



2019 **MIDWEST**
MIXED
CONFERENCE

Disrupting the Single Story

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR RACIALLY MIXED PEOPLE

By Maria P.P. Root

I HAVE THE RIGHT ...

Not to justify my existence in this world.
Not to keep the races separate within me.
Not to be responsible for people's discomfort with my physical ambiguity.
Not to justify my ethnic legitimacy.

I HAVE THE RIGHT ...

To identify myself differently than strangers expect me to identify.
To identify myself differently from how my parents identify me.
To identify myself differently from my brothers and sisters.
To identify myself differently in different situations.

I HAVE THE RIGHT ...

To create a vocabulary to communicate about being multiracial.
To change my identity over my lifetime -- and more than once.
To have loyalties and identification with more than one group of people.
To freely choose whom I befriend and love.

WELCOME TO THE 2019 MIDWEST MIXED CONFERENCE

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 2019 MidWest Mixed Conference. Our team has been working tirelessly for over a year to bring you this community and arts centered event. We are trying to break the mold by creating a fresh and accessible conference experience, so we value your open hearts and critical feedback during the evaluation given at the end of the day Saturday. As the co-founder and director of MidWest Mixed, I hope you feel challenged, nurtured and called to action this weekend. The work we do in these three short days has the power to create real and lasting change. Wishing you balance, breath and presence for the journey ahead.

ALISSA PARIS

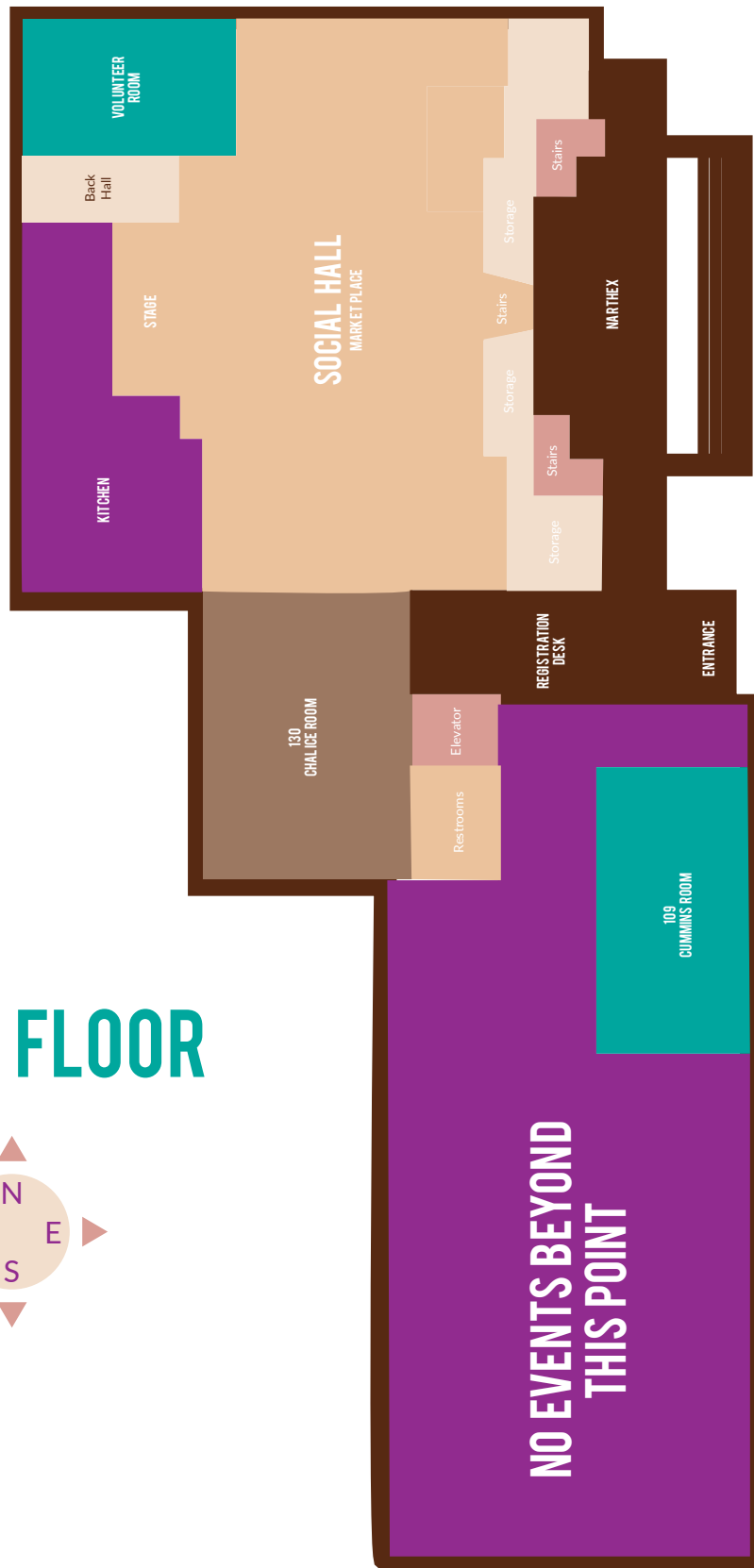
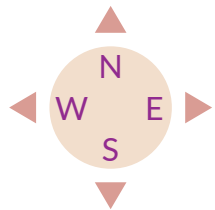
Director of MidWest Mixed



MidWest Mixed works to expand our understanding of race and identity through courageous conversations, arts engagement, educational outreach, and a biennial conference.

