

ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL & SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION

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

Recognizing & Overcoming Systemic Oppression: Advancing Health, Social And Economic Justice Together

SYMPOSIUM SERIES 3: February 18, 2021 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST

Research and news reports have exposed some similarities in the experiences of Indigenous People and African-descent Canadians with respect to oppression from policing and other institutions in the justice system. This symposium will expose the underlying root causes of systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and internalized oppression/domination due to perceived "race," ethnic, and cultural differences. This symposium will also explore human rights based policies, practice models, and strategies that can support healing and promote sustained health, social, and economic justice for all Canadians at a practical level.

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



Dr. Michael Yellow Bird, is Dean and professor of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba. He is an enrolled member of the MHA Nation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara) in North Dakota. His research focuses on the effects of colonization and methods of decolonization, ancestral health, intermittent fasting, Indigenous mindfulness, neurodecolonization, mindful decolonization, and the cultural significance of Rez dogs.



Dr. Michael Benarroch became President of the University of Manitoba on July 1, 2020. He is a Manitoban and a former Dean of the I.H. Asper School of Business (2011-2017), and former Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at Ryerson University (2017-2020). Dr. Benarroch co-chaired Ryerson's Truth and Reconciliation Implementation Committee and is an active advocate for the advancement of Indigenous engagement and reconciliation.



David Schimpky is Director of Secretariat with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. 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. Shin Gyonggu has been working with the Gwangju City Hall as a senior advisor for human rights and international affairs since 2015. He is a Professor Emeritus of Chonnam National University, where he taught for 31 years and was chosen as a Fulbright scholar in 1995. His research mostly focused on justice in language teaching. He is a volunteer director of the Gwangju International Center (GIC) that organizes the World Human Rights Cities Forums.



Dr. Trish Garner (they/them/theirs), Executive Director, Research and Policy at the British Columbia Human Rights Commission (BCOHR), is a tea-swilling Brit with a passion for social justice. Having gained their experience at the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and working with Raise the Rates, an anti-poverty group based in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, they led the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition for eight years before joining BCOHR.



Minister Audrey Gordon is the MLA for Southdale and serves as Minister of Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery since January 5, 2021. Prior to this, she served as Director of Strategic Initiatives with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Home Care Program, which provides services to 15,000 clients at any one time and employs 4,500 staff. She also worked for the Manitoba Government for 25 years, and held positions in several government departments including Ministries of Health, Labour and Immigration and Director of the Multiculturalism Secretariat.



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. Michael Baffoe, Professor and Ph.D committee chair 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.



Dr. Christine Lwanga is a social worker with interest in human rights research, policy and practice focused on promoting health, social and economic development. Her work is framed in post-modernism's dialectical analyses and critical social theory as strategies to protect human rights and promote respect of diversity. She is an Associate Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba.



Dr. Mohammad N. Khan is an assistant professor of Social Work at the University of Manitoba. His research focuses on economic justice for vulnerable populations. He has been involved in anti-poverty advocacy and is engaged in studying the economic well-being of (im)migrants in Canada.



Dr. Taiwo Afolabi, assistant professor, University of Regina, Saskatchewan, is an applied theatre practitioner with a decade of experience working across a variety of creative and community contexts in over dozen countries across four continents. He is also the founding artistic director of Theatre Emissary International, Nigeria and a research assistant in University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

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