



FUNDAMENTALS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: EXPLORING THE CONCEPT AND ITS APPLICATION

SEPT. 22, 2020 – NOV. 17, 2020

Program Speakers

TOD AUGUSTA-SCOTT

he/him



Tod Augusta-Scott, MSW is known internationally for his work with gendered-based violence, restorative approaches, trauma and narrative therapy. He has worked in a community-based organization for over twenty-five years. For the past fifteen he has also worked for the Canadian Armed Forces. He has presented his work internationally (Asia, Europe, British Isles, America) and presented in every province in Canada. He is the co-founder of the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference. He has also taught in the Department of Social Work, Dalhousie University and continues as a guest speaker on

a regular basis. Tod is the co-editor and contributor to the critically acclaimed books *Narrative Therapy: Making Meaning, Making Lives* (Sage Publications, 2007) and *Innovations in Interventions to Address Intimate Partner Violence: Research and Practice* (Routledge Press, 2017). He has been interviewed by numerous publications including the Huffington Post, Readers Digest, NPR, The Walrus, International Journal of Narrative Therapy, CBC The World at Six, Journal of Systemic Therapies and the Globe and Mail. Tod was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Social Workers. His work is featured in the documentary *A Better Man* (2017), a film about domestic violence and restorative justice. He serves on the Advisory Council for the Status of Women, Canada. He received an Award of Excellence from the Deputy Minister of National Defence for his work addressing sexual violence in the CAF (2019). His career was also recently highlighted in the Dalhousie University Alumni Magazine.

SUJATHA BALIGA

she/her



sujatha baliga's work is characterized by an equal dedication to crime survivors and people who've caused harm. A former victim advocate and public defender, sujatha spent the past 15 years practicing and co-creating restorative justice solutions to mass criminalization, most recently as the director of Impact Justice's Restorative Justice Project. She speaks publicly and inside prisons about her own experiences as a survivor of child sexual abuse and rape and her path to forgiveness. sujatha was named a 2019 MacArthur Fellow.

sujatha's faith journey undergirds her justice work. A long-time Buddhist practitioner, she's a lay member of the Gyuto Foundation, a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Richmond, CA, where she leads meditation on Monday nights. She makes her home in Berkeley, CA, with her life partner and their fourteen year old child.

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TEIAHSHA BANKHEAD, PhD

she/her



Teiahsha Bankhead, Ph.D., LCSW, Executive Director of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth, is a social justice activist, a restorative justice advocate, a licensed psychotherapist and a professor with both MSW and Ph.D. degrees in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Born to a Black radical mother during the uprising of the Watts Rebellion and coming of age in South Central Los Angeles during the embittered racial relations and social unrest of the civil rights era ignited within Dr. Bankhead a passionate commitment to social justice advocacy and transformative community empowerment. Dr. Bankhead has a commitment to racial justice, racial healing and restorative economics. She has taught racial, gender and sexual orientation diversity, theories of criminal behavior, and US social policy at the undergraduate and

graduate levels. She speaks and holds circle on the subjects of School-Based Restorative Justice, Race and Restorative Justice, the Indigenous Roots of Restorative Justice, Social Justice and

Restorative Justice, Truth-Telling and Racial Healing, Youth-Led and Movement-Based Restorative Justice, the School-to-Prison Pipeline, Mass Incarceration, and Restorative Cities.

AMY BARCH

she/her



Amy Barch is the director and founder of Turning Leaf, a Charleston-based non-profit found with the mission to “keep men out of prison.” Turning Leaf provides a unique 4-month program of therapy and transitional employment for men recently released from prison who are at high-risk for re-arrest. Barch began her work in this space by volunteering to teach classes at Charleston County Detention Center in 2011. These classes became so popular that later that year Barch founded Turning Leaf, and devoted her energy to supporting the reentry of the formerly incarcerated. Turning Leaf has received national attention for its innovative, holistic approach to reentry, and is currently seeking to expand its footprint to support even more formerly incarcerated men in South

Carolina. Barch earned a degree in Law, Societies, and Justice from the University of Washington (Seattle), and has called Charleston her home since 2010.