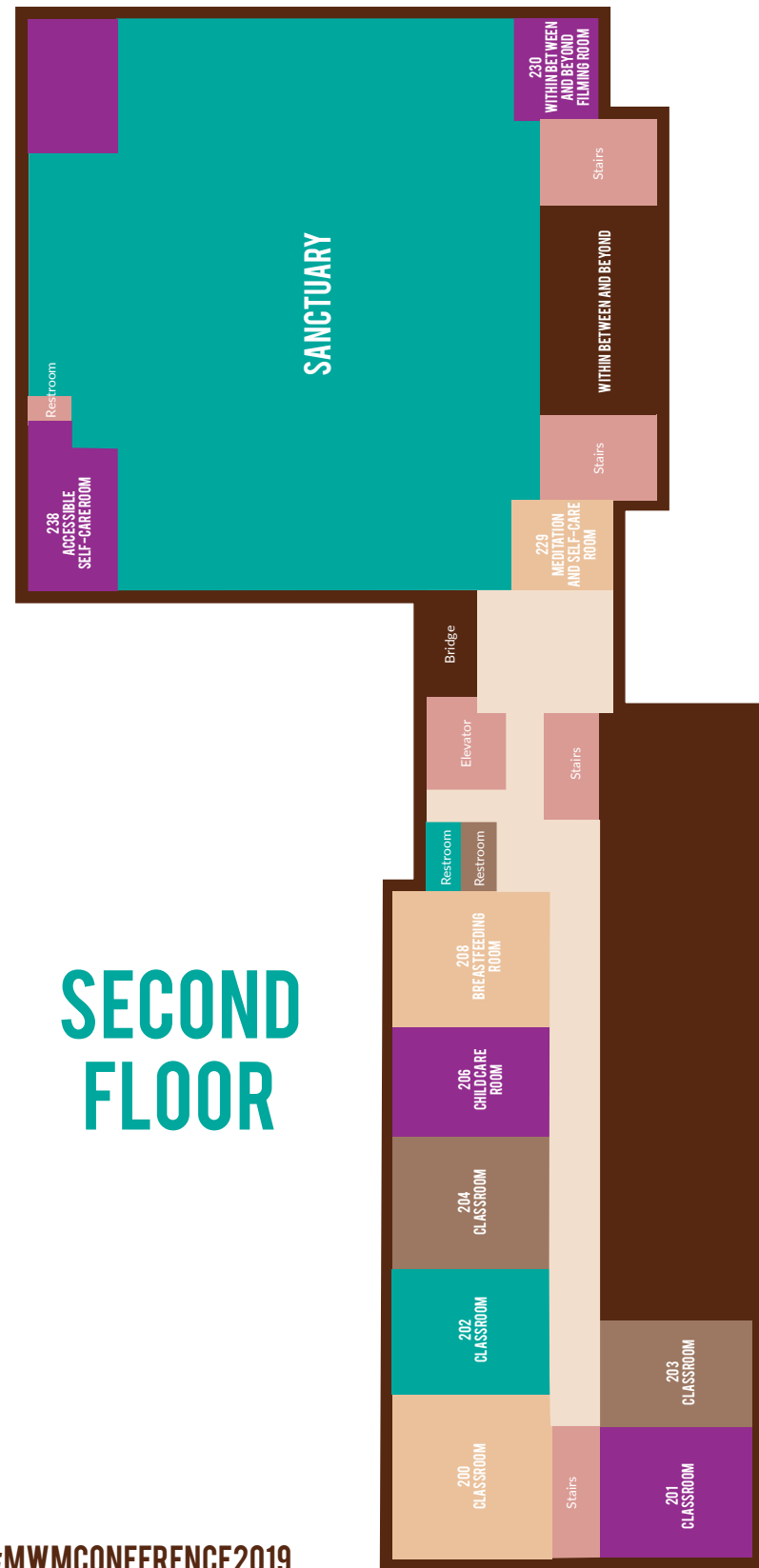
#MWMCONFERENCE2019

FIRST FLOOR



NO EVENTS BEYOND THIS POINT

SECOND FLOOR



#MWMCONFERENCE2019

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS 1

- Say My Name: A Reflective Writing Workshop - Room 200
- Bridging Intergenerational Dialogue On Mixed Race Identity - Room 201
- Home As A Political Classroom: Let's Raise Radicals - Room 202
- Stories We Tell Ourselves To Live: Resistance Through Narrative - Room 203
- Talking To Multiracial Kids About Race: For Parents - Room 204
- Creative Movement Workshop - Cummins Room
- 50 Shades Of White Panel: Reclaiming Our Wholeness - Sanctuary

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS 2

- A Deep Dive on Neither/Both: Exploring and Expanding Your Identity - Room 200
- "Mixed Kids Are Gonna Save The World!" - Let's Disrupt This Single Story Together! - Room 201
- The Imminent Multiracial Apocalypse! - Room 202
- Trauma, Resilience, and Parenting in Mixed Families - Room 203
- Transracial Adoptee Dialogue - Room 204
- Mixed Race Narratives in Pop Culture - Cummins Room

