Contemporary Voices
on Racism, Queer Rights, and Social Movements

This lecture series will look at the current situation in North America, particularly concerning Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and LGBTQ2IA+ people in North America in the wake of the recent protests and the growing call for the government and society to confront their racist and suppressive past and the role far right politics have played in continuing this oppression by furthering hate through racist and discriminatory policies.

We are extremely excited and honored to welcome (virtually) these speakers to the Department of English, American and Celtic Studies at the University of Bonn. Below you will find brief biographies along with links for more information.

**Speakers**

**Donna Hylton (she/her)** has been deeply involved in movements for social justice around the country. She draws upon her experience imprisoned in a women’s correctional facility for 27 years, with some of that time spent in solitary confinement. Now released, Donna emphasizes the importance of building communities through economic, racial and gender justice. Donna encourages systems to recognize how the trauma of sexual violence and abuse are often root causes that result in victimization and that 90% of women who have been abused are being incarcerated, especially women of color.

**Zach Barrack (he/him)** is a young transgender actor and musician from the northern suburbs of Chicago. In Summer 2019, Zach made history as the first out transgender actor to carry a major role in a Marvel film. You can see him in Spider-Man: Far From Home. He appears in the musical finale to the landmark Amazon series Transparent. Zach is also a comedian, a songwriter, and a student at the University of Southern California.

**Miracle Olatunji (she/her)** is an entrepreneur, activist, and author of Purpose: How To Live and Lead With Impact. Recently, Miracle was part of Barbie’s #YouCanBeAnything + MoreRoleModels global campaign aimed at closing the dream gap and inspiring women and girls around the world. She was also part of Melinda Gates and the Harvard Business Review’s ‘Equality Can’t Wait’ campaign on gender equality. Her goal is to use her platform and personal story to inform, uplift, and inspire others.

**Emma Gee (she/her)** graduated from Brigham Young University in the spring of 2020. She was the first openly Queer athlete at BYU and has continued to challenge the anti-Queer policies at BYU and other religious universities. The Broomfield, Colo., native served as chair of the diversity and inclusion committee for BYU’s Student Athlete Activities Committee and was a member of the cross country and track teams.

**Chris Mosier (he/him)** is “the first Trans+ athlete to make a US national team, an activist for Trans+ rights, an official Nike athlete and spokesperson for equality and known for https://www.transathlete.com and having changed the International Olympic Committee’s policy on Trans+ athletes.” (https://www.thechrismosier.com/about-1)

**Elaina Medina (she/her)** is “an activist and social worker. She is the head of SMYRC (the Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Resource Center) and in-charge of Equity Engagement at New Avenues for Youth. She will hold a talk along with queer youth who have been impacted by homelessness.” (http://www.smyrc.org)

**Lyla June (she/her)** is “an Indigenous musician, scholar and community organizer of Diné (Navajo), Tsetsêhéstâhese (Cheyenne) and European lineages. Her dynamic, multi-genre presentation style has engaged audiences across the globe towards personal, collective and ecological healing. She blends studies in Human Ecology at Stanford, graduate work in Indigenous Pedagogy, and the traditional worldview she grew up with to inform her music, perspectives and solutions. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree, focusing on Indigenous food systems revitalization.” (https://www.lylajune.com)

**Dr. Michele Goodwin (she/her)** is a global thought leader and advisor. She is the host of the popular podcast, On the Issues with Michele Goodwin, at Ms. magazine. Her writings address pressing matters of law, society, and global health. An award-winning author, her publications appear across five books and more than one hundred law review articles, book chapters, and commentaries. Her opinion editorials and commentaries can be found in the New York Times, LA Times, Salon.com, Politico, Forbes, the Christian Science Monitor and other platforms. She is a frequent contributor to Ms. magazine.

**If you have any questions please contact Don Lowman: dlowman@uni-bonn.de**

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**Schedule**

- **Oct. 28 (6 pm): Donna Hylton**
- **Nov. 4 (6 pm): Zach Barrack**
- **Nov. 11 (6 pm): Miracle Olatunji**
- **Nov. 18 (6 pm): Emma Gee**
- **Nov. 25 (6 pm): TBA**
- **Dec. 2 (6 pm): Chris Mosier**
- **Dec. 9 (6 pm): Lyla June**
- **Dec. 16 (6 pm): Dr. Michele Goodwin**
- **Jan. 13 (6 pm): TBA**
- **Jan. 20 (6 pm): Elaina Medina**

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