AHJANÉ D. BILLINGSLEY, PhD

she/her



Ahjané D. Billingsley earned her Ph.D. in *Community Well-being* at the University of Miami and is a post doctorate associate for the university’s Platform for Teaching Excellence and Learning. A critical community psychologist, Dr. Billingsley’s scholarship focuses on addressing gender violence through community-based activism and transformative justice approaches. By using qualitative and participatory research approaches, she creates collaborative initiatives and accessible knowledge that directly serve community’s needs. Her interdisciplinary research is relevant to the fields of women and gender studies, criminal justice, and social movements. Dr. Billingsley has co-authored several

publications highlighting the connections between mass incarceration and intimate partner violence, calling attention to the need for alternatives to current crime-centered approaches. In addition to establishing rigorous activist scholarship and teaching, Dr. Billingsley co-founded AVA Within, Inc, where she works to foster the collective well-being and self-determination of at-risk and marginalized communities. Dr. Billingsley was named a University of Miami Rosen Doctoral

Fellow in 2013. She also holds a Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling and a Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice from Boston College, where she was the recipient of the Alumni Assistantship Award. After receiving the William O. Douglas Merit Scholarship and completing her Bachelor of Arts at Whitman College in 2005, Dr. Billingsley was a US Peace Corps Community Outreach Worker in 2006.

DONNA COKER

she/her



Donna Coker's scholarship and advocacy regards restorative justice (RJ) responses to IPV and sexual harm including in the campus context, intimate partner violence (IPV) law and policy, and the intersections of gender, race, and class subordination in criminal law doctrine, policy, and application. Her empirical study of IPV cases in the Navajo Nation Peacemaking Courts ([UCLA Law Review](#)) shaped RJ theory and practice in the U.S. and elsewhere. She is a member of Campus PRISM (Promoting Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Misconduct on college campuses) and served as an advisory board member for the U.S. project, [A National Portrait of Restorative Justice Approaches to Intimate Partner Violence](#). Her scholarship has appeared in leading law journals as well as interdisciplinary journals including [Violence Against Women](#) and [International Journal of Restorative Justice](#).

Professor Coker is a critic of the focus on criminal justice responses that characterizes U.S. IPV policy and much feminist activism. She supports a "reimagined" movement to end gender violence that is not crime-centered, but instead works to change the structural inequalities that maintain violence. She co-chaired the 2014 national conference: [Converge! Reimagining the Movement to End Gender Violence](#) which brought together activists, service providers, attorneys, and scholars to explore alternatives to crime-centered approaches to gender violence. She is the co-creator of a video project, [Reimagining the Movement to End Gender Violence](#), consisting of interviews with leading activists and scholars regarding the need to refocus gender violence activism on social inequalities and less on criminal justice intervention. In 2015, she was a co-investigator for a U.S. survey of 900+ service providers regarding policing, domestic violence, and sexual assault, published as [Responses from the Field](#).

Professor Coker holds an M.S.W. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a J.D. from Stanford University Law School. Before attending law school, Professor Coker worked as a shelter-based victim advocate in Little Rock, Arkansas and was the coordinator of a community-based domestic violence project in Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a Professor of Law at the University of Miami

School of Law, where she teaches Substantive Criminal Law; Evidence; Social Justice Lawyering; Mass Incarceration: Causes, Consequences, and Remedies; and New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence (co-taught for Vermont Law School, Master in Restorative Justice program).

KAT CULBERG, RN, PHN

she/her

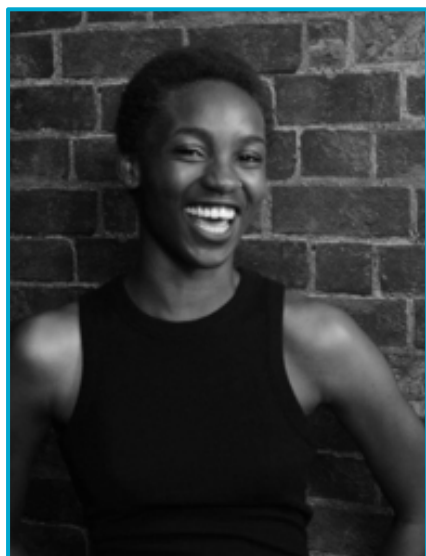


Katherine, a Euro-American and queer woman, began her career as a registered nurse, who quickly developed a passion for public health and social justice. Her focus has been on adolescent girls and boys in urban, under served, and under resourced areas. Katherine has worked in remote areas of Nicaragua with teen mothers. She has been active in developing and managing school based health centers in Oakland as well as providing direct service to youth as a school nurse. After years of feeling that traditional intervention and prevention models were limited, she began to look for additional ways to best meet the healing needs of those youth she worked with and loved. She turned to the study and practice of Restorative Justice, ultimately resulting in a position with RJOY on an independent

contractor basis directing the re-entry program at Camp Sweeney and facilitating Victim Offender Education groups at San Quentin State Prison with Insight Prison Project.

JODIE GEDDES

she/her



Jodie Geddes is a national thought leader on restorative justice and truth-telling. She is a graduate of Eastern Mennonite University where she received her M.A. in Conflict Transformation. Jodie currently serves as the Healing Circles Manager at Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY). Her role involves supporting the design and implementation of weekly African-American Healing Circles, events, and training. Jodie is also a published author and poet.