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS 1

- "Mixed Kids Are Gonna Save The World!" - Let's Disrupt This Single Story Together! - Room 200
- Trauma, Resilience, and Parenting in Mixed Families - Room 201
- Home As A Political Classroom: Let's Raise Radicals - Room 202
- Stories We Tell Ourselves to Live: Resistance through Narrative - Room 203
- Open Circle Dialogue For European Descended Parents Of Children Of Color - Room 204
- Mixed Race Narratives In Pop Culture - Cummins Room
- How Identity Development Impacts Mental Health, Moderated by Lola Osunkoya, MA, LPCC - Sanctuary

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS 2

- Tuning into your Chakras - Room 200
- Bridging Intergenerational Dialogue On Mixed Race Identity - Room 201
- Say My Name: A Reflective Writing Workshop - Room 202
- You Are Enough - Room 203
- Mixed Folks Who Get Read as White: Reading Ourselves - Room 204
- Talking to Multiracial Kids About Race: For Parents - Cummins Room
- Curl Confidence Workshop - Sanctuary

BUILD YOUR OWN SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JULY 12TH

9 AM - 10 AM	DOORS OPEN	
10 AM - 10:15 AM	WELCOME ADDRESS	
10:15 AM - 11 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RICARDO LEVINS MORALES	
11 AM - 11:15 AM	PERFORMANCES BY KATELYN DURST THEN ALEXEI MOON CASSELLE	
11:30 AM - 1 PM	CHOICE 1:	CHOICE 2:
1 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH/MARKETPLACE	
2:30 PM - 4 PM	CHOICE 1:	CHOICE 2:
4:10 PM - 4:15 PM	PERFORMANCES BY JULIA GAY	
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	WITHINBETWEEN&BEYOND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LED BY ALISSA PARIS	
4:30 PM - 5 PM	MARKETPLACE/SOCIAL HOUR	

7PM - 11PM: CO-HOSTING WITH FREE MINDS FREE PEOPLE "LET'S BE FREE" AT CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER

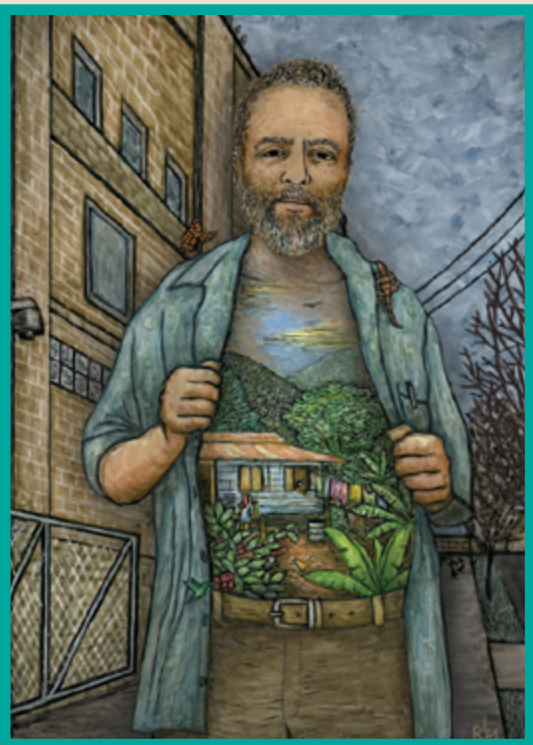
SATURDAY, JULY 13TH

9 AM - 10 AM	DOORS OPEN	
10 AM - 10:15 AM	ANNOUNCEMENTS	
10:15 AM - 11 AM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SUN YUNG SHIN	
11 AM - 11:15 AM	PERFORMANCE BY KENO EVOL	
11:30 AM - 1 PM	CHOICE 1:	CHOICE 2:
1 PM - 2:30 PM	LUNCH/MARKETPLACE	
2:30 PM - 4 PM	CHOICE 1:	CHOICE 2:
2:30 PM - 5 PM	WITHIN, BETWEEN, AND BEYOND: SHARE YOUR STORY	
4:10 - 4:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS & EVALUATION TIME	
4:30 PM - 5 PM	MARKETPLACE/ SOCIAL HOUR	

7PM - 10PM: SOCIAL AT MEMORY LANES BOWLING ALLEY

SUNDAY, JULY 14TH

1 PM - 2 PM	POTLUCK & SOCIAL HOUR
1:30 PM - 2 PM	WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) WITH SHARON CHANG
2 PM - 4 PM	DEDICATED SPACES FOR REFLECTIONS



Friday

KEY NOTE

**RICARDO
LEVINS
MORALES**

Ricardo Levins Morales describes himself as a “healer and trickster organizer disguised as an artist.” His activism has included support work for the Black Panthers and Young Lords to participating in or acting in solidarity with farmers, environmental, labor, racial justice and peace movements. Increasingly he has come to see his art and organizing practices as means to address individual, collective and historical trauma. He co-leads workshops on trauma and resilience for organizers as well as trainings on creative organizing, social justice strategy and sustainable activism, and mentors and supports young activists. He operates, with a crew of co-workers, out of a studio/storefront gallery in south Minneapolis.

