

ENGAGING THE WORLD:

Leading the Conversation on the Significance of Race

2020-2021

Special thanks to our campus partners:

Cross-Cultural Center

Escalette Permanent Art Collection

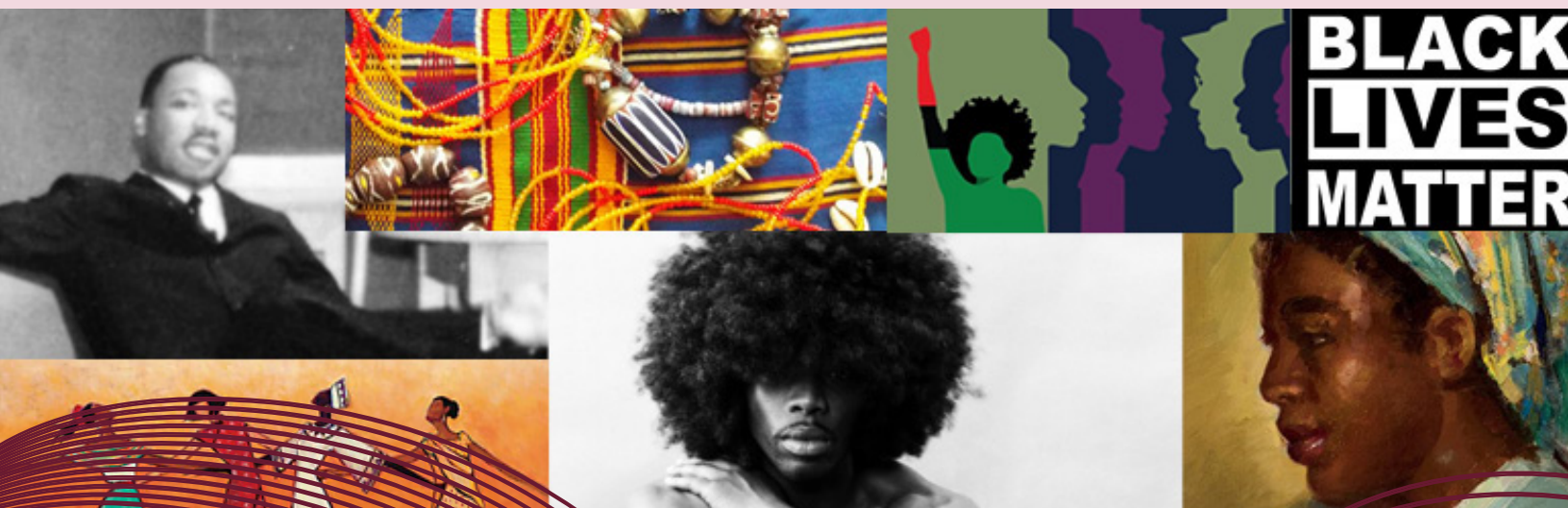
Fish Interfaith Center

Fowler School of Law and Dean Matt Parlow

Guggenheim Gallery

Academic Service Learning

The Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and Dr. Marilyn Harran



ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on the Significance of Race Events

Wilkinson College is committed to leading the conversation on issues of humanity, unity, and justice. As such, the college has undertaken, semester-long examinations of key societal issues that began in 2020–2021 with the Significance of Race. These interdisciplinary, campus-wide conversations promote thoughtful dialogue; mindful reflection; social tolerance; awareness and respect; peace and kindness. Highlighted are events from the virtual lecture series.

The Engaging the World website has a podcast series associated with these events, and recordings of many presentations. <https://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/about/events/engaging-world.aspx>

Turning Anguish to Purpose

Jimmie C. Gardner, inspirational/motivational speaker, youth mentor, wrongful conviction and judicial reform advocate and Professor Rozell



“Prexy” Nesbitt, educator, activist, and speaker on Africa, foreign policy, and racism sat down to discuss their commitment to combating racial injustice.

A Musical Family Tree with Dr. Monique Charles

Dr. Monique Charles spoke on her research which combined her interests in music, spirituality, sociology and the African Diaspora. Her other research interests include popular culture, sound studies, embodiment, cultural studies, class, gender and race.



Always in Season

The film, *Always in Season*, told a difficult story from the perspective of a mother whose son was found hanged, and the death ruled a suicide. Director and filmmaker, Jacqueline Olive, discussed the film and gave insight on the events.

