Rethinking Rights in Times of Crisis: Local and Global Perspectives on Resilience and Dignity

Kennesaw State University

March 12th - 14th 2020

HOSTED BY

CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES (CAADS) & THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISION ON RACE AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY (CORED)

Rationale

The ubiquitous crises of the early 21st century have been marked by populist forces that, in association with state and nonstate entities, have increasingly normalized violence against our planet's most vulnerable. We therefore believe it is imperative to cultivate nuanced understandings of resilience, to advocate urgently for a praxis of responsibility and compassion, and to engage critically with mechanisms for respecting the dignity of humans and others, with structures and the logics of rights. This conference will highlight issues that compel us to think about the future of the planet deeply, creatively, conceptually, and contextually.

We look forward to papers, roundtables, and workshops that address issues, trends, developments, and movements that have shaped the discourses of rights and reimagined ways of being human and of understanding the nonhuman. Also welcomed are proposals that pose challenges to identities, authorities, economies, and constructions of biopolitics and transnationalism.

We welcome submissions from all academic and policy/practice relevant fields that relate to the conference themes.

Papers, Roundtables, and Workshop Ideas are invited in the following four related areas.

i. **Human rights and nationalisms**
    a. Epistemological assumptions
    b. Violence in states and movements espousing human rights
    c. Structures of accountability within interventions naming human rights goals
    d. Legal, ethical, and/or cultural aspects
    e. Impcats of technology and social movements, including by extremist populations
    f. Geopolitical hegemony
    g. Crimes against humanity
    h. Migration/immigration
    i. New forms of boundary making
    j. Under extremist regimes
    k. In conflict
    l. Human trafficking

        m. Truth and reconciliation commissions
        n. Traditional media/social media and contemporary conflicts
        o. Techno-nationalisms
        p. Rhetoric and representation
        q. Emerging Ethno-nationalisms and borders
        r. Gender-based violence and extremism

ii. Diversity/inclusion issues and movements

    a. Student activism
    b. Transnational solidarities
    c. Emerging forms of resilience and resistance
    d. Gender and sexuality
    e. Youth and children
    f. Race and ethnicity
    g. Religion

iii. The Nonhuman

    a. The states of the environment
    b. Trends in philosophy, policy, and law
    c. Comparative cultural approaches
    d. Indigenous perspectives and modes of activism regarding the nonhuman

iv. The Possibilities of Interfaith Dialogues

    a. Dispelling stereotypes about Other religions, e.g., strategies for responding to Islamophobia
    b. Alleviating interreligious violence
    c. Misconceptions about Interfaith
    d. Limits of Interfaith
    e. Case studies

Publication statement:

It is the intention of the conference conveners in association with a prominent publisher to bring out a collection of essays (in an edited volume). The Conference Committee (comprised of a group of scholars from KSU and other partnering institutions) will solicit select papers from the conference presentations for full length (7000 word or less) submission to the organizers by July 1st 2020. The organizers and the Conference Committee plan on working on this edited collection of essays in 2020-21 (contingent upon responsiveness of select invitees and resource availability).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Deadline for abstract submissions: October **1st 2019**
- Word limit: **250 words** plus a few sentences of professional bio and institutional affiliation
- Notification of acceptance to present at the conference: **December 1st 2019**

- Conference abstracts and enquiries: Email: **humandignity@kennesaw.edu**
- Conference Webpage: **https://dga.kennesaw.edu/caads/civilrightsconference2020/index.php**

Registration Fees: $120.00. Include:
Conference Program
Lunch March 12th and 13th
Dinner Banquet March 14th.

FORMATS FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Individual Presentations** – These are typically topical presentations for a 15 minute slot. The presenter will prepare a conference paper that will be presented and is typically a more focused, narrower version of their overall project. The conference committee will organize accepted abstracts into sessions based on overlapping themes

  These sessions may take two forms based on the nature and depth of accepted abstracts:

  - **Themed Session** - These sessions at conference primarily include completed research or scholarly work. The presentations will be grouped by topic or theme into sessions that include several related presentations. This facilitates audience attendance and organizes topics at the conference.
  - **Roundtable Session** - Roundtable sessions allow the presenter the opportunity to interact and converse more with the audience. Presenters are assigned to a table in a conference room for the duration of the session and interested attendees may join them at their table. These sessions are typically best for position papers, policy analyses, and other types of topics that benefit from extended discussion time.
  - **Pre-organized Themed Panel Discussions (90 minute sessions with a maximum of four papers or three papers and a discussant):** In panel discussions, two or more speakers will present different aspects, perspectives or thoughts on the topics mentioned above (this may include a research problem or question based on proposed or ongoing research). Each speaker will have an opportunity to present their information and when all the speakers are finished, there is typically time for discussion. Panel conveners may include a discussant. Each speaker in a panel will have maximum 15 minutes. There will be 15 minutes of audience/discussion time at the end.
  - **Pre-organized Themed Roundtables (90 min sessions with 5-6 presenters each having a 5-7 minutes slot leaving ample time for discussion. Roundtable submissions must have an identified chair)**
  - **Poster Presentations:** Poster presentations are opportunities for a larger number of researchers to present their research in the form a visual poster presentation. The posters are large (often 3' x 4') and provide the researcher with enough space to fully summarize their research in an attractive and professional way. The presenter typically prepares a short oral summary that can be given to those who are interested. Attendees are free to move about the room and examine posters and talk individually to the presenters. This format does allow the opportunity for a research target those that are genuinely interested and engage them in discussion that often allows for more detail. Another advantage of this type of format is that researcher can receive valuable feedback from the attendees.

- **Workshops:** Workshops are interactive sessions that can vary in length from approximately an hour to half a day. If you have an idea please approach the organizers soon to see if your work-shop better fits in a pre-conference format or within the regular conference schedule. These sessions usually begin with explanatory or introductory information and then move on to involve the audience in some type of interactive, participatory activity. Workshops and interactive presentations are particularly well suited for demonstrations, learning new skills or procedures, debates, exhibitions and so forth. Considering the relevance of our theme/s we are interested in submissions in this format.