



Sponsors: Africana Studies; Asian and Asian American Studies Institute; El Instituto; IREP; Office for Diversity and Inclusion; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Anti-Racism, Education, and Community

Land Acknowledgement

The land on which we usually gather is the territory of the Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett and Nipmuc Peoples, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We acknowledge, with gratitude, their strength and resilience in protecting this land and aspire to uphold our responsibilities according to their example.

Statement on Inclusion

Anti-Racism, Education, and Community (AREC) symposium is an inclusive event in which all registrants are welcome and treated with dignity and respect. The organizers of AREC and UConn Hartford condemns all actions that would be construed as attacks on historically excluded and racially oppressed groups, members of the LGBTQ community, or anyone committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. We further condemn, in the strongest possible terms, efforts intended to threaten, harass, or silence scholars and members of the community from speaking out against racism and other forms of inequality. Sexual harassment and any form of harassment will not be tolerated.

Event Location

All sessions and activities for AREC will take place in the Hartford Public Library Downtown Branch @ 500 Main St., Center for Contemporary Cultures Room, on the main level.

Parking

Parking for UConn Hartford is available in the locations listed below. Faculty can park at the CT Convention Center at reduced rates or for free if they pay for parking already at any of the other UConn campuses. For more information, please refer to: <https://park.uconn.edu/downtown-hartford-campus-staff/>

- CT Convention Center Garage (400 spaces; Section E); 6:00AM – 10:00PM, Monday – Saturday
- CT Science Center Garage (100 spaces); 6:00AM – 10:00PM, Monday – Saturday

Lunch and Snacks

Coffee and other beverages will be provided throughout the symposium. Our coffee and snacks are provided by Berkins on Main, a Black-owned business with a great story (<https://berkinsblendcafe.com/meet-the-berkins>). Feel free to grab a pick-me-up and refresh it as often as needed. Lunch is provided by The Kitchen (Forge City Works), whose social justice mission centers on job training and food access (<https://www.forgecityworks.org/about-us/mission-vision-and->



values/). For those of you who registered for lunch, it will be provided at the lunch times listed on the program. All food will be served in the Hartford Public Library CCC room.

Local Restaurants, Cafés, and Eateries

Although our symposium is an inclusive event (food, snacks, coffee and other beverages from local vendors will be served), we understand that some folx may want to partake in the joys of exploring other nearby food options. Below is a list of places in the immediate vicinity you may want to consider:

- Bear's Smokehouse BBQ—25 Front St. Menu: bearsbbq.com
- El Pollo Guapo—26 Front St. Menu: elpolloguapo.com
- Black-Eyed Sally's Southern Kitchen & Bar—350 Asylum St. Menu: blackeyedsallys.com
- More Than Just Lobster 2—485 Main St. Menu: morethanjustlobster.com
- Berkins On Main—600 Main Street. Menu: <https://berkinsblendcafe.com/menu>
- The Kitchen Café—559 Broad St. Menu: <https://www.kitchencafe.org/>
- The New York Market & Deli—427 Main St. Menu: <https://www.zmenu.com/new-york-market-and-deli-hartford-online-menu/>
- Cornerstone Deli—529 Main St. Menu: <https://www.menupix.com/menudirectory/menu.php?id=720109>

Special Thanks

We give special thanks to the Africana Studies Institute; Asian and Asian American Institute; El Instituto; and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, for their grant supporting this symposium. Thanks to the UConn cultural centers. Thanks also to our opening and closing keynote speakers, Dr. René White and Dr. Frank Tuitt and our panelists. Thanks to Dr. Sandy Grande, Professor of Political Science and Native American and Indigenous Studies, and Dr. Jane Gordon, Professor of Political Science, for their support and camaraderie. A wicked super-duper thanks to Kim Schwarz, Director of Event Services at UConn Hartford. Without Kim, we would have no awesome swag, no delicious food, and pretty much no symposium.



Thanks to *Berkins on Main* and for bringing us deliciousness and the much necessary caffeine. Thanks to Nadine S. Brennan, Associate Campus Director at UConn Hartford for helping us to best connect to our community partners. Also, thanks to Mubera Becirovic, Student Activities Coordinator at UConn Hartford and the whole White Accountability Group (WAG). Much thanks to all the panelists who have come together and given service and time to make this event happen. Finally, thanks to all the students, faculty, and community members in attendance. This event is about us, for us, and for a better future. In solidarity we stand.

