

ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL & SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION

A SERIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND POLICY SYMPOSIUMS MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Framing African-Descent Identities Through a Human Rights Lens

SYMPOSIUM SERIES 1: December 2, 2020 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST

The historical and contemporary identities of people of African descent in Canada affect their health, social and economic well-being, and development. This first event in this three-part series will explore the effect of oppression based on “race” as it relates to identity, power, language, and well-being. Presenters will expose and discuss research findings on mental health, social, and economic costs of “race-based” oppression. Human rights advocates, policy, and community leaders will give voice to current challenges.

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



David Arnot is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, a former Senior Crown Prosecutor, and a Judge for the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan. He has been seconded from the Court three times. Firstly, he served as Director General of Aboriginal Justice Directorate for Justice Canada. Secondly, to be Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan. And thirdly, to be Chief Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission – a role he remains in to this day.



Darrell Seib is the Director of Systemic Initiatives for the Saskatchewan Rights Commission. For the past 8 years, he has served the Commission as a human rights advocate, providing programmatic direction and public relations strategy, establishing education and information services, and launching several large-scale initiatives that have created systemic change.



Dr. Juliana West is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education and Social Work in Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, British Columbia. She is the co-author of *Challenging Oppression and Confronting Privilege: A Critical Approach to Anti-Oppressive and Anti-Privilege Theory and Practice*, 3rd ed. (2018).



Dr. Christine Lwanga is a social worker with interest in human rights and human centered practice promoting health, social and economic development. Her work is framed in post-modernism and critical social theory, which support dialectical analysis and support respect of diversity. She is currently an Associate Post-Doctoral Fellow in Human Rights, Social Policy & Development at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba.



Christine Soon works in the Social Determinants of Health Division in the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Equity at the Public Health Agency of Canada, where she manages community-based grants and contributions programs focused on promoting mental health among Black communities in Canada. She is passionate about advancing health equity and improving the conditions in which we live, learn, work and play, particularly for groups and communities that experience discrimination and exclusion.

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER:



Dr. Amanuel Elias is a Research Fellow at Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship & Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia. His interdisciplinary research focuses on race relations, ethnic inequalities and cultural diversity. Dr. Elias received a Ph.D. in economics from Deakin University, and has several peer-reviewed publications on the economics of racism, intercultural dialogue, and ethnic health inequalities in Australia.



Ras Munyiga Nosakheri & Pamela Brown

Ras Munyiga was involved in the Black liberation movement of the 1970s. Most recently, he has been involved in the African Canadian and American human rights community initiatives.

Pamela Brown was in Windsor, Ontario, Pamela is a 12th generation Canadian who can trace her ancestry to the Underground Railway. Her early experiences with segregation, discrimination and racism, led her to join various Civil Right movements to fight for social justice and equalities, a fight Pamela continues today.



Dr. Michael Baffoe is professor at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. He is a community leader and an international scholar in immigration, settlement and integration. He has been involved in community organizing work with several immigrant and refugee organizations across Canada for over twenty years, including a mentoring program providing positive role models to Black children growing up single-parent families in Montreal.



David Schimpky is Director of Secretariat with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, an organization that acts as a bridge between UNESCO; Canadian federal, provincial, and municipal governments; and Canadian civil society. The Commission has been actively promoting the UN International Decade for People of African Descent. Educated at Brock University and Simon Fraser University, David comes from a background in culture and the arts, including nearly 20 years working with the publishing industry.



Dr. Jean-Pierre Corbeil is an Assistant Director in the Diversity and Sociocultural Statistics Division and is in charge of the Centre for Ethnocultural, Language and Immigration statistics at Statistics Canada. He has been studying language, ethnocultural and diversity characteristics and dynamics in Canada for over 25 years. His fields of interest are, among others, immigration, ethnocultural and language categorisations and social representations in intergroup relations.

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