overcome capitalism? Through theorizing and imagining new possibilities, like open-source hormones and gender anarchy, this workshop examines how we can create new spaces of resistance and transformation. Come discuss gender outside of capitalism and let's create these new spaces together. [Anyone is welcome to attend, but some familiarity with transgender identities would help as this workshop will not be covering the basics.]	TH259
12:15 - 1:30 PM	Lunch in Guernsey Market Information Fair in Thistle Corridor	
1:30 - 3:00 PM	SESSION 3	
Two Anti-Racism Campaigns in Niagara <i>Presented by Saleh Waziruddin, Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association</i>	In this interactive workshop, the Niagara Region Anti-Racism Association presents two current campaigns: an employment equity campaign and a campaign to oppose increased police patrols in downtown St.Catharines. In the first part of the workshop, you will learn about how employment equity programs work and why they are needed. Next, you will learn how police patrols have no actual effect on crime in the downtown but do serve to get rid of marginalized people. You will receive campaign tools, such as surveys and petitions and have the chance to practice role playing with them. In the end, you will be equipped to spread these campaigns in your own communities.	TH256
For Healing, Visionary Leadership and Social Justice: Indigenous Approaches to Curriculum <i>Organized by Laurie Sherry-Kirk</i>	This panel presentation, featuring six emerging Indigenous adult educators, supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (2015) calls to action, primarily the call for Canadians to join with Indigenous Peoples as we collaboratively work toward cultural revitalization, the rebuilding of traditional knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols and connections to land. You are invited to join these six leaders in discussing grassroots, community-based curriculum projects that align with their unique ancestral values and spiritual beliefs, and those of the communities they serve. <i>Panelists are students of the Aboriginal Adult Educator's Certificate Program (ABED4F87): Tanya Jacobs, Mark Sayers, Lorraine Black, Mathew Walker, Catharine Maracle, Joan Frame.</i>	TH257
For the Joy: Revolutions of Love <i>Presented by Shannon Kitchings</i>	Traditional activism is not the only form changemaking. Obstacles such as disability or geography can hinder access to the most visible social justice movements; however, small acts of resistance have great power and can generate significant ripples in the lives of those around us. This workshop discusses acts of resistance that involve joy, play, and celebration. You will consider how these acts can increase momentum and decrease burnout in social justice movements. The workshop will include up to four activity stations where you will have an opportunity to engage in a form of joyful resistance, such as art making, intentional acts of kindness, or food production. You will leave having completed a small act of resistance of your choosing and with basic tools to continue this work.	TH258
3:00 - 3:15 PM	Coffee Break - Information Fair in the Thistle Corridor	
3:15 - 4:30 PM	Pass the Mic! with Karl Dockstader and Sean Vanderklis	
<i>Co-hosted by One Dish, One Mic podcasters, Sean Vanderklis and Karl Dockstader</i>	Workshop presenters will gather on stage for a final plenary session. Interviewed by Karl and Sean, each presenter will share the key message of their workshop and the wisest thoughts they heard in response. We will then pass the mic to everyone who wishes to share thoughts on the day's most important takeaways.	Sean O' Sullivan Theatre