

Building Bridges not Walls



Power and Privilege Symposium 2020

Whitman College

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

This year's Symposium was made possible by:

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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

There is no doubt about it, we currently live in some very perilous times. Whether it be another act of police brutality, unemployment in our family, or even grievances among faculty, staff, and the college's administration, the need for building bridges is ever so important right now. As a community, we have the amazing opportunity of all being here and having profound love for this institution. At times, our biggest problem isn't a lack of interest in building bridges. Instead, our biggest obstacle lies in the type of bridge that we are constructing. Often times, the bridges are either so high that no one can cross them, or so shaky that people feel afraid to use them.

Being the executive director of this year's Power and Privilege Symposium was an awarding experience as it was a challenging one. Like many of you, this year's team spent a lot of time reconsidering the bridges that we want to build as well as how and for what purpose we are building them. This year's Symposium went through many structural changes in an effort to make those buildings more equitable and long-lasting.

It is my hope as the Executive Director that we will see the beginning of this new decade as a time of rebuilding and healing. I hope that, while we remain ever-cognizant of the past and history, we never stop forging the path for a better future. In a nutshell, I wish to see us building more bridges on this campus, knocking down all the walls of disharmony and negativity that currently trap many of us from realizing our true potential.

I hope you enjoy this year's Symposium and all the best!

Sincerely,
Jordon R.M. A. Crawford.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Angela Davis



February 19

6:30PM

Cordiner Hall

Ms. Davis is a radical activist, speaker, educator and philosopher who has worked tirelessly for various social justice issues across the world. She is most known for her involvement with the Black Panthers in the 60-70s and her contribution to the civil rights movement, while fighting for her freedom after being put on FBI's 'Ten Most Wanted List.'

She is the author of ten books and has lectured in the US and overseas. Her work has been very intersectional, with a broad range of topics that include Black freedom, feminism, justice for Palestine and other indigenous peoples. In the recent years, her work has been focused on issues of incarceration and criminalization of communities that are marginalized by poverty and racial discrimination.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

February 19

Cordiner Hall

6:30PM Keynote Speaker

February 20

Sessions across campus

9:30-10:30 AM	Block I
10:45-11:45 AM	Block II
11:45AM-1:15PM	Lunch
1:30-2:30PM	Block III
2:45-3:45PM	Block IV

LUNCH // 11:45AM-1:15PM

Cleveland Dining Hall

Free for Whitman Students.

Flex dollars provided for students off the meal plan.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

The Power and Privilege Symposium is dedicated to making this event as accessible as possible. If you have concerns about accommodations and accessibility that aren't listed here please e-mail symposium_operation@whitman.edu.

- There will be one to two seats reserved at each session for students with disabilities.
- There will be an American Sign Language interpreter at the Keynote Speech.
- We ask that sessions are kept fragrance free for those with sensitivity to smells and chemicals.
- All buildings have ramps and elevators to help with physical accessibility excluding Hunter Conservatory.
- All-gender restrooms can be found on each floor of Maxey, in the basement of Hunter Conservatory, in the Glover Alston Center, and on the main floor of Prentiss Residence Hall.
- Campus Security can be contacted using the phone number 527-5777 or can be found in Technology Services 130.
- Volunteers can be found in Symposium t-shirts and can help with accessibility throughout the day.

Self-Care and Utilizing the Counseling Center

The Symposium can be an exciting time to teach and learn. It can also be an emotionally challenging time given the topics that will be discussed and questions that may be asked. To fully engage in the symposium, please take care of yourselves before, during, and after. A few options for self-care include but are not limited to:

- Be mindful. Pay attention to what your mind and body are telling you about your stress level.
- Listen to your thoughts and feelings. If you are getting overwhelmed, take action to address it with deep breathing, stepping out, or asking for support from those that you trust.
- Take breaks as you need them during the various sessions.
- Reach out and talk with your social supports both inside and outside of the community.
- Finally, the Counseling Center will be open, and if you want to speak with someone about your emotional experience. Please go to 502 Boyer Avenue. Someone will be there to greet you and assist.
- You can also call the Counseling Center by dialing (509) 527- 51951