Saturday

KEY NOTE

**SUN
YUNG
SHIN**



신 선 영 Sun Yung Shin, MFA, MAT, is a Korean adoptee and immigrant, born in Seoul and raised in the Chicago area. She is the author of poetry/essay collections *Unbearable Splendor* (Minnesota Book Award); *Rough, and Savage*; and *Skirt Full of Black* (Asian American Literary Award) (all published by Coffee House Press). She is the editor of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota* and co-editor of *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*. Her bilingual (Korean/English) illustrated children’s book is *Cooper’s Lesson*. She teaches creative writing, and is a community cultural worker and facilitator, focusing on ending white supremacy and, with others, building a better world. She is the co-director of Poetry Asylum and is an emerging healing practitioner (biodynamic craniosacral therapy and Reiki). She lives in Minneapolis; more at www.sunyungshin.com.



HANA WORKU

1/3 of the time will be spent discussing and reading together; the remaining 2/3 will be spent on generative writing exercises.

SAY MY NAME: A REFLECTIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

"my name makes you want to tell me the truth."
— Warsan Shire, "The Birth Name"

How do we name ourselves and what do others name us? Led by the work of women and nonbinary writers of color, this workshop will explore names and naming - from official and documented names, to names chosen, announced, and reinvented, to names that have been erased, denied, or forgotten. We will use writing prompts, as individuals and groups, to draw out themes of power and control related to naming and also explore the agency we might claim over our names.



KIA PANKEY, LAUREN HOLLY, GABRIELLA GRANADA, EMMA SAKS

dialogues beyond the space they created within their campus community required bridging intergenerational understanding.

This workshop aims to bridge intergenerational dissonance in the mixed race community by starting a dialogue on how to support one another's journeys toward understanding our identities in a thoughtful, contemporary, and intersectional manner. Utilizing inclusive and informed language about our experiences without devaluing another's experience is crucial in dialogue. Together we can foster a stronger sense of belonging for people of all ages within the mixed race community and create an inclusive and educational space that encourages cross-generational growth.

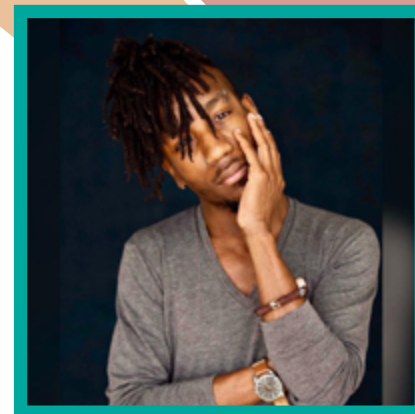
BRIDGING INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIXED RACE IDENTITY

Our mixed race identities are formed from a confluence of experiences: our family, friends, cultures, educational backgrounds, communities, and our ages. All of those facets inform our unique journeys toward engaging in open and educational dialogue about the multiplicity of our mixed race identities.

Recent graduates and founders of the University of Minnesota's Multiracial Student Union—Kia Pankey, Lauren Holly, Gabriella Granada, and Emma Saks—have attended multiple Midwest Mixed cohort meetings. They found that engaging in meaningful mixed race

HOME AS A POLITICAL CLASSROOM: LET'S RAISE RADICALS

What ingredients are required to raise a radical? What is the process to providing a play area for empathy and imagination? How do we equip young people to get to the root of social violence to imagine a world anew? Keno Evol, poet, educator and transracial adoptee will lead a discussion and writing workshop titled Home As A Political Classroom. Participants will dive in and explore points of departure to start conversations on racial difference, social justice and how to have these conversations in the framework of adoption and mixed race families.



KENO EVOL

STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES TO LIVE: RESISTANCE THROUGH NARRATIVE

In the age neoliberalism, self-branding and individual identities are all the craze. Although the Americas love to portray a melting pot sense of diversity and colorblindness there has been a new focus on what exact mixtures are going in the pot. From DNA tests to multiracial music artists, it seems there's been a new wave of racial awareness that is teetering towards essentialist interpretations of race. In this workshop, I detail how dominant narratives around race/racialization provide restrictive identity scripts that underwrite the workings of everyday life in subtle and insidious ways. I show how without a focus on the way that language and narratives work together to produce stories about what race is, we interfere with racialized folks ability to live full lives. I offer narrative racial identity has an alternative.