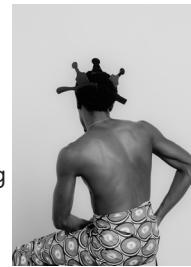
A Source of Self-Regard

Escalette artist Ivan Forde and artist and educator Niama Safia Sandy discussed the Escalette exhibition *Begin/Again: Marking Black Memories*, featuring Forde. The exhibition explored how memories are reshaped and reimagined by Black artists.



Photographing Black Queer Identities

Artist and portrait photographer Hakeem Adewumi gave a talk describing his process of redefining and defying identity through the lens of Blackness and queerness. His work has appeared in group exhibitions at galleries and institutions across New York, London, and Dallas.



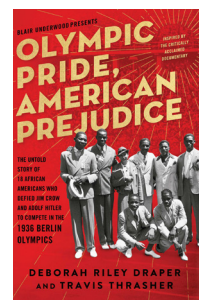
Significance of Race Today in America

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a pastor and social justice advocate gave a lecture on building a broad-based, grassroots movement, grounded in the moral tenets of faith-based communities and the constitution to confront systemic racism, poverty, environmental devastation, the war economy and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism in America today.



Olympic Pride, American Prejudice

The film, *Olympic Pride, American Prejudice*, explored the experiences of 18 African American Olympians who defied both Jim Crow and Adolf Hitler to win 14 medals—one quarter of the total won by the U.S. team—at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Guest and film’s director, Deborah Riley Draper discussed the story.



The Value of Whiteness: Property, Housing, Identity

Dr. Cheryl Harris, the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at UCLA Law School, gave a lecture focusing on her expertise in critical race theory, civil rights, and civil liberties.



Korea: the Beachhead for Liberty, Peace, and Protest

Dr. Cameron McCoy, Dept. of History, U.S. Air Force Academy, gave a lecture on his research consisting of 20th and 21st century military and diplomatic history as well as the race relations within the American military.



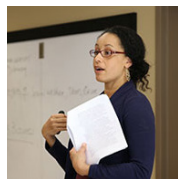
Women in the Forefront of Change in the U.S. and Globally

Dr. Barbara Ransby, professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, historian, writer and longtime activist, spoke on her involvement and activism for social justice as a leader and her efforts connecting academics and community organizers to work for social justice.



Saving Le Van Minh: Humanitarianism & Policymaking for the Amerasians of Vietnam

Guest speaker, Dr. Sabrina Thomas, Associate Professor of History at Wabash College, spoke on her research specializing in U.S. Foreign Policy with a transnational focus on the intersections of race, nation, and war through the legacies of children born from international conflict.



Working for Racial Justice and Human Rights

Dr. Claudia Fuentes-Julio, author and editor of several books on human rights, and Professor Rozell "Prexy" Nesbitt, scholar-activist focusing on race and colonialism in North America and Africa, had a panel discussion on racial justice and human rights.



Black Activism & The Pursuit of Justice

Moderators Justin Riley, Assoc. Director of Student Community Support and Development and Justice Crudup '17 led a Zoom round table discussion on the importance of and how to become involved with Black activism and the pursuit of justice with university professors, local activists, and Chapman alums.

Black Health Care: Past and Present

Experts in the field of health care, Dr. Lawrence "LB" Brown, Vice Provost for Academic Administration, Dr. Emmanuel John, Dept. of Physical Therapy, Dr. Jason Douglas, Asst. Prof. of Public Health, and Dr. Tamarra Jones, OC Health Care Agency, sat down as a panel to discuss the weakness surrounding health care for people of color.

Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause

Dr. Ty Seidule grew up revering Robert E. Lee. From his southern childhood to his service in the U.S. Army, every part of his life reinforced the Lost Cause myth: that Lee was the greatest man who ever lived, and that the Confederates were underdogs who lost the Civil War with honor. His viewpoint changed and he explained why in his riveting lecture.



A Day in the Life: The Education of Black Youth

Dr. Damien Sojoyner discussed his book *First Strike* which examines the root causes of California's ever-expansive prison system and disastrous education policy along with Dr. Sabina Vaught whose research focuses on the various legal and ideological forces shaping juvenile prison and prison education among Black men.