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

WAYS OF ENGAGEMENT

- Actively participate. Engagement is essential for critical conversations, increased understanding of each other's identities, and movement towards change.
- Commit to change. This day should influence how you approach these issues throughout the rest of your life. If you commit to trying to fix an issue stay committed because others might not have the choice to step out when they see you step out, while others may be in a position to join you. This day is only one installment in a larger movement to make Whitman a more inclusive space.
- Stay the course. Don't be deterred when it comes to having hard conversations. Often times people are scared of and turn away from these conversations because they fear they might look ignorant. Remember that we are in a learning environment. If you do not understand other people's positions of oppression because you are not in them yourself, continue to ask questions, share, and listen.
- Treat each other with dignity and respect. Respect the opinions of others even if you do not agree or understand their perspectives. Likewise, there is no acceptance of hate speech, discriminatory speech or any forms of degradation.

BEST PRACTICES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Utilize "I" statements when responding.
- Listen attentively and respectfully. Suspend Judgment.
- Pay attention to what surprises you and what confuses you.
- Try to practice the 'both/and' approach rather than 'either/or'.
- Accept and reject as needed but be able to articulate the why.
- Take the learning, not the experiences. Practice confidentiality.
- Question the idea, do not criticize the people.
- We are all responsible for the learning.

BLOCK I // 9:30-10:30AM

Stop the Grind: Deconstructing the harm of Whitman's overactivity

Maxey Auditorium

Nicki Cadell, Dana Walden

Whitman students are known for doing the most, often to the detriment of their emotional, physical, and mental health. In this session, we will deconstruct the forces that make Whitman's culture reflective of a highly performative, neoliberal society, while challenging the notion that disability is necessarily a limitation. We seek to bring awareness to 'grind' culture, to alleviate the blindness of over-participation, and share the gift of sight we have been afforded because of our experiences with chronic illness and autoimmune disorders.

Queer STEM of color: Underrepresented communities in science

Reid Ballroom A

Gustavo Bejar Lopez, MJ Wilner, Faculty

Advisor: Lindsay Szramek

STEM is a predominantly white field in the US, posing struggles for underrepresented communities (LGBTQ+, PoCs, etc) accessing it. This panel aims to make obvious these obstacles and the ways support tools improve conditions for these communities when choosing STEM as a career track.

'Selling' Whitman: Exploring the Ethical Complications in Promoting the Whitman Experience

Reid G02

Andy Burnstein

Whitman students who work in the admissions office as tour guides and interns will discuss how admissions "sells" Whitman. We will investigate the narrative admissions materials construct about the college, including the tour guide "script." We will discuss our personal experiences with "selling" Whitman, and the concerns that we grapple with in our own roles. There will be a question and answer period with the audience.

Allyship or annexation: The dissonance between coalition building and invasion of Affinity groups

Olin Auditorium 138

Baker Weilert, Susanna Williams, Maria Martinez, Heidi Adolphsen, Ilse Spiropoulos, Ava Liponis

Debate the Topic: Coalition building is only allyship if it does not result in the invasion of the protected spaces that belong to affinity groups

Don't blame my religion. *Origins of Islamophobia, terrorism and hatred*

Olin 129

Ahmed Elsayed, Kainat Ansari

The session will delve into Islamophobia and condemning the association of Islam with terrorism, hatred, or discrimination. We will discuss the concept of terrorism, freedom of practice, and hatred against religious identities through a historical and contemporary context. Activities will include anonymous surveys.

International students and mental health

Science 100

Htet Htet Win, Nadia Ganjooloo

As an international student, we all are facing different challenges attending this expensive college; academic anxieties, racial oppression, feelings of guilt, homesickness, financial strain, depression, politics at home and even the unpredictable weather here in Walla Walla. Some of us are striving to achieve our goals and struggling to find a support system. This session is an honest conversation about living thousands of miles away from home and how it affects mental health.

Mechanisms of Resilience

Kimball Auditorium

Leah Samuels, Lea Molacek

An examination of dysfunctional thinking and an exploration of individual and community approaches to mental health.

BLOCK II // 10:45-11:45AM

Do you know who we are?

