

Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC)
Conversation Series
MONDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2019 | 5:30 PM

Room 1108, Mona Campbell Building
1459 LeMarchant Street
Dalhousie University

PANEL DISCUSSION AND WORKSHOP ON: 'Policing Black Lives: Is this too much Noise about Nothing?' (1)

This is the first in our two-part series of discussions and interactive workshops on Policing Black Lives. This panel discussion seeks to interrogate how we look at, define and contribute to discussions on the Policing of Black Lives. Are Black Lives Policed? How, Where and When are Black Lives Policed? Is there one way of looking at and understanding the Policing of Black Lives? What are the effects of the Policing of Black Lives? Are the effects short-lived or enduring? Our panellists will address several questions revolving around the Policing of Black Lives and Bodies within their areas of experience, association and research.

An interactive action-oriented workshop facilitated by panellists follows the panel discussion.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to help us plan our food order.

Access is provided to distance students.

Contact: ifeyinwa.mbakogu@dal.ca Chair of the Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC)

This event is brought to you by the Diversity and Equity Committee (DEC) of the School of Social Work, Dalhousie University.



Dr. Timothy Bryan is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. His primary research interests involve the policing of hate crime, race and racism, Canadian multiculturalism and criminal justice in Canada. Dr. Bryan's current research examines the policing of hate crime by municipal police services, particularly the way commitments to racial and cultural diversity, and efforts to improve police-community relations inform the intervention strategies of police. Dr. Bryan has conducted policy research for the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police on law enforcement efforts to combat hate crime in Ontario, and has presented his findings to municipal police services in Ontario.

Topic: The paradoxes of police reform and police efforts to protect communities from hate crime in the midst of ongoing anti-black racism.



DeRico Symonds, is currently employed full time with Halifax Regional Municipality as a Program Manager with the Youth Advocate Program, Part-time with Mount Saint Vincent University as Black Student Support Coordinator & Part-time with the Mi'k Maw Native Friendship Centre in their Family Support Program. DeRico is Co-founder of Future Roots Halifax, a social enterprise employing young people ages 13-17 in Halifax North end. In 2016 DeRico began an annual campaign titled "The Give BACK" to raise money for families across HRM who have difficulty providing a Christmas meal to their family. DeRico Symonds holds an undergraduate degree in Child & Youth Study (2012), and completed a MEd in Counselling through Acadia University (2018).

Topic: "Why are we debating racism?"



Kate Macdonald was born and raised in Halifax, NS. She studied Performance Acting at Ryerson University in Toronto, ON. At the end of 2016 with the election of Donald Trump she knew her reaction had to be radical. Out of this desire for making change she Founded and Co - Created The Magic Project. Additionally, she works as a Youth Programmer and Facilitator. She also does facilitation and programming for non-for-profit organizations in multiple cities across Canada. She hopes to continue hosting workshops, community discussions and empowering youth and community with honesty. Kate currently works as an Outreach and Education Coordinator at South House Sexual Health and Gender Resource Centre on Dalhousie Campus.

Topic: Policing African Nova Scotian communities.



R. Connor Smithersmapp, is the former Atlantic Regional Director of the National Council of Visible Minorities in the Public Service, a former Director with Equity Watch, a Founding member of Racism-Free Transit Halifax, and the Principle of Nile Consulting. A lawyer by profession, Connor has worked with the law firm Ross, Barrett and Scott, the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia and practiced criminal law with Nova Scotia Legal Aid. He has consulted for the City of Halifax, the Law Reform and the Human Rights Commissions of Nova Scotia and is a life-long resident of the North End of Halifax.

Topic: Civilian oversight, police accountability and how white supremacy employs the power of the state to control Black bodies.



Bria Symonds B.A Women Studies/Family Studies (MSVU), is a professional student in her last year of the Social Work program at Dalhousie University. Bria is an African Nova Scotian community advocate who works on many community projects. She has also conducted research around Black Feminism and Racial factors impacting the Achievement Gap in schools. Bria hopes to further her Social Work Education and continue to work in marginalized communities.

Topic: Policing in the education system.



JJ Wilson obtained his B.A. in sociology with a minor in philosophy in May 2017. Following this degree, he took a year off school to work with underprivileged youth in a place of safety and realized his passion for social justice and working with marginalized populations. JJ is now in his second year of the Social Work program at Dalhousie with plans to graduate in May and further his Social Work education. JJ works closely with youth from his African Nova Scotian community by going into schools and talking about the importance of education with them. JJ plans to continue this advocacy work in the future.

Topic: Policing and the wellbeing of African Canadians.



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