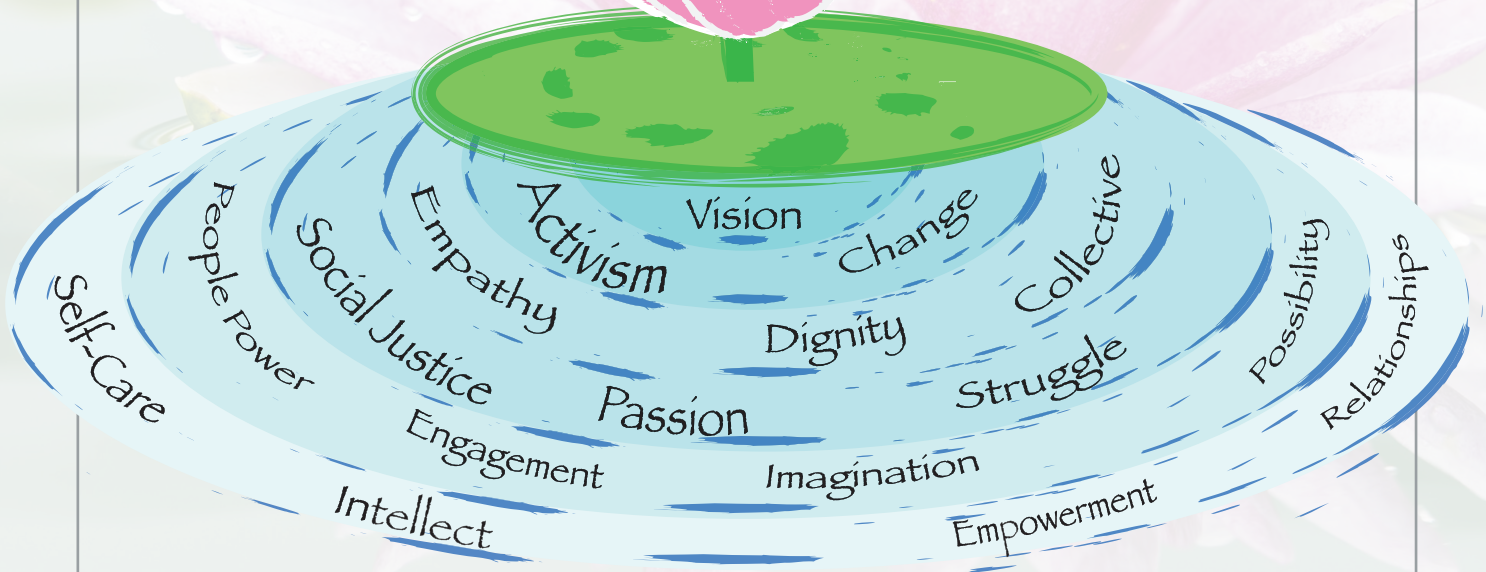


CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Educating for Struggle: Social Justice, Empathy & Social Transformation

3rd Biennial Intergenerational Think Tank



NOVEMBER 12 – 14, 2015
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
10900 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO



SOCIAL
JUSTICE
INSTITUTE



Message from the Founder and Director

Rhonda Y. Williams

Launched in Fall 2010, the Social Justice Institute is “working toward equal access to opportunity for all people through understanding and addressing the root causes of social injustice and developing innovative solutions.” In order to achieve this mission, the Institute is dedicated to creating a space for broad-based conversations that can educate, inspire, bridge ideas and people, and generate solutions and action.

Social justice demands that we recognize oppression in all its guises and diligently struggle against it – guided by knowledge and creativity, seriousness and joy. Empathy is absolutely vital to this work.

In the 21st century, we are living during a time of growing connectedness and alienation, suffering and trenchant inequalities. All of this (and more) begs that we pay greater attention to history, economics, politics, movement building, and the humanity of all people, particularly those most marginalized, exploited, and vulnerable.

It may be hidden to some, but it is clear to many others that Cleveland and the nation are experiencing the stark realities of an unjust criminal justice system and racial and economic discrimination. So let us give witness to and seriously grapple with these issues. Can we say the “Cleveland Atrocity,” 137 police gunshots, and Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell? Can we say Tanisha Anderson and Tamir Rice? Can we say #BlackLivesMatter? Can we say #SayHerName? Can we talk about subprime loans and predatory lending? Can we talk about poverty, the increasing racial wealth gap, economic renaissances and gentrification? Can we have honest dialogues, unapologetically? Can we?