Greek voices at Whitman

Reid Ballroom A

Barbara Maxwell, Martin Alvarez-Klugen, Haider Anwar Ali, Eduardo Cabrera, Riley Chappell, Leyla Hertzog, Chloe Holaso, Carrie Anne Jones, Haley Yandt

Many people have an impression of the Greek system but not of individual Greek members within the Greek system. These students will share their experience as members of fraternities and sororities to give audience members a personalized sense of the 'Greek system.'

Environmental Inequality and Environmental Privilege

Maxey Auditorium

Thys Reynolds, Alissa Cordner, Jun Cai, Rosa Woolsey, Karsen Beling, Annie Means, Maddie Ott, Ellie Chidsey

Environmental injustice and environmental privilege are two sides of the same coin. In this session, we will explore environmental justice issues from a variety of perspectives at Whitman and beyond.

Anti-racist medical care: How do we address race critically in medicine?

Reid G02

Erina Horikawa, Nikki Delgado, Michelle Shin, Katie Jose, Ellen Hom, Erica Keevama

Racial disparities in medicine have been well documented and the medical field has increasingly turned its attention to

the socio-political and economic conditions that impact health, such as the 'social determinants of health.' However, is addressing disparities in terms of 'inequity, 'culture,' or the social determinants of health give justice to historical and contemporary racism that people of color face in the US? This panel will focus specifically on how race can be critically addressed in medicine.

Free Love, Free Palestine

Olin Auditorium 138

Bashar Haidar, Nick Collard, Amara Killen

We will introduce pinkwashing, a political strategy that obscures Israel's ethnic cleansing through appeals to LGBT inclusion, in an attempt to recapture Israel as a colonial apartheid state.

Understanding disability at the Crossroads of Whitman College and Walla Walla

Olin 129

Michelle Janning, Cyndy Knight, Chloe Carothers-Liske

Panelists from the Fall 2019 Ability and Community Sociology course share ideas about how (dis)ability should be included in any discussions of power and privilege, on campus and in the local community.

Bridging the Bubble: *Service in relation to Whitman and the Walla Walla community*

Science 100

Alejandra Wait, Zidane Galant-LaPorte, Ellen Hom, Andy Burnstein

Student Engagement Center interns will discuss community engagement at Whitman, how and why Whitman students choose to participate or not participate in community engagement and how service has the potential to be reparative at its best and harmful at its worst.

The Islamic Republic of Iran: *History, context and application*

Science 151

Reza Darvish

Discover Iran through the eyes of this Iranian-American as he dives into culture, religion, history, and politics to help resolve the inequity of information that exists across continents.

Where are you from? Neocolonialism.

Kimball Auditorium

Vlad Voinich, Aby Ramata, Koketso Masenya

The panelists will discuss neocolonialism as a global and pressing issue. We will focus on origins, similarities and differences between different kinds of neocolonialism worldwide basing our case studies on our respective countries of origin: Senegal, Belarus and South Africa.

BLOCK III // 1:30-2:30PM

Whitman's Outdoor Program:

Bridge or Barrier?

Maxey Auditorium

Stuart Chapin

In the Pacific Northwest, 'Outdoorsiness' is one way of demonstrating class differences. Does the OP contribute to that or help to lower the barriers to entry in outdoor recreation?

Debating Immigration:

More than two sides

Reid Ballroom A

Lauran Schaefer, Susanna Williams, Ava Liponis, Ilse Spiropoulos, Maria Martinez

In this session, we will debate the following topic: The United States Federal Government should increase the ceiling on refugee acceptance to 200,000 annually.

Building Bridges within the Walls:

Finding Consensus across Differences

Reid G02

Isaiah Banta, Grant Gallaher, Liv Liponis, Grace Dublin, Mitch Clearfield

Current and former students of "Case Studies in Applied Ethics" (PHIL219, taught at the Washington State Penitentiary) will facilitate a workshop and discussion on strategies to break down barriers in dialogue.

Lunchbox Moments Continued

Olin Auditorium 138

Ashley Joe, Michelle Shin, Alexa Lim, Kaitlin Cho, Michael Chang

The "Lunchbox Moment" is a term popularized by The Jubilee Project that describes the moment when Asian American children feel different or "the other" for the first time; this moment is often caused by public shaming for bringing home cooked meals for school lunch. This session is continuation of last year's P&P panel Lunchbox Moments lead by Ye Rim Cho where Asian American students share their experiences and stories operating in predominantly white spaces.