CHRIS GODSEY

he/him



Chris Godsey co-coordinates the Men as Peacemakers Domestic Violence Restorative Circles Program in Duluth, MN. He also co-facilitates critical dialogue in a battering-intervention program designed to help men change beliefs that justify abusing women. Both programs are intended to create social change that contributes to eliminating all forms of hierarchy-based violence.

Men As Peacemakers (MAP) works to build safe communities through programs that address and undermine the root causes of violence against women

and children including sexism, male dominance, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. MAP is at the forefront of a movement to promote equality and end violence against women and children. MAP engages individuals and communities in Minnesota and beyond, by mobilizing existing community resources and developing innovative primary prevention and restorative justice strategies that are proven to significantly reduce and repair the harm caused by men.

BRIAN HEILMAN

he/him



Brian Heilman is a Senior Research Officer at Promundo, where his work focuses on preventing all forms of gender-based violence and achieving broader gender equality and social justice in the United States and around the world. Brian is a co-author of the State of the World's Fathers 2017 and 2019 reports, the lead author of The Man Box study on harmful effects of rigid masculine norms in the US, UK, and Mexico, and a co-author of multiple reports using International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) data. Brian has particular program and research experience in South Asia and the United States, in addition to many other valuable opportunities worldwide. He holds a BA in English from Saint John's University and an MA in Law and

Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

DAVID ANDERSON HOOKER, PhD

he/him



David Anderson Hooker (Ph.D., J.D., M.Div., M.P.H., M.P.A., A.M) is an Associate Professor of the Practice of Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International peace Studies, which is an integral unit of the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. Professor Hooker is core faculty in the Doctoral Studies (PhD) program in Peace Studies and the Masters in Global Affairs

(MGA). His research and practice focus on post-conflict and post disaster community building, narrative practices and theory, especially as these apply to the multi-generational transmission of trauma, and the role of identity in conflict, trauma, and community development. For more than 30 years Hooker has utilized his training and expertise in conflict transformation by serving as mediator of multi-party and public policy conflicts and reconciliation processes; especially those contexts where race, class, and other socially constructed variables significantly impact the dispute. Hooker is the author of *The Little Book of Transformative Community Conferencing* (SkyHorse 2016) and co-author with Amy Potter- Czajkowski, of *Transforming Historical Harms* (Eastern Mennonite University, 2012).

Hooker is a former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia where he represented the Departments of Juvenile Justice, Mental Health Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and the Division of Public Health. He later had a private practice focusing on Civil Rights (including prisoner rights and special education). He has worked in Bosnia, Croatia, Cuba, Myanmar (Burma), Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Southern Sudan and Somaliland. He previously held the posts of Senior Fellow for Community Engagement Strategies at the J. W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development at the University of Georgia, Associate Professor of Conflict Transformation at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and Visiting Scholar at Africa University's Institute for Peace leadership and Governance (Mutare, Zimbabwe). He has also previously served as Community Building Advisor for the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, the Director of Research and Training for Healing Historical Harms, and Vice- President of Community Building for The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site. He is a graduate of Morehouse College (BS), The Emory University School of Law (JD), the Candler School of Theology at Emory University (M Div.), the graduate programs in public health and public administration at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (MPH & MPA) and a cum laude graduate of Tilburg University (Ph.D.).

MIMI KIM, PhD
she/her



Mimi Kim is a long-time advocate and activist working on issues of gender-based violence in communities of color. She is a co-founder of Incite! Women, Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People of Color Against Violence. In 2004, she established Creative Interventions which helped to develop collective, liberatory and non-criminalizing approaches to address and end domestic and sexual violence and has worked actively to develop feminist community accountability and transformative justice political frameworks and practices. She is currently working collaboratively on a restorative justice pilot project addressing domestic and sexual violence in Contra Costa County, California. Mimi's research on the historical development of carceral feminism and the contemporary transformative

justice movement includes "The Carceral Creep: Gender-Based Violence, Race, and the Expansion of the Punitive State, 1973-1983" (2019) and "From Carceral Feminism to Transformative Justice: Women of Color Feminism and Alternatives to Incarceration" (2018). Mimi is also Associate Professor of Social Work at California State University, Long Beach.

MARY KOSS, PhD
she/her



Mary Koss, PhD, is a Regents' Professor in the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. She published the first national study sexual assault among college students in 1987, which is the subject of *I Never Called it Rape: The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape*. (2019). Her current projects are two randomized trials evaluations of sexual assault prevention: Safer Bars (NIAAA) and E-AAA (a program enhanced with self-defense; Arnold Ventures Foundation of Canada). Other ongoing interests are campus climate surveys, misconduct response processes and accountability for those responsible for sexual assault. She was the principal investigator of the RESTORE Program; the first restorative justice program for sex crimes among adults that was

quantitatively evaluated (CDC). Her credentials document close to 300 publications and sustained consultations with national and international health organizations and governments. She has received awards from the American Psychological Association: the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy (2000), Award for Distinguished

Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology (2017), and the Carolyn Wood Sherif Award for Sustained Contributions to Psychology of Women (2019).