Now, more than ever, we need to identify ways to disrupt “business as usual” and harness the power, will, and audacity to think, act, and transform ourselves, institutions, and systems in the name of social justice.

This gathering of minds, voices, and people offers us one opportunity to tap into our individual and collective psyches and souls, hearts and minds, knowledge and networks of support, and dare to draw forth the words, analyses, strategies, and actions to struggle for change that respects and uplifts human dignity and life.

In that spirit, and with respect, let me thank you for participating in the 3rd Biennial Intergenerational Think Tank.

In Struggle, Dr. Rhonda

Thursday, November 12

STROSACKER AUDITORIUM

6:00 p.m. **Documentary: *Finding the Gold Within***
A film by Karina Epperlein
Q & A with Protagonists Darius Simpson and Imani Scruggs

Friday, November 13

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT, 11205 EUCLID AVENUE

Opening Keynote: Angela Y. Davis
Writer, Author, Teacher, Scholar, Activist/Organizer

6:00 p.m. **Doors Open**

7:00 – 7:15 p.m. **Welcome**
The Reverend Melanie Marsh Baum, Associate Pastor
Church of the Covenant

Cyrus C. Taylor, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Case Western Reserve University

Rhonda Y. Williams, Founder & Director, Social Justice Institute
Case Western Reserve University

7:15 – 8:15 p.m. **Opening Keynote and Moderated Dialogue**

8:15 - 9:00 p.m. **Audience Q & A**

Saturday, November 14

FORD AUDITORIUM, ALLEN MEMORIAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:30 – 9:50 a.m. **Welcome and Conference Overview**
William A. "Bud" Baeslack III, Provost and Executive Vice President
Case Western Reserve University

Marilyn Sanders Mobley, Vice President for
Inclusion, Diversity & Equal Opportunity
Case Western Reserve University

Rhonda Y. Williams, Founder & Director, Social Justice Institute
Case Western Reserve University

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Plenary Session I: "Empathy"**
Facilitator
Zoë Renee Lapin, Community Activist



10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Plenary Session I: “Empathy” (continued)

Presenters

Jacqueline Acho, President, The Acho Group

Joy R. Bostic, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies
Case Western Reserve University

Timothy Black, Associate Professor, Sociology Department
Case Western Reserve University

Damian Calvert, Returning Citizen & Re-Entry Advocate, Cleveland, Ohio

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Plenary Session II: “Social Justice”

Facilitator

Maxie Jackson III, Station Manager, 90.3 WCPN ideastream®

Presenters

Ayesha Bell Hardaway, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Law
Case Western Reserve University

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Assistant Professor,
Center for African American Studies, Princeton University

Carol A. Apaestegui, Peruvian Citizen and Former Undocumented Child,
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

Plenary Session III: “Social Transformation”

Facilitator

Bakari Kitwana, Journalist, Author & Activist

Presenters

Nancy Marcus, Founding Constitutional Law Professor
Indiana Tech Law School

Yanela Sims, Northern Ohio Coordinator, SEIU Local 1

Julia Shearson, Executive Director, CAIR-Ohio, Cleveland Chapter

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Break

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Closing Keynote: Performance-Talk

Rebel Diaz, Hip-Hop Artists & Community Activists

Facilitator

Daniel Gray-Kontar, Poet, Rapper, Journalist, Educator, Youth Mentor

Case Western Reserve University Social Justice Institute

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Rhonda Y. Williams

INSTITUTE STAFF

Lisa Kollins, Institute Administrator

Misty Luminais, Research Associate and Program Coordinator, "Voicing & Action Project"

Allison R. George, Program Assistant & Coordinator

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Contact the Social Justice Institute at www.case.edu/socialjustice, socialjustice@case.edu, or 216-368-7568 for more information, or to donate. Remember, social justice work needs resources too!



OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ANGELA Y. DAVIS

Through her activism and scholarship over the last decades, Angela Y. Davis has been deeply involved in our nation's quest for social justice. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender equality. She is Distinguished Professor Emerita of History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies at UC Santa Cruz and the author of nine books, including her most recent book of essays called *The Meaning of Freedom*.