'Thank you for your service BUT..' The perception of military-related individuals at Whitman

Olin 129

Julia Wilke, Omar Aldahleh, Richard Brown, Zane Boyer, Nick Quazzo, Mia Groff, Marvin Viney, Thomas Harris

The Whitman community tends to treat those associated to the military in some way (soon to be joining, in a military relationship, veterans, etc.) with disregard for their experiences and a distaste for the military as an institution. How can we bridge the gap between military-related individuals on campus and the rest of the community, and clarify the difference between the military as an institution and its members/dependents as part of that system?

Self-Silencing and Social Pain

Science 100

Tom Davis

If you suspect you will face social pain in response to frankly speaking your mind, will you silence yourself?

The fall of patriarchy

Science 151

Marian Sandoval

The rise of the Feminist Movement in Latin America in recent years has illustrated at the local and international scale, the reality women face in a region ruled by a patriarchal system. Let's learn together what being a woman in Latin America means.

Queer Me, Myself and Eye

Kimball Auditorium

MJ Wilner, Ree Robson, PRISM members

How has LGBTQ+ media changed now that mainstream media has picked it up? We plan to discuss the impact of queer media designed for a cis/het audience and how that differs from queer media intended for queer audiences. We'll bring up current and classic references, some of the history of queer media, and differences in children's versus adult platforms. In addition, we hope to discuss the difference that LGBTQ+ creators have on themes and character development, as well as the impact of no, bad, and stereotyped representation.

BLOCK IV // 2:45-3:45PM

Dismantling Mental Health Stigmas among People of Colour

Maxey Auditorium

Borniface Kabongo, Rae Chresfield

Stigma is an evil roadblock that makes people feel ashamed of the struggle they are going through every day and makes them afraid to seek help. People of colour aren't immune either. This workshop aims to deconstruct stigma and empowering POC.

Uplifting Community Voices: An oral history workshop

Reid Ballroom A

Rae Robson

Do you think it's important to fix problems in our historical narratives? This workshop on oral history will discuss how to combat the erasure of certain community histories through oral history and share strategies for conducting historical interviews.

More than Just Main Street and Wheatfields: The history and experiences of rural Eastern Oregonians & Washingtonians

Reid G02

Zidane Galant-LaPorte, Cam Sipe

We hope to discuss and delve into the experiences of Whitman students who have grown up in Eastern OR/WA to see how their background in a rural area has shaped their lives and the majority urban hailing Whitman student body perspective of Walla Walla.

'That's Kinda Gay, Bro'

Olin Auditorium 138

Becca Linn, Nick Rapp, Liv Engle, Kylin Brown, Zane Boyer, Yussef Elbagory, Samarah Uribe Mendez

This session will include a panel-style discussion on homophobia and anti-queer language on campus, especially as it relates to masculinity and male-dominated spaces at Whitman. We hope to share our personal and campus-wide experiences of homophobia, be critical of the ways we as a student body, administration, and college may contribute to a culture of anti-queerness and how we can dismantle that.

Multilingualism: Languages and Power

Olin 129

Nico Parmley, Jack Iverson

For most, our native language is not something we can choose. Like ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and social class, the particular advantages, disadvantages and/or marginalization we experience due to our linguistic identity largely depend on the cultural systems that govern and structure the spaces into which we are born and raised. Language privilege intersects with many of the privileges associated with ethnicity, nation/region, and social class.

LGBTQ + Christians Talk Faith

Science 100

*Stephanie Ma, Tricia Ferrer, Leisha Casimiro,
Jess Davison, Kristen Wanke*

Historically and presently, the institution of Christianity has inflicted violence upon and excluded members identifying within the LGBTQ+ community. However, there are still queer folks who also identify as Christian. This will be a panel of folks who identify as queer and Christian discussing what it means for them to hold both identities.

