

**Day of Dialogue: Complicating Race
November 8, 2018
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**

8:30-9:30 am	Opening Breakfast and Welcome: enjoy a pancake 'sundae bar' with Dr. Christine Condaris	Venable Gym
9:45-11:45 am	<u>WORKSHOPS</u> <i>(participants choose one workshop to attend)</i> Power Up: Art as Action, Art as Dialogue with Melanie Mowinski A Short History of Anti-Immigrant Feeling in the United States with Dr. Ely Janis Multiracial Identity: Check all that Apply with Kayla Hollins Though he always held true to his cadence and rhymes Even great Dr. Seuss could be racist at times: A Participatory Discussion with Dr. Dale Fink Reflections on a Radical: Grace Lee Boggs, Solidarity, and Political Revolution with Dr. Chris MacDonald-Dennis, Dr. Jenna Sciuto	Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Sullivan Lounge
12:00-1:45 pm	Mix it Up Lunch Conversations With Dr. Kerri Leyda Nicoll	Venable gym
2:00-4:00 pm	<u>WORKSHOPS</u> <i>(participants choose one workshop to attend)</i> Race, Standardized Testing, and Admissions with Dean Gina Puc and Kayla Hollins Afrofuturism: A Literary Exploration of a Moving Genre (and a creative writing engagement) with Dr. Caren Beilin Race, Ethnicity, and Language: Stigma, Prestige, and Power with Dean Emily Alling Why Representation Matters - a conversation about the role of museums with Michelle Daly Agency for People of Color in Entertainment Media with Michael Obasohan & Jamal Ahamad	Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Bowman Hall Gallery 51 Sullivan Lounge
4:15-5:00 pm	Closing Discussions	Bowman 2 nd fl. Lobby
6:00 pm	FYE Student Reception	Campus Center Gym
7:00 pm	The Michael and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture with Ta-Nehisi Coates	Campus Center Gym

All events are subject to change

WORKSHOPS

Power Up: Art as Action, Art as Dialogue

Melanie Mowinski, Associate Professor, Visual Arts

Join students in Art 235 Printmaking to make postcards, posters and other text-based art using vintage metal and wood type, rubber stamps and stencils. Come with positive statements and quotes that cultivate and encourage liberty and justice for all.

A Short History of Anti-Immigrant Feeling in the United States

Dr. Ely Janis, Associate Professor, History

In this workshop, we will examine the long history of anti-immigrant feeling in the United States. What negative stereotypes were assigned to different immigrant groups? How did these stereotypes change over time? What does this history tell us about immigration today?

Multiracial Identity: Check all that Apply

Kayla Hollins, Associate Director of Admissions

"You're not Black enough." "Why do you talk so White?" "Mixed race babies are so cute and exotic."

As multiracial individuals, the idea of race can be confusing. This session will explore what it means to be multiracial or mixed race in general and on a college campus. Participants will explore patterns of multiracial identity, share stories, and ultimately discuss how their backgrounds make them who they are.

Though he always held true to his cadence and rhymes/Even great Dr. Seuss could be racist at times:

A Participatory Discussion

Dr. Dale Fink, Professor, Education

This participatory discussion will begin with Dr. Seuss but will not be confined to children's literature. How do we respond to authors, artists, or musicians who sometimes use their talents to demean others? There were protests in Springfield, MA last year when the new Dr. Seuss museum opened—due to his stereotyped caricatures of Asians in some of his work. How do we as a society support free expression within the arts and at the same time promote equality, dignity, and justice? Bring your ideas or examples of artists or performers you have questions about. This session will be more about asking questions than about supplying definitive answers.