American Month with Jubilee

Jason Y. Lee, founder and CEO of Jubilee Media gave an engaging talk on how as the world becomes more divided, Jubilee bridges people together to create empathy, discourse, and love. Jubilee Media creates experiences to provoke a new culture of empathy.



ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on the Significance of Race First-Year Foundation Courses (FFC)

Engaging the World, Wilkinson College's First-Year Foundation program, combines course-work and extra-curricular programming to promote mindful reflection and thoughtful dialogue around critical social issues of our times. The program encourages students to envision the previously unimaginable and bring disparate ideas together in new configurations to cultivate nuanced and informed responses to current social challenges. This core commitment is reflected in all Engaging the World FFC courses, demonstrating the vital importance of the arts, humanities, and social sciences for tackling difficult issues and problems. Many FFC instructors participated in the Engaging the World Virtual Film Series in which individual FFC courses led a community-wide discussion of a film that explored the significance of race.

Engaging the World FFC Course Titles:

Civil Rights in Constitutional History

Feminism at the Movies

Humanomics: Intersections of Identity

New Manifestations of Racism and New Stages in the Combat against Racism

Performative Identity

Speculative Fictions of Race and Ethnicity

The Classical Influence in America

The Power of Greek Mythology

Utopia and Dystopia in Film

Yellow Peril to Yellow Power



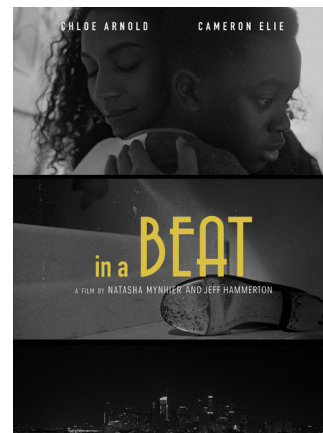
Professor Ron Steiner

FFC 100 Civil Rights in Constitutional History

Film: *100 Years, One Woman's Fight for Justice for Native Americans*

September 25, 2020

Over 100 years ago, the United States Government broke up numerous Indian reservations and allotted millions of acres of tribal land. The Government promised to manage the land and collect lease payments for oil, gas, timber, and grazing into an Indian Trust Fund, but instead the Department of the Interior grossly mismanaged the money owed to the Native peoples.



Professors Jan Osborn & David Rojo-Arjona

FFC 100 Humanomics: Intersections of Identity

Film: *In a Beat*

October 9, 2020

Writer and director Natasha Mynhier creates a provocative, inclusive film featuring the underrepresented lens and experience of a young Black boy on the autism spectrum, and his highly-talented mother attempting to understand and support one another in the competitive dance world of Los Angeles.



Professors John Thrasher & Michael Moses

FFC 100 Utopia and Dystopia in Film

Film: *Children of Men*

November 6, 2020

Directed by Alfonso Cuarón, *Children of Men* is a dystopian science-fiction thriller. The film takes place in a futuristic United Kingdom on the brink of collapse after nearly two decades of mass human infertility. Amidst acts of terrorism and violent civil war, refugees seeking asylum in an increasing authoritarian state are subject to detention and deportation: but might these despised foreigners offer the only hope to redeem the future?



Professor Stephanie Takaragawa

FFC 100 Yellow Peril to Yellow Power

Professor Clara Magliola

FFC 100 Feminism at the Movies

Films: *Slaying the Dragon*, *Slaying the Dragon: Reloaded*

November 20, 2020

Slaying the Dragon is an in-depth look at media's generation of stereotypes of exoticism and docility of Asian and Asian American women in film and its affect on the perception of Asian -American women. *Slaying the Dragon: Reloaded* is a 30-minute sequel that updates the argument.



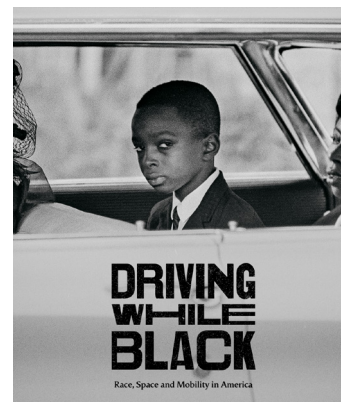
Professor Sam Dressel

FFC 100 Performative Identity

Film: *Bamboozled*

December 4, 2020

Spike Lee's controversial satire, *Bamboozled*, follows a Black television executive who, trying to get fired, proposes making a modern minstrel show. His boss loves the idea and the New Millennial Minstrel Show goes into problematic production. The film satirizes American racial relations and the commercialization of Black bodies in ways that felt as relevant today as when it was released two decades ago.