*Photos of UConn Hartford students making filters and sharing them with the Hartford Public Library. For more on Hartford Advocacy & Community Engagement, please visit: <https://engagement.hartford.uconn.edu/>

Opening Keynote: Dr. Renée T. White, Provost & Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, The New School



Dr. Renée T. White is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The New School in New York City, where she is also a professor of sociology with tenure at The New School for Social Research. With more than 25 years of experience working in higher education, Dr. White previously served as provost and a professor of sociology at Wheaton College in Massachusetts and as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Simmons University. She has also held a variety of faculty appointments, including professor of sociology and Black studies at Fairfield University, and a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and the African American Studies Research Center at Purdue University. Dr. White is the editor of four books, including the acclaimed *Spoils of War: Women of Color, Cultures, and Revolutions* and the recently published *Afrofuturism in Black Panther: Gender, Identity, and the Re-Making of Blackness* and is the author of *Putting Risk in Perspective: Black Teenage Lives in the Era of AIDS*.

She has served as editor of the *Journal of HIV/AIDS Prevention in Children and Youth* and is a member of the Editorial Review Board of the *Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education*. She serves as a Strategic Leader for VisionForward — a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to advance gender equity through women's leadership. Dr. White holds an AB with honors from Brown University and an MA and PhD from Yale University, where she was awarded a Mellon Foundation doctoral fellowship.

HartBeat Ensemble:

<https://www.hartbeatensemble.org/>

About HartBeat—Founded in 2001, HartBeat Ensemble's mission is to create provocative theater that connects our community beyond traditional barriers of race, gender, class and geography. HartBeat Ensemble is the only institution in Hartford that is consistently using theater to speak powerfully across



different generations, races, populations and interest groups. As an ensemble of artist-activists, we create as well as present innovative productions based on critical civic issues. HartBeat offers audiences the chance to experience and respond to

the work they have just seen through live performance and guided conversations. HartBeat's original, full-length creative works, including the award-winning Flipside, the critically acclaimed Jimmy & Lorraine, and this year's sold-out hit Pegao by Ensemble member Cin Martinez. HartBeat continues to inspire the next generation of leaders to create change for a better world through its Youth Play Institute. HartBeat is an artist-led, artist-driven company dedicated to building community partnerships and helping to integrate the arts into our community's civic agenda. We continue to: serve as an intersection for innovative contemporary art and community engagement, play a bold leadership role in positioning art as a catalyst for community change and collaborating with others to realize a shared vision for the community and the arts, provide youth-focused training opportunities that inspire and empower young people to make a difference in their lives and the world around them; serve as an incubator of non-traditional and contemporary art, and a home for a broad spectrum of CT and other artists; and share a physical space that is open to artists and community. In 2013, HartBeat moved into the Carriage House Theater located on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. Our home provides an opportunity for HartBeat to produce a season of events that extends beyond our mainstage and education productions and to create a unique space for artists and the community to gather and experience live performance as well as engage in community conversations. Click Carriage House Rentals for more information on our community rental program!

Closing Keynote: Dr. Frank Tuitt, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, UConn



Frank Tuitt is the University of Connecticut's Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer and Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs in the NEAG School of Education. In 2019, he received the National Association of Chief Diversity Officers in Higher Education Individual Leadership Award in recognition of "outstanding contributions to research, administration, practice, advocacy, and/or policy, and whose work informs and advances understanding of diversity and inclusive excellence in higher education." He is a coeditor and contributing author of five books including *Plantation Politics and Campus Rebellions: Power, Diversity, and the Emancipatory Struggle in Higher Education* (SUNY Press).

AREC Itinerary, Day 1 (April 13)

Schedule, Day 1

9:15-9:30am, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introduction of Opening Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Michael Bradford, Vice Provost of Faculty, Staff, and Student Development (UConn) will kick off the symposium with some inspiring words about the uniqueness of the symposia as well as its importance in coalition building and collaboration between educators, students, and the community. Dr. Bradford will also introduce the Opening Keynote Speaker, Dr. Renée White

9:30-10:30am, Opening Keynote

- Dr. Renée White, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs of The New School

10:30-10:45am, Break

10:45-11:00am, Introduction to *HartBeat Ensemble*

- Nadine S. Brennan, Associate Campus Director at UConn Hartford, will introduce *HartBeat Ensemble*.