In recent years a persistent theme of her work has been the range of social problems associated with incarceration and the generalized criminalization of those communities that are most affected by poverty and racial discrimination. She draws upon her own experiences in the early seventies as a person who spent eighteen months in jail and on trial, after being placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List."

She is a founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex. Internationally, she is affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization based in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison.

Having helped to popularize the notion of a "prison industrial complex," she now urges her audiences to think seriously about the future possibility of a world without prisons and to help forge a 21st century abolitionist movement.

FACILITATOR

RHONDA Y. WILLIAMS

Rhonda Y. Williams is an associate professor in the History Department at Case Western Reserve University. She is the founder and director of the Social Justice Institute at CWRU, and the founder and director of CWRU's Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Studies. She earned her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, and is the author of *Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20th Century* (2015) and the award-winning *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles against Urban Inequality* (2004). "Dr. Rhonda" is also the author of numerous essays, is co-editor of the *Justice, Power, and Politics* book series with University of North Carolina Press, and co-editor of *Women, Transnationalism, and Human Rights*, a special issue of the *Radical History Review* (2008) and *Teaching the American Civil Rights Movement* (2002).

As a researcher, teacher, and scholar-activist, Dr. Rhonda has worked to broker understanding of issues regarding marginalization, inequalities, and activism. She has delivered community presentations to the Congressional Emerson Hunger Fellows on the history of institutional racism and given numerous lectures, including at the Smithsonian Institution and the Woodrow Wilson Center in D.C. Currently, in Cleveland, Dr. Rhonda has been engaged in local community efforts for police reform, including as a founding member of the Collaborative for a Safe, Fair and Just Cleveland, the Cleveland 8, and most recently as a member of the newly established Cleveland Community Police Commission, established as a result of the 2015 Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the U.S. Department of Justice.

PLENARY: "EMPATHY"

ZOË RENEE LAPIN (FACILITATOR)

Zoë Renee Lapin is an activist and disc jockey, and has worked as a photographer and blogger. According to ClevelandMagazine.com, Zoë Renee was described as one of the "Most Interesting People 2015." She spins as DJ Saint for the annual Dancin' in the Streets fundraiser for the AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland, and is "a powerful community voice by advocating for transgender and LGBT rights." She started Queerland, an open mic night, at Root Cafe in Lakewood, Ohio.

JACQUELINE ACHO

Jackie Acho is President of The Acho Group, a consulting firm which helps leaders achieve innovation with soul. She has helped clients with strategy, innovation, leadership, and empathy for more than 20 years, including as a Partner at McKinsey & Company. Jackie's 2014 TEDx talk sums it all up.

She has a Ph.D. in chemistry from MIT and a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Michigan. Jackie was one of the "top 40 under 40" in Crain's Cleveland Business Magazine and "one of the 500 most influential women in Northeast Ohio" in Northern Ohio Live magazine. Jackie's Board and community service supports inclusive innovation, e.g., Jumpstart, Inc., The Urban League of Greater Cleveland, The National Inventors Hall of Fame, CWRU Technology Commercialization Steering Committee, and *Beyond Silicon Valley: Growing Entrepreneurship in Transitioning Economies*. She lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio with her husband, John LeMay, and their children, Sophie (13) and Grant (11).

JOY R. BOSTIC

Joy R. Bostic is an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Case Western Reserve University and a program faculty member of CWRU's Women's and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies programs. Her teaching and scholarship focus on such areas as African American religion and culture; religion, healing, and social justice; and womanist/feminist theories in religion. She is the author of *African American Female Mysticism: Nineteenth-Century Religious Activism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013) and co-editor of the Souls Journal special issue "Black Religion and Spirituality: Creativity, Adaptation, and Resistance" (Taylor and Francis, 2014).

Professor Bostic is an ordained Christian minister and is active with the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race. She is a former coordinator of the Barnard Columbia Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence Support Center and served as the executive director of the African American Task Force on Violence Against Women, a community-based organization in Central Harlem. Currently, she is a member of the leadership team for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion's upcoming colloquy "Pedagogies of Community Engagement."





TIMOTHY BLACK

Timothy Black is associate professor of Sociology and faculty affiliate of the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the author of *When a Heart Turns Rock Solid: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets* (2009, Pantheon and 2010, Vintage Books). The book was named a best book of 2009 by the Washington Post, and won the 2011 Mirra Komarovsky book award given by the Eastern Sociological Society, the 2010 book award given by the Association for Humanist Sociology, and was named honorable mention for the Puerto Rican Studies Association's annual book award in 2010. Black is a co-author with Mary Patrice Erdmans of the recent book, *On Becoming a Teen Mom: Life Before Pregnancy* (2015, University of California Press). The book recently won the Betty & Alfred McClung Lee book award.