Professor Prexy Nesbitt

FFC 100 New Manifestations of Racism and New Stages in the Combat against Racism

Film: *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America*

February 12, 2021

Driving While Black chronicles the riveting history and personal experiences of the African Americans on the road from the advent of the automobile throughout the seismic changes of the 1960s and beyond, told in large part through the stories of the men, women, and children who lived through it.

ENGAGING THE WORLD

Leading the Conversation on the Significance of Race Art Exhibit

Begin/Again: Marking Black Memories

Memory runs like an aquifer beneath the works of the five artists in this exhibition, a storehouse for the life-giving substance that sustains and shapes the landscape of their artistic practice. Sometimes the water lies just below the surface; for Mark Bradford and Maya Freelon, the memories are of a mother, a beloved grandmother, and vibrant African American community traditions. Sometimes the water table is deep underground. Rotimi Fani-Kayode and Manuel Mendive draw on African cultural and spiritual traditions centuries old. Ivan Forde, looking to the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, reaches back millennia to tap into a wellspring of inspiration. All five artists mark memories in the sense of honoring them as well as literally manifesting them in their visual artworks. Bringing personal and shared memories to the surface, this work bears witness, confronts, replenishes, and sustains.

This exhibition is titled *Begin/Again* after a work in the Escalette Collection by Maya Freelon. At a time when we confronted a wasteland and the possibility of substantive change seemed to move further away, these two words felt more important than ever. Memories—uncovered, examined, and offered in an act of faith that we can indeed move forward—allow us to begin/again.

This exhibit was curated by the Escalette Collection.

This exhibition was presented online and in-person.

Virtual Exhibition: <https://scalar.chapman.edu/scalar/begin-again/index>

Physical Exhibition: Roosevelt Hall, First Floor



Ivan Forde, *Morning Raid* (detail), cyanotype and thread, 2017.



Ivan Forde, *Morning Raid*, cyanotype and thread, 2017.
Purchased with Funds from the Escalette Endowment



Maya Freelon, *Begin/Again*, spinning tissue ink monoprint, 2018.



Purchased with funds from the Escalette Endowment
Manuel Mendive, *Unknown*, serigraph, 1995.



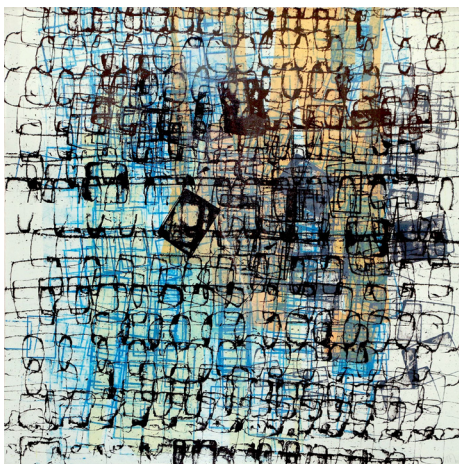
Rotimi Fani-Kayode, *In Gods We Trust*, gelatin silver print, c. 1980.

Purchased with funds from the Ellingson Family



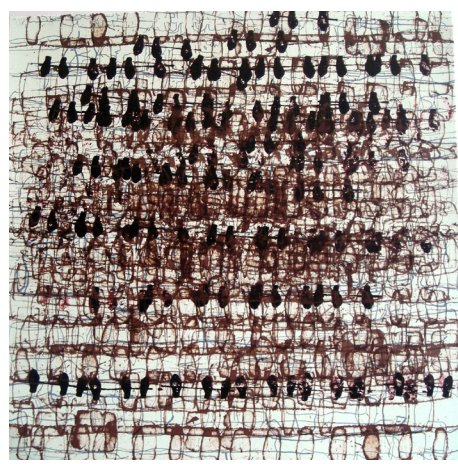
Rotimi Fani-Kayode, *Untitled*, gelatin silver print, 1985.

Purchased with funds from the Ellingson Family



Mark Bradford, *Untitled*, lithograph, 2003.

Purchased with acquisition funds



Mark Bradford, *Untitled*, lithograph, 2003.

Purchased with acquisition funds

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