'I am the Parent and You are the Child'

Explaining your Marginalization to your family

Science 151

*Lauren Yumbie, West Bales, Delaney Talovic,
McKee Nguyen, Matt Lee*

A panel discussing how our marginalized identities have led to conflict and alienation with family who don't share those identities. We will examine how our identity was perceived as a threat to family unity and how these conflicts were resolved or left unresolved.

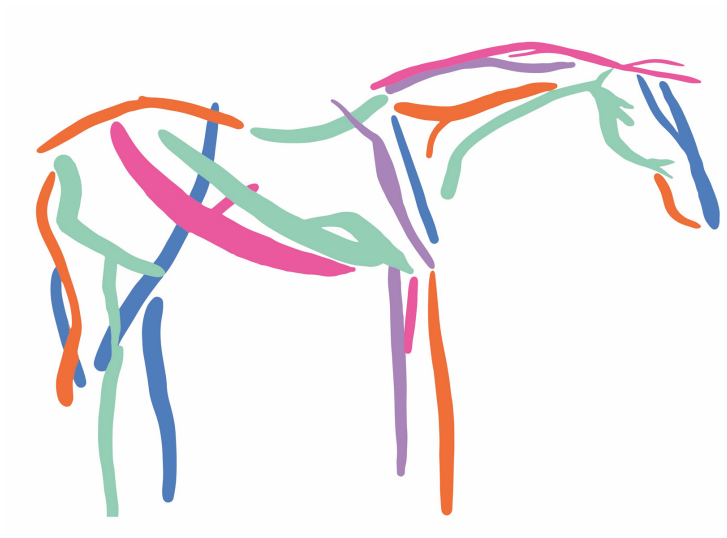
The Voices we Silence in the National Gun Violence Debate

Kimball Auditorium

Ava Liponis

The cultural cacophony of America's gun violence debate has resulted in a complete legislative standstill, but what are the viable solutions? Who do these solutions advantage and disadvantage, and who dominates the political narrative of gun violence in America?

Location	Block II (9:30am-10:30am)	Block II (10:45am-11:45am)	Lunch (11:45am-1:15pm)	Block III (1:30pm-2:30pm)	Block IV (2:45pm-3:45pm)
Maxey Auditorium	Stop the Grind: Deconstructing the Harm of Whitman's Overactivity	Do you know who we are? Greek Voices at Whitman		Whitman's Outdoor Program: Bridge or Barrier?	Dismantling Mental Health Stigmas among People of Colour
Reid Ballroom A	Queer STEM of Color: Underrepresented communities in Science	Environmental Inequality and Environmental Privilege		Debating Immigration: More than Two Sides	Uplifting Community Voices: An Oral History Workshop
Reid G02	"Selling" Whitman: Exploring Ethical Complications in Promoting the Whitman Experience	Anti-Racist Medical Care: How do we address race critically in medicine?		Building Bridges Within The Walls: Finding Consensus Across Differences	More than Just Main Street & Wheat-fields: The History and Experiences of Rural Eastern Oregonians & Washingtonians
Olin 138	Allyship or Annexation: The Dissonance Between Coalition Building and Invasion of Affinity Groups	Free Love, Free Palestine: Outing the Truth about Israeli Pinkwashing		Lunchbox Moments Continued	"That's Kinda Gay, Bro" A Conversation about Masculinity, Homophobia, and Whitman Norms
Olin 129	Don't blame my religion. Origins of Islamophobia, terrorism, and hatred	Understanding Disability at the Crossroads of Whitman College and Walla Walla		"Thank you for your service, BUT..." The Perception of Military-Related Individuals at Whitman	Multilingualism: Languages and Power
Science 100	International Students and Mental Health: A Conversation	Bridging the Bubble: Service in Relation to Whitman and the Walla Walla Community		Self-silencing and Social Pain	LGBTQ+ Christians Talk Faith
Science 151		The Islamic Republic of Iran: History, Context, and Application		The Fall of Patriarchy, featuring: Latin America	"I am the Parent and You are the Child" Explaining your Marginalization to your Family
Kimball Auditorium	Mechanisms of Resilience	Where are you from? Neocolonialism.		Queer Me, Myself, and Eye	The Voices we Silence in the National Gun Violence Debate



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