11:00-1:00pm, *HartBeat Ensemble*, "Stuck in the Tape," An Interactive Play

- Prepare to be blown away by this exclusive event, commissioned by UConn Hartford, and spearheaded by Godfrey L. Simmons Jr., Artistic Director and award-winning actor, producer, director, and playwright. This will be an interactive play promoting professional development for working competently with culturally, ethnically, and racially diverse students.

1:00-2:00pm, Lunch Break

- If you registered for lunch, it will be served in the Hartford Public Library CCC Room. If you did not register for lunch, feel free to visit any number of delicious and wonderful local restaurants in downtown Hartford. A short list of recommended eateries can be found on the second page of this program.

2:00-3:00pm, Session 1: Understanding the Importance and Roles of the Cultural Centers and Institutes at UConn

- This session spotlights the centrality of UConn Cultural Centers and Ethnic Institutes and the role(s) they play in educating our students, advocating for antiracism, and engaging thoughtfully in interdisciplinary and/or cross-disciplinary collaborations between various community and academic constituents. Panelists will spend some time outlining their thoughts on the importance of bridging

antiracism, education, and the community and how we might go about better developing relations centered on these arenas.

- Moderator: Dr. Linda C. Halgunseth, Director of Academic Affairs, UConn Hartford
- Panelists:
 - Fany D. Hannon, Director of the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center
 - <https://latinx.uconn.edu/>
 - Kathleen Holgerson, Director of the Women's Center
 - <https://womenscenter.uconn.edu/>
 - Dr. Anne Gebelein, Associate Director, El Instituto
 - <https://elin.uconn.edu/>
 - Dr. Melina Pappademos, Director of the Africana Studies Institute and Associate Professor of History
 - <https://africana.uconn.edu/>
 - Angela Rola, Founding Director of the Asian America Cultural Center
 - <https://asacc.uconn.edu/>

3:00-3:15, Break

3:14-4:14pm, Session 2: Community Centered Initiatives on Antiracism

- This unique session brings together community thought-leaders who will talk about their role(s) and the role(s) of their organization regarding antiracism and education. They will also provide their viewpoints on how better partnerships might be formed (and maintained) between the community and higher education, particularly in ways that would be most beneficial to students and to the community(ies).
- Moderator: Nadine S. Brennan, Associate Campus Director at UConn Hartford
- Panelists:
 - **Natalie** McCabe Zwerger, Executive Director, *Re-Center*
 - <https://www.re-center.org/en/>
 - Melinda L. Johnson, Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy, YWCA
 - <https://www.ywcahartford.org/>
 - Yahaira Escribano, Finance and Programs Officer, *Hartford Land Bank*, *Board of Education*, City of Hartford
 - <https://hartfordlandbank.org/>, <https://www.hartfordschools.org/board-of-education/>
 - Shanelle Morris, Program Director, *Grow Hartford Youth Program*
 - <https://hartfordfood.org/programs/grow-hartford-youth-program/>

4:15-4:30pm, Closing Remarks

- Dr. Melina Pappademos, Director of the Africana Studies Institute and Associate Professor of History at UConn will provide the closing remarks for the first day of the symposia.

AREC Itinerary, Day 2 (April 14)

Schedule, Day 2

9:15-9:30am, Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introduction of *HartBeat Ensemble*

- Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, Campus Director of UConn Hartford and Professor of History and Latinx Studies, will kick off day 2 of the symposia with inspiring words about the event, some comments regarding the institutionalization (and necessity) of this event and others like it. Dr. Overmyer-Velázquez will also introduce *HartBeat Ensemble*.

9:30-11:30pm, *HartBeat Ensemble*, "Stuck in the Tape," An Interactive Play

- Prepare to be blown away by this exclusive event, commissioned by UConn Hartford, and spearheaded by Godfrey L. Simmons Jr., Artistic Director and award-winning actor, producer, director, and playwright. This will be an interactive play promoting professional development for working competently with culturally, ethnically, and racially diverse students.