VINCENTE PEREZ

The current social & political climate is a perfect time to interrogate the messages that many people have taken for granted. The world doesn't exist in black and white. In fact, the grey-scale of the everyday contains key clues about how ideologies seep into interpersonal relations. This workshop will explore the convoluted way that we all internalize narratives about people that then influence the way that we treat them. Narrative impacts everything that we hold as sacred, real, and important. This workshop will explore narrative as a tool for education and survival to dispel oppressive norms and open up new worlds. I will provide the opportunity for participants to trace their own personal narrative to learn how to incorporate these ideas into curriculum.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR FOR MAKING THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION



TALKING TO MULTIRACIAL KIDS ABOUT RACE: FOR PARENTS

We live in a political time where the license on overt discrimination has been renewed and the need to talk about race with our children is as pressing as it has ever been. But, what does that conversation look like when we are talking with multiracial kids? In many ways the conversation is similar to the race conversation all kids need to have. For example, all youth need a solid grasp on how systemic racism, antiblackness and white supremacy function. In critical ways, however, there has to be additional nuance. Conversations with multiracial children must include talk about fluid identity, familial racism, not enough narratives, both/and versus either/or, colorism and shadeism, mixed-race fetishizing, post-racialism, light-skin and white-passing privilege, and much more. In this workshop, we will learn

SHARON CHANG

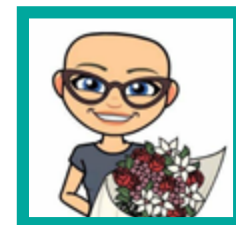
how to help mixed-race children understand race, navigate their racial identity (or identities), and cope with privilege and oppression as it plays out within their social nuclei, and within their own bodies. Children welcome to attend but participation for adults.

A DEEP DIVE ON NEITHER/BOTH: EXPLORING AND EXPANDING YOUR IDENTITY

Within personal racial identity, Mixed and Multiracial folk and Transracial Adoptees often find themselves feeling pressure to identify one way or another. This often ignores the wide set of complex experiences where racial identity could more accurately be described as "neither/both." Participants in this workshop will choose a past racialized experience, and use art, writing, and small and large group conversation to identify and explore limited narratives around who they "should" be, and create space to expand into a more affirming chosen identity.



LOLA OSUNKOYA



SUSAN PHILLIPS

OPEN CIRCLE DIALOGUE FOR EUROPEAN DESCENDED PARENTS OF CHILDREN OF COLOR

This workshop is an open dialogue for European descended parents of mixed children. The presenters want to create a space that is welcoming, and non-judgmental and allows attendees to be vulnerable in conversations about the challenges, joys, and experiences of walking with the privilege as white folks and parenting children of color.

*This workshop centers white/euro descended parents of children of color, but is open to all attendees.



SARAH NICHOLS

CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

Through guided movement improvisational exercises and dialogue prompts, we will explore our connection to space, place, and our bodies as they relate to our mixed identities.

*All Ages



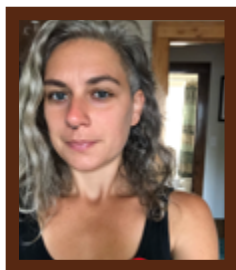
SARAH ABDEL-JELIL

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!

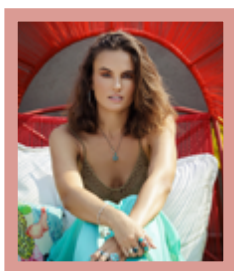


PANELISTS

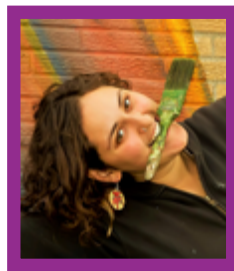
MODERATOR



AZIZA BISANZ



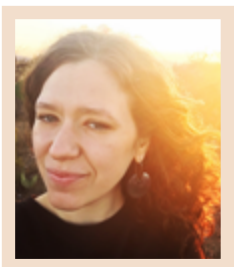
CASEY BUDD



OLIVIA LEVINSHOLDEN



JNA SHELOMITH



ERICA JO VIBAR SHERWOOD



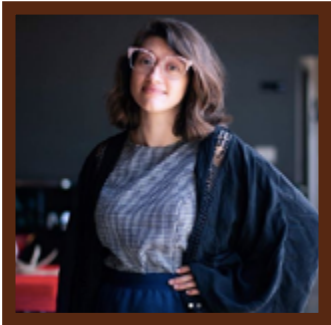
OWEN DUCKWORTH

YOU ARE ENOUGH

"You are enough" is one of the main tenets of improv. Being "enough" is a theme that we often see in our experiences as mixed people. Join us in the exploration of wholeness through the use of improv. We aim to provide an inclusive and silly space where everyone, regardless of performing background can feel comfortable playing with us. Through the use of improv games participants will have opportunities to vocalize needs and find acceptance without question.



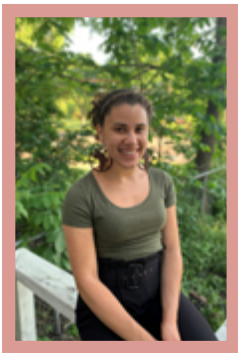
VANESSA TU



MONIKA HETZLER



ELIZABETH COUNCIL



JENAE HERRON

“MIXED KIDS ARE GONNA SAVE THE WORLD!” – LET’S DISRUPT THIS SINGLE STORY TOGETHER!

In larger society, there is a sentiment that “mixed kids are gonna save the world!” or “mixed kids are gonna solve racism!” This simplistic notion renders some (i.e. monoracials and white folks) innocent and others (mixed, multiracial, and transracial adoptees) as burdened. This workshop aims to push back against this powerblind discourse. Instead, we will pause, explore, and seek to disrupt this single story. Drawing on principles of appreciative inquiry, this workshop invites participants to delve deeper into individual stories regarding this topic, create visual representations of discussion and learning, and challenge how white supremacy tokenizes all people of color (POC) to do this work of racial healing.