Black is currently working on a book on low-income fathers based on a decade of research in Connecticut. He has also launched a research program in Cleveland that focuses on the transition of fathers from prison to civilian life.

DAMIAN CALVERT

Damian Calvert was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, and has made Cleveland his home for the past five years. He currently works for the City of Cleveland. Damian's self-narrative is drawn from his 18 & 1/2 years of true-life experience while serving time in prison. While some may shy away from revealing this fact about their lives, Damian highlights it as a lesson learned for those in or on the cusp of facing the same fate. During his time incarcerated, Damian founded and was the inaugural president of the prison's NAACP chapter; became a certified American Red Cross instructor; served as management director of the Junior Chamber of Commerce; facilitated various educational workshops; mentored at-risk adolescents who came into the facility from surrounding counties through the Heart-to-Heart Program; and, most notably, wrote, proposed and received authorization to facilitate the Reentry Premier Program, which helped men prepare for successful transition back into their respective communities.

Since his release, Damian has taken courses toward a B.S. in Non-Profit Administration from Cleveland State University. He holds a number of collegiate level program certificates in Business, Hospitality, and Retail Administration from Ashland University. He worked for a year as a movement builder organizer around issues of economic and social justice. Damian believes that we all tell stories in the way we live our lives and that these stories can serve as tools to connect, heal, and transmit our truths in ways that add dignity and value. Damian is currently a research associate on a project located at the Community Based Corrections Facility in Cleveland. He works with sociologist Timothy Black, from Case Western Reserve University, whom he met at the last SJI Think Tank in 2013.



PLENARY: "SOCIAL JUSTICE"

MAXIE JACKSON III (FACILITATOR)

In 2014, Maxie C. Jackson III became Station Manager for 90.3 WCPN/ideastream®. Jackson has more than 20 years management and programming experience in radio, television and live events. Most recently, he was President and CEO for the National Federation of Community Broadcasters. He also served as Senior Director, Program Development for New York Public Radio (WNYC) and Radio Program Director for WETA in Washington, DC.

AYESHA BELL HARDAWAY

Ayesha Bell Hardaway is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic. As a member of the faculty, Professor Hardaway teaches in the Health Law and Civil Litigation clinics. She supervises students as they represent clients in disability, guardianship, emergency mental health commitment, housing, and employment related cases. In addition to her scholarship interests in health law and civil litigation, Hardaway also researches and writes about the intersection of race and the law.

Prior to joining the law school faculty, Professor Hardaway practiced in the Litigation Department of Tucker Ellis LLP. Her six years at the firm were devoted to defending major electrical, automotive and pharmaceutical manufacturers during all phases of litigation as trial counsel and National Coordinating Counsel. Hardaway represented those clients in state and federal courts throughout the country. Before her time at Tucker Ellis LLP, Professor Hardaway was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Cuyahoga County and handled a variety of criminal matters, including juvenile delinquencies and general felonies.

KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor's research looks at the relationship between private institutions and government agencies in the formation of United States housing policy in the 1960s and 1970s and its effects in African American communities. More broadly, Taylor is concerned with capital's imprint on public policy making in the United States and the necessary limits, constraints and consequences that are produced as a result. She is currently working on a manuscript under contract with the University of North Carolina Press titled *Race for Profit: Black Housing and the Urban Crisis in the 1970s*.

Taylor is also interested in Black insurgency and other Black politics. She has just completed a manuscript titled *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* with Haymarket Books, available in January of 2016. Taylor's writing has been published in *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society*, *Jacobin*, *New Politics*, *The Black Commentator*, *Black Agenda Report*, *Ms.*, and other publications. Multiple fellowships, grants and other awards including from the Ford Foundation and the Lannan Foundation have supported Taylor's work.

Taylor received her PhD in African American Studies at Northwestern University in 2013 and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University.