Reflections on a Radical: Grace Lee Boggs, Solidarity, and Political Revolution

Dr. Chris MacDonald-Dennis, Chief Diversity Officer and Dr. Jenna Sciuto, Assistant Professor, English/Communications

Come watch the documentary film *AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY: THE EVOLUTION OF GRACE LEE BOGGS* and learn about Grace Lee Boggs, writer, activist, and philosopher – who was rooted for more than 70 years in the Black freedom struggle. Boggs's lifetime of vital thinking and action, traversing the major U.S. social movements of the last century, from labor to civil rights, to Black Power, feminism, the Asian American and environmental justice movements and beyond, allow us to think about how we might broaden our own definitions of liberation and solidarity. Boggs's constantly evolving strategy—her willingness to re-evaluate and change tactics in relation to the world shifting around her—and her commitment to freedom has much to teach us all.

Race, Standardized Testing, and Admissions

Gina Puc, Dean of Enrollment Management and Community Relations and Kayla Hollins, Assistant Director of Admissions

How did we get here? Join the discussion about current admissions committee best practices and trends. You'll be the decision maker as we discuss the intersectionality of race, ethnicity and gender in college admission decisions against a backdrop of cognitive and cultural bias.

Afrofuturism: A Literary Exploration of a Moving Genre (and a creative writing engagement)

Dr. Caren Beilin, Assistant Professor English/Communications

Black Panther. Janelle Monae's *Dirty Computer*. Serena Williams in a catsuit. Afrofuturism is an exciting genre in our culture. Where does it come from? What are its uses, modes, and technics? Some locate its origins in the psychiatrist and theorist Frantz Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952), where he wrote: "...in no way should I dedicate myself to the revival of an unjustly unrecognized Negro civilization. I will not make myself the man of any past. I do not want to exalt the past at the expense of my present and future..." If Afrofuturism is a genre seeking to speculate radically altered African futures, how do practitioners of the form complicate this very mission? Samuel Delany (one of Afrofuturism's key contemporary practitioners) writes characters of many different races. Octavia Butler (a most celebrated practitioner) wrote futures built on painful, even dreadful compromise. And who can write Afrofuturism? What does it mean to write from a particular racial identity? In this workshop, we will tour the literary history of this highly changeable genre and write our own stories using a prompt that asks us to identify how we are identified, and to borrow techniques of Afrofuturism to complicate that.

Race, Ethnicity, and Language: Stigma, Prestige, and Power

Emily Alling, Associate Dean for Library Services

You speak a dialect. Yes, you! Linguists know that all dialects are equally grammatical and equally legitimate. But, in any given community, some dialects are clearly more equal than others. In this workshop, we'll examine the intersection of language and identity with a focus on race and ethnicity. After a brief discussion of key linguistic concepts, we'll consider how prestige and stigma are associated with various languages and dialects in different contexts. Cases may include African-American English, the status of Spanish in the United States, the history and prognosis of Native languages in the Americas, and linguistic aspects of the oppression experienced by ethnic minority groups around the world. Participants will have a chance to analyze their own dialects and reflect upon how the way they speak has affected their experiences.

Why Representation Matters: A conversation about the role of museums

Michelle Daly, fine artist and Director of Berkshire Cultural Resource Center

BCRC director Michelle Daly will lead the group in a conversation that explores how artists and art institutions are responding to the colonial legacy of the museum. Using recent controversies at the Walker Museum (Sam Durant's *Scaffold*) and the Whitney Biennial (Dana Schutz's *Open Casket*) as our jumping off point – we will discuss how contemporary art museums and arts institutions are grappling with these questions. While also considering how an expanded understanding of art, which considers the cultural position of the artist, moves us away from the traditional neocolonial structures of (western) art history.

Agency for People of Color in Entertainment Media

Michael Obasohan & Jamal Ahamad

In entertainment media people of color are usually never viewed as the hero. Participants will become aware of the lack of agency that people of color possess within entertainment media. We will discuss its impact on race relations within ourselves and within society. During this session, we will draw from many films such as *Get Out*, *Black Panther*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*. We will deep dive into character choice, power, oppression, colorism, and gender roles and its impact on society. Participants will be able to identify these choices within each film and dialogue action steps to successfully shine light on people of color in entertainment media.

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