APARNA POLAVARAPU

she/her



Aparna Polavarapu is the executive director and founder of the South Carolina Restorative Justice Initiative, the goals of which are to educate and promote dialogue about the concepts of restorative and transformative justice, to facilitate the development of community-based restorative justice mechanisms, and to develop publicly available educational material about these topics.

Professor Polavarapu is also an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law. She has over a decade of experience working in human rights and rule of law, both domestically and abroad. She has significant legal expertise in the field of legal pluralism, with a particular research focus on informal, community-driven justice systems and how they work together with formal, state-centered systems. Her research has covered a wide range of topics, including legal innovations used by courts to expand access to constitutional justice, the use of restorative justice mechanisms to combat domestic violence in Uganda, and how customary and statutory law interact to govern land rights in sub-Saharan Africa. Much of her scholarship draws from her direct experience working with women's rights groups in sub-Saharan Africa and in the United States.

In addition, Professor Polavarapu continues to work with practitioners on domestic and global women's rights and justice matters. She has instructed practitioners on international rule of law topics, including African customary law, legal pluralism, and strategies for promoting human rights in legally pluralist systems. She has authored or contributed to expert human rights reports for organizations such as the UN Foundation and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Locally, she has testified before the South Carolina Senate on legislation affecting women and has conducted trainings on restorative justice.

Professor Polavarapu teaches courses in Comparative Law, Rule of Law, Transnational Law, International Human Rights Law, and Restorative and Transformative Justice. Prior to coming to South Carolina, Professor Polavarapu was a Teaching Fellow with Georgetown's International Women's Human Rights Clinic. Prior to that, she practiced law at Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP in Boston. She received an LLM and JD from Georgetown University Law Center, a BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and an MA in international affairs from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

SONYA SHAH

she/her



sonya shah initiated the Ahimsa Collective in 2016. She is also an associate professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies. Central to her core values are nurturing community belonging and collective care, healing, compassion, love and transforming harm. She is a Buddhist, a first-generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India and feels most at home in nature. She has two amazing children who remind her what it means to be in love all of the time, and currently resides in northern California.

LESTER YOUNG, JR.

he/him



Lester Young, Jr is a native of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. At the age of 19, Lester was given a life sentence (with the possibility of parole after serving 20 years). During his time in prison, Lester struggled with finding redemption and often wondered what his purpose was. While journaling he asked himself this question, “What is the footprint you want to leave in this world?” It was then that he realized his purpose was to be “that” voice to help at risk youth. With approval

from the warden, Lester along with the prison chaplain began meeting to create outlines, programs, and classes to instruct and mentor fellow inmates. This is where the idea of him establishing his non-profit organization “Path2Redemption” got its start. On May 15, 2015 (22 years and 5 months later), Lester was released on parole. Even after his release, the outlines of his programs are still being taught in prison.

Mr. Young is setting a new standard for “living a life of redemption”. His commitment to advocating for criminal reform is changing the way society has been proportioned to deal with incarcerated individuals transitioning back into society upon release from prison. As the

“Statewide Organizer for South Carolina at JustLeadershipUSA, he specializes in developing and managing innovative campaigns in multiple cities. Lester is widely known for his work with the Mayor of Columbia, SC; in having the first statewide ordinance passed for JustLeadershipUSA’s current campaign entitled “#Banthebox”. This campaign gives incarcerated individuals the chance to complete applications, job and/or housing, without being discriminated against for past convictions

A few of his acknowledgements, certifications and recognitions include: Champion-Influence Certified Life Coach; Certified DISC Assessment Facilitator; Alternatives to Violent/Nonviolent Conflict Resolution Certification; Author of “The Five Stages of Incarceration”/Co-Author of “The Trigger” written by Daniel Patinkin; Certified Facilitator (The Council For Boys and Young Men), Advocate for Pell Grant Reinstatement for Incarcerated Men/Women in SC; The Talent Tenth (Sponsored by Steven Benjamin (Mayor of Columbia, SC); 20/20 Bipartisan Member; NRRC Coach Training (National Reentry Resource Center) Member; The Brotherhood Organization; Instructor for “The Male Achievement Conference”; CEO “Young’s Integrity Pressure Washing Services LLC; Broad Member for the Commission of Minority Affairs; and Broad Member For Affordable Housing Task Force.