CAROL A. APAESTEGUI

Carol A. Apaestegui is a 27-year-old Peruvian citizen and currently resides in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. When she was 5 years old, her family moved to Bolivia and after 8 years they moved to the United States. Her family entered the country in 2001 with a tourist/business visa with hopes of being able to change it to a student or work visa shortly after. However, that did not occur and within a few months, her family became undocumented and remained that way for many years. Her sister, who stayed in Bolivia to finish college, later applied for a visa that was denied. She has not seen her sister in person in 14 years.

Apaestegui graduated from high school in 2006 and earned a Bachelor's degree in Marketing and a Minor in Corporate Communications in 2010. Still undocumented and limited in employment opportunities, she began working in a Mexican restaurant. When President Barack Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), she says, "My life changed." Her story exposes the struggles of immigration and undocumented status in the United States, as well as the impact of DACA, a new policy created by President Obama and enacted in 2012. Currently, she works in the Marketing department of a national homebuilder.

PLENARY: "SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION"

BAKARI KITWANA (FACILITATOR)

Bakari Kitwana is a journalist, activist and political analyst whose commentary on politics and youth culture have been seen on the CNN, FOX News (The O'Reilly Factor), C-Span, PBS (The Tavis Smiley Show) and heard on NPR. He's currently Senior Media Fellow at the Harvard Law based think tank, The Jamestown Project, and the CEO of Rap Sessions: Community Dialogues on Hip-Hop, which conducts town hall meetings around the country on difficult dialogues facing the hip-hop generation. An active writer, his essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Village Voice*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Newsday*, *Savoy* and the *Progressive*.

His 2002 book *The Hip-Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture*, which focuses on young Blacks born after the Civil Rights Movement, has been adopted as a course book in classrooms at over 100 colleges and universities. Kitwana published his first book, *The Rap on Gangsta Rap*, in 1994. Since then he's been the Editorial Director of Third World Press, Executive Editor of the hip-hop magazine *The Source*, and co-founder the first ever National Hip-Hop Political Convention, which brought over 4,000 young people to Newark in 2004 to create and endorse a political agenda for the hip-hop generation.

A native of Long Island, NY, Kitwana holds a B.A. and two Masters degrees (in English and Teaching) from the University of Rochester. The author of four books, his 2012 *Hip-Hop Activism in the Obama Era* (Third World Press) is his most recent work.



NANCY MARCUS

Nancy Marcus, a graduate of and former adjunct law professor at Case Western Reserve University Law School, is the founding constitutional law professor at Indiana Tech Law School. In addition to her J.D. from CWRU Law School, Marcus earned an LL.M. and an S.J.D. from University of Wisconsin Law School. She is a published scholar with a number of widely cited academic articles on LGBT legal issues. Her pending scholarship includes an article on bisexual erasure that will be published in the Michigan *Journal of Gender and Law* this fall, an article on racial justice and police reform that will be published in the *Howard Law Journal* in 2016, and a book chapter on the constitutional roots of bankruptcy law.

Marcus has been an LGBT-rights activist throughout her career, and holds a number of board and leadership positions, including her current service as the Chair of the American Bar Association's Civil Rights Litigation Section's LGBT-Rights Subcommittee; as a Board Member of the Northeastern Indiana Diversity Library; as a Board Member of the Northeastern Indiana Positive Resource Connection; and as one of the founders of the first ever national organization for bisexual lawyers, law professors and law students: BiLaw. Previous to her academic career, her legal career included working for several nonprofit organizations, and practicing as a constitutional, civil rights, and public interest lawyer. She has also clerked for the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Wisconsin Court of Appeals.

YANELA SIMS

Yanela Sims is the Northern Ohio Coordinator for Service Employees International Union Local 1. Sims has worked for the union for 13 years, including three in her current position. Her previous position with the union was as a grievance representative, being promoted to that position within one year after becoming an organizer for Local 1. As a part of her position of Northern Ohio Coordinator, Sims oversees the union's operations in Cleveland and its suburbs, along with Akron and Toledo, and actively works to engage both the members of the union and the wider community on an everyday basis, aggressively striving to achieve the union's goals in Northern Ohio. She also serves as a Trustee of the organization's health and welfare fund.

SEIU Local 1 unites nearly 50,000 workers in 11 cities in six states across the Midwest. SEIU Local 1 represents janitors, security officers, maintenance employees, food service workers, and others. In Northern Ohio, the union represents 2,500 workers, predominantly janitors and other building service workers. The members work mainly in commercial office buildings, and also service ballparks, stadiums and educational institutions in downtown Cleveland, and across Northern Ohio. The organization works with major building service contractors in the state and is continually working to organize members to help them experience the union difference.