ORKIDEH MOHAJERI

MIXED RACE NARRATIVES IN POP CULTURE

Stories help us understand the meaning of our experience and connect to others who share them. Some times stories can also share our experience in negative ways, setting up expectations and reinforcing stereotypes that persist through time. In this session, participants will have an opportunity to (re)examine the narratives that shaped their personal sense of identity and the ways mixed narratives have changed, evolved or stayed the same over time. We will look at a few film clips from media, like historical pieces, like Imitation of Life and Pinky, and more contemporary ones, like Aquaman and The Bold Type as well as some other pop culture references, have break out conversations and opportunities to craft narratives that better fit our experience(s) or our hopes for the future. Participants will also have an opportunity to share resources and narratives that have been meaningful to them and contribute to a resource zine.



ERIN SHARKEY

THE IMMINENT MULTIRACIAL APOCALYPSE!

Overpopulation, global warming, nuclear annihilation, a tweet-happy president- it seems every day we wake up to another way the world might end. In this session we’ll take a cold hard look at what politics, Afrofuturism, science fiction, race theory and popular culture have to say about how multiracial people fit into the apocalypse. We will explore the history of the multiracial identity in America, the current state of (mixed) race politics, how media, tech, and art depicts the future of race, and discuss what we can do now to alter our collective futures- and potentially save the world.



NICK DAVIS



SIERRA YAZZIE ASAMOA-TUTU, MSW, LICSW

TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND PARENTING IN MIXED FAMILIES

This workshop will address questions of intergenerational and ancestral (historical) trauma as viewed from a mixed race perspective. We will then apply that knowledge to parenting and discuss how we can raise resilient children and break cycles of inherited trauma.



////////////////////
PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE
THROUGH CONSCIOUS CREATIVITY
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REBEL • RESIST • REVOLT



A VISUAL
IMPACT

HIRE US

OUR WORK FOCUSES ON EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTING YOUR EFFORTS THROUGH STRONG MESSAGING THAT WILL INCREASE AWARENESS, FUNDING OPPS, & IMPACT.



A CREATIVE
NETWORK

JOIN US

JOIN BLACKBIRD REVOLT AS A CREATIVE OR MEMBER THAT SUPPORTS OUR WORK, HONORS ACTIVISM AND PURSUES SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH CREATIVITY. BLACKBIRDREVOLT.COM/JOIN



A CONSCIOUS
COLLECTION

SHOP WITH US

OUR COLLECTION FEATURES PRODUCTS, FROM APPAREL TO PRINT, AND USES CONSCIOUS MESSAGING AND IMAGERY THAT CHALLENGES THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT THE WORLD.

HOW IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS MENTAL HEALTH PANEL

Join 5 local mental health professionals who identify as Mixed, Multiracial, or Transracial Adoptees as they discuss how racial identity impacts mental health. Topics will include the different stages of identity development, how racial identity is not always static but changes over time, and how mental health is impacted by a person's racial identity and stage of development.

MODERATOR

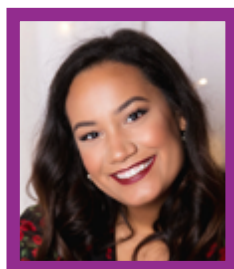


LOLA OSUNKOYA,
MA, LPCC

PANELISTS



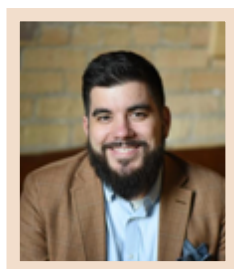
JULIE JONGKOCH,
MSW, LICSW



MARIAH OLVERA



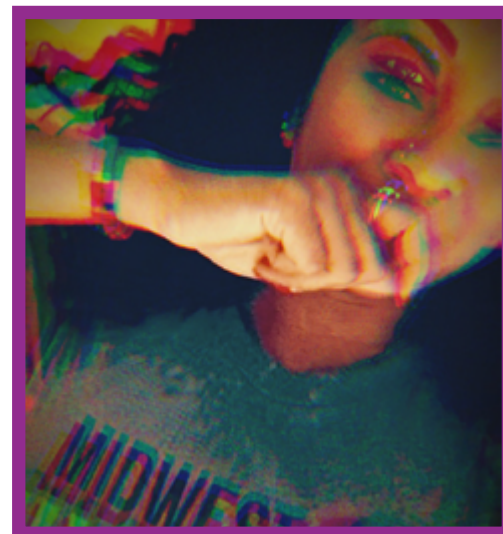
DR. KATIE LINGRAS,
PHD, LP



ED MORALES, MPP,
MSW, LICSW

TUNING INTO YOUR CHAKRAS

The chakra system coincides with our endocrine glands, and it is a complex network or energy channels that acts as a spiritual nervous system. This 90 minute workshop aims to provide a comprehensive interpretation of the chakra system and will help you assess your strengths or weaknesses within in each of the seven chakras. The goal of this session is to move away from finding balance that can be a restrictive binary, and move towards harmony, which allows for the acceptance of differences. You can expect to gain a high level understanding of each chakra including ways our emotions impact our physical state of wellbeing. There will be opportunities for self-reflection and peer-to-peer engagement via free will writing prompts and free will personal narrative sharing. In this workshop will also focus on and explore how disrupting the single story narrative is beneficial in helping us to find harmony, which will in turn helps to ignite our intuition. All are welcome to attend: teens, young adults, non-mixed parents, and beyond.



TAKAWI PETERS

MIXED FOLKS WHO GET READ AS WHITE: READING OURSELVES

As multiracial people who often get read as white, we navigate the complexities of white-passing privilege and staying true to ourselves every day - especially when we're not aspiring to "pass." In this session, we'll get to linger in and explore our complexities with each other. We'll start with introduction time in small groups as an opportunity to spaciouly share of ourselves and our backgrounds. We'll then shift into using Open Space Technology to identify the conversations we want to have with each other, breaking into small topic-based groups to dig deeper.

*This workshop is for people who identify as mixed-race and/or as a transracial adoptee, and resonate with the experience of being read as white



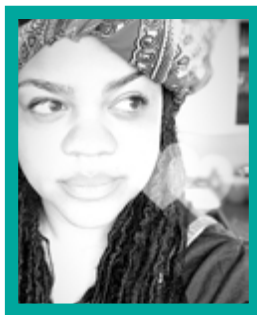
ELEONORE WESSERLE

#MWMCONFERENCE2019

CURL CONFIDENCE WORKSHOP

Understanding hair texture, curl patterns and porosity is the key to embracing ones curls. The Curlfriend Collective will share our years of experience coaching clients to create routines with the right products for healthy and beautiful curls, and encourage attendees to share their stories around how our hair has helped to shape our identities as mixed folks.

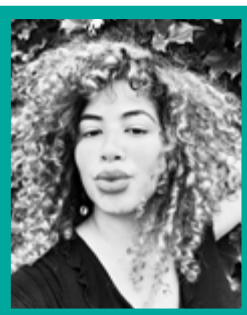
The Curlfriend Collective came together to offer more than just curly hair education in the Twin Cities. Each of our educators has a unique perspective and passion for creating spaces for people to feel, be seen and grow. The Curlfriend Collective goes beyond the how and the what of hair to the why.



**MAHOGANY
PLAUTZ**



EBONY DAVIS



**DAISY
GILES-U'U**



FIONA BURR

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE!



Points of Light Music

WITHIN, BETWEEN & BEYOND

Within, Between, and Beyond is a multi-layered visual art installation and participatory experience sharing an evolving archive of mixed race and transracial adoptee stories.

VISUAL ARTIST LEAD: Leslie Barlow

INTERVIEWS: Lola Osunkoya

VIDEOGRAPHY: Ryan Stopera

PERFORMANCE & COMMUNITY SPACE: Alissa Paris

Within, Between, and Beyond uses artistic interpretation and storytelling as an innovative and insightful way forward around issues of race and identity in America today, creating intentional space for individuals to share their experiences and speak their truths. A collaborative project centering the stories and identities of mixed race and transracial adoptee participants, Within, Between, and Beyond consists of paintings, audio/video interviews, a reflection space, and an on-site recording space to record responses to the project in real time. All of the video and audio responses, with permission, will be available after the conference as a part of the Within, Between, and Beyond archive-- this way, the work will be an empowering resource not only for attendees at the 2019 MidWest Mixed Conference, but also accessible to anyone in the world.

Alissa Paris will bring a number of willing participants together during our large assembly time to engage in a workshop demonstration. This improvisational community theater activity will connect the ways we physically embody race, racism and transformational 'people power'. For those who wish to further connect to self, Paris offers a self-study worksheet with exercises one can choose to execute while looking and listening to Within, Between & Beyond.

Open recording time (10 time slots available) 2:30pm-5:00pm in the Room 230 (Narthex room). In this safe, affirming video recording space, Lola Osunkoya will conduct interviews around racial identity experiences for conference attendees who identify as Mixed, Multiracial, or Transracial Adoptees.

PARTICIPANTS

Erin Sharkey
Kelly Shay
Duaba Unenra
Carolina BreAnne Vinchattle Huircán

MADE POSSIBLE BY:
metro
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MEET THE ARTISTS FEATURED IN THE ART GALLERY

LESLIE BARLOW

IG @ljpinko
www.lesliebarlowartist.com

ALEX BEAUMONT

CONIE BORCHARDT

IG @pointoflight_mu
www.pointsoflightmusic.net

NOAH LAROIA-NGUYEN

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JAMIE SCHUMACHER

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KELSI SHARP

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FB @sharpdesignco
IG @sharpdesign.co
www.kelsisharp.com

ELLEN SWEETMAN

FB: The Art of Ellen Sweetman
IG @mylivelybrush
www.livelybrush.com

NICOLE THOMAS

IG @null_tee
www.nicole-l-thomas.com/

MELANIE WALBY

@LemanieGrace
Melaniewalby.com

Support our artists by following them on their social media platforms and sharing the beauty they bring to the world with your friends and family.