11:30-12:30pm, Lunch Break

- If you registered for lunch, it will be served in the Hartford Public Library CCC Room. If you did not register for lunch, feel free to visit any number of delicious and wonderful local restaurants in downtown Hartford. A short list of recommended eateries can be found on the second page of this program.

12:30-1:30pm, Session 3: Action Research: Bridging Scholarship and Community

- This panel brings together some of the most inspiring academics whose scholarship centers on putting research to good practice (or putting theory to praxis). As one panelist noted when asked about their work, (paraphrasing) "we just want to get things done." These panelists are asked to highlight the important work they are doing, its impact or potential impact in the community, and how they think about antiracism or equity in their work. Panelists are asked to spend some time discussing how other academics might best think about their research as it aligns with the needs of the community.
- Moderator: Dr. David G. Embrick, Associate Professor in Sociology and Africana Studies, Director of Sustainable Global Cities Initiative
- Panelists:
 - Dr. Mohamad G. Alkadry, Professor and Director, School of Public Policy
 - <https://dpp.uconn.edu/person/mohamad-alkadry/>
 - Dr. Melanie Newport, Assistant Professor of History, UConn Hartford
 - <https://history.uconn.edu/melanie-newport/>
 - Dr. Kerri Raissian, Associate Professor at the School of Public Policy

- <https://dpp.uconn.edu/person/kerri-raissian/>
- Dr. Sukhmani Singh, Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work
 - <https://ssw.uconn.edu/person/sukhmani-singh-phd/>

1:30-1:45pm, Break

1:45-2:45pm, Session 4: Graduate Student Research Panel

- This panel features graduate students who are in the Indigeneity, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Program (IREP) Graduate Certificate and the self-run graduate Philosophy of Education group at UConn.
- Moderator: Dr. Jane Gordon, Professor of Political Science
- Panelists:
 - Gregory Doukas, "Revolution and Evolution: Dialectical Political Responsibility in the Thought of James Boggs and Grace Lee Boggs"
 - Gregory E. Doukas is a PhD Candidate in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. His dissertation "Political Responsibility in Tumultuous Times" explores how thinkers have formulated the question of political responsibility in periods of radical social upheaval and turmoil and how political responsibility becomes salient before and after moments of profound rupture and crisis.
 - Darian Spearman, "Reimagining Education: The Role of Philosophy of Education in the Decolonization of the University"
 - Darian Spearman is a philosophy PhD candidate at The University of Connecticut. His research interest are Africana Philosophy, Philosophy of Myth, Philosophy of Religion and Philosophy of Education. He will be Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Gonzaga University beginning this fall.
 - Sian Charles-Harris, "Constructing the English Teacher: English Education and Race, The Ontological Problem of the Human"
 - Sian Charles-Harris is a PhD candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Connecticut. Her scholarship and teaching engage the civic, dialogic and ethico-political aspects of English education in the United States. Her research examines the relationships among race, curriculum, and pedagogy in the teaching of English and considers how notions of human difference are produced and reproduced through literature lessons and discussions in English classrooms.
 - Luz Burgos Lopez, "Whitinidad: A Literature Analysis of Anti-Blackness and the Monolithic Construction of Latino Racial Category in Higher Education"
 - Luz Burgos-López is a PhD student in the Department of Learning, Leadership, and Education Policy at the University of Connecticut. Luz's research focuses on questioning the race-neutral master narrative of Latinidad by exploring the impact of anti-Black and white supremacist ideology in existing Latine scholarship.

3:00-3:45pm, Closing Keynote

- Dr. Frank Tuitt, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, and Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs at UConn, will deliver the closing keynote for the 2-day symposium on Antiracism, Education, and the Community.

3:45-4:00pm, Closing Remarks

- Dr. Linda C. Halgunseth, Director of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Sciences, will provide the closing remarks for the 2-day symposia, and give thanks to all the sponsors, panelists, and other participants that made the event a successful one.

4:00-5:00pm, Joy and Merrymaking

- Please join us at Bear's Smokehouse BBQ, located at 25 Front St., for happy hour, networking, to decompress, to shout huzzah, or to lodge constructive (keyword) criticisms on how to make the next event bigger, better, more engaging, and more fulfilling!

Map of Hartford Public Library & Downtown Hartford