Prior to joining Local 1, Sims worked in various positions, among them in janitorial services for Cleveland area hotels. She is a lifelong Clevelander and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ursuline College. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she lives in Cleveland with her husband and five year old daughter.



JULIA SHEARSON

Julia Shearson has been serving for the past thirteen years as the Executive Director of the Cleveland Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR is the largest Muslim civil rights advocacy organization in the United States. Shearson received her Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Languages and Cultures from Columbia University in New York City, a Master's in Linguistics from Ohio University, and a Master's in Middle East Studies from Harvard University.

While at CAIR, Shearson's work has centered on civil rights advocacy, educational outreach, and media and public relations. She helps ensure that Muslims exercise their civil rights, and has been a vocal critic of post-9/11 policies that have eroded civil liberties. Shearson has fought against excessive government secrecy, unwarranted surveillance, racial profiling, and other abridgements of the liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Her seven-year legal battle against the Department of Homeland Security over the terrorist watch list in *Shearson v. DHS* helped advance the fundamental right of privacy for all Americans. The case, which started when Shearson was handcuffed and detained at the US Canadian Border in 2006, set legal precedent in the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals under the Privacy Act of 1974.

Shearson has worked to unite diverse communities through efforts under the auspices of the Rights Working Group and the Greater Cleveland Civil and Human Rights Coalition. In 2013, she served as the co-chair of an event called "Women of Faith: Voices Against Violence," a collaboration of more than 50 organizations working to raise awareness about violence against women. For many years, Shearson has worked to help improve police-community relations, and she is actively engaged in current police reform efforts in Cleveland. Shearson is a founding member of the Collaborative for a Safe, Fair and Just Cleveland and the Cleveland 8.

CLOSING KEYNOTE: PERFORMANCE-TALK

REBEL DIAZ

Fronted by MC's Rodstarz and MC/Producer G1, Rebel Diaz shows us the true global power of Hip-Hop. After first performing at an immigrant rights march in New York City in 2006 in front of a half million people, the bilingual crew has taken the international community by storm with their explosive live shows. With influences ranging from Chicago house to South American folk, Rebel Diaz combines classic boom bap tradition with Hip-Hop's global impact.

The group's versatility has allowed for them to share the stage with the likes of Common, Mos Def, and Public Enemy, while feeling right at home with acts like Rage Against the Machine and Calle 13. Multiple tours throughout Europe and Latin America have only solidified their international appeal.

With roots in Chicago, and now based in the South Bronx, NY, Rebel Diaz has also piqued the interest of the academic community with their poignant social commentary and energetic performances. They have spent the last eight years visiting dozens of colleges and universities, facilitating workshops, speaking on panels, and performing at national conferences. Building on this growing network of positive young people in Hip-Hop, the group opened a community arts center in the South Bronx in 2008, the Rebel Diaz Arts Collective (RDACBX). On the heels of Rebel Diaz's critically acclaimed Otro Guerrillero mixtape series, and 2011s #Occupy The Airwaves mixtape, *The Radical Dilemma* is their latest album.

DANIEL GRAY-KONTAR (FACILITATOR)

Daniel Gray-Kontar is a poet, rapper, journalist, educator, and youth mentor. His poetry has appeared in such anthologies as *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam* (Three Rivers Press), *Spirit and Flame: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry* (Syracuse University Press), and on the sound recording *Grand Slam: The Best of the National Poetry Slam, Volume One* (Mouth Almighty Records). Kontar is also the 1994 National Poetry Slam co-champion.

In 2008, performing under the moniker Replife, Kontar released his first full-length album titled *The Unclosed Mind* (Futuristica Music). He has performed on over 30 international sound recordings. Kontar’s music and social criticism has appeared in such magazines as *The Source*, *The Village Voice*, *Wax Poetics*, and *XLR8R*. He is the former editor and publisher of the underground monthly magazine, *Urban Dialect*.

Gray-Kontar is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Berkeley’s department of Language, Literacy, Society and Culture, and is the current Chair of the Department of Literary Arts at the Cleveland School of the Arts.

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Applications for research grants in the field of social justice are available each year for undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members. The Social Justice Institute is committed to supporting and promoting alliance-based social justice research, scholarship and teaching. Visit Case.edu/SocialJustice for more information.



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