#MWMCONFERENCE2019

Stay involved with MidWest Mixed through our DIALOGUE SERIES

Many of you have attended our dialogues in the past, which until recently we had organized into Cohorts 1 and 2. This late summer and fall we will make a few changes to our dialogues programming as we switch to hosting three dialogue spaces.

The first is going to be Dialogues 101. This group will meet monthly and will be for folks looking to get started exploring mixed race identity and politics from the MWM perspective. We will be discussing topics such as language, narratives, the historical context of mixed race narratives, and activism. This is intended to be an open, community group that will start in September.

There has also been a desire to start a dialogue for transracial adoptees. Starting in August MidWest Mixed will be launching the Transracial Adoptee Dialogue. This space is intended for folks who have the experience of being a transracial adoptee and will be focused on the issues facing and experiences of adoptees. This group will meet monthly as well.

Our third dialogue occurring this fall will be the MidWest Mixed Dialogues which is intended to be a deeper exploration of particular topics. This group will meet monthly for three months to discuss a topic in depth. This is intended to be a committed group that will be starting in September.

Every three months at the conclusion of the MidWest Mixed dialogues topic, once every quarter, all of the dialogue groups will meet to all spend time together, socialize, and reflect as well as share ideas for the future of dialogues. We hope to see many of you this fall! Any questions? Please email us at mwmddialogue@gmail.com.

NEW! TRANSRACIAL ADOPTEE DIALOGUE

For transracial adoptees, introducing ourselves and/or our families can be uncomfortable. In the first of a series of MidWest Mixed Dialogues specifically for Transracial Adoptees, we will talk about the politics of racial identity and transracial adoption that come up in conversations even as basic as first introductions. The Transracial Adoptee Dialogue series will continue monthly after the conference to explore aspects of transracial, transnational, and transcultural adoption, multiracial family dynamics, and more. This first meeting will be a space for participants to raise future topics of discussion relevant to transracial adoption. Future dialogues will be free and public, and open to folks who did not attend the conference!

Won't You Celebrate With Me
Lucille Clifton

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,
my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING HONEST
DEVIN ORTIZ

THE PROBLEM,
ONE THAT I KEEP COMING BACK TO,
IN AMERICA,
IS ONE OF IDENTITY.

IT'S A THING THAT EBBS AND FLOWS,
WITH THE COMING AND GOING,
OF WHATEVER AGENDA IS PUSHED.

NOW, IF I'M PULLED OVER, OR LOOKED OVER BY NAME, OR DARE I ASSOCIATE WITH COLOR.
THEN THEY'LL F*** ME AND MY BLACKNESS.

NOW, SHOULD I TAKE IT PERSONALLY, OR EMPATHIZE WITHIN THE BOX THEY PUT ME.
THEN THEY'LL CURSE ME FOR DENYING THE WHITENESS.

IN THIS TUG OF WAR, I WRITE MY OWN STORY.

TWO RACES,
ONE MIND,
BUT THE SPIRIT OF MILLIONS.

I AM MY ANCESTORS, BLACK AND WHITE.
THIS IS MY PERSPECTIVE.
I'M TAKING IT BACK.

A DEEP DIVE ON MY IDENTITY

This worksheet is intended to help ground you as you move through the conference experience. As individuals we carry many social identities that shape our experiences and who we are. These identities interact with and affect one another, and create varying degrees of privilege and disadvantage as we walk through the world. This is a concept known as intersectionality. It is important that we look within ourselves to understand the role our identities play in where we fall along the spectrum of privilege, and also, to better know ourselves.

The more we understand ourselves, the more deeply and thoughtfully we can connect with others. For many of us, the meaning behind these words/labels can change based on where we are and who we are with. Please answer openly, as this is only intended for you, but you may share if you choose to. The space for notes is intended for you to return to during, and after, the conference when you have thoughts or questions.

Year Born/Age—significant cultural influences: _____

Geographic Areas Lived, childhood and adult: _____

National Identity: A sense of a nation as a cohesive whole as represented by distinctive traditions, cultures, geographic borders and language

- Ex. American, El Salvadorian, Puerto Rican, South Korean, Tribal or First Nations

Ethnicity: Indicates groups that share a common identity based ancestry, history, language, nationality or culture. These are often influenced by religion, beliefs and customs, as well as memories of migration and/or colonization.

- Ex. Sioux, Nigerian, Irish

Language(s) spoken at home: _____

Race: A social construct/category forged through oppression and slavery that has no scientific basis. Perceptions of racial difference are based on physical characteristics such as skin color, hair, or facial features. But in fact, genetic differences within a designated racial group are often greater than differences between racial groups.

- Ex. Black, African-American, Native American, White, Asian American

- **Religious/Spiritual Orientation (childhood and adult):** Religion and spirituality are two different concepts, although aren't entirely distinct from one another. Religion often refers to a belief system that includes specific rites, rituals, or practices to follow, that may also include a text and belief in a supernatural being or beings. Spirituality is a bit broader, referring to what gives a person meaning or connection with something greater than themselves. For some people this could include religion, for others spirituality could involve music, art, nature, etc.

Socioeconomic Mobility (childhood and adult): Social standing or class of an individual or group that is often measured by income, but also includes level of education and one's occupation

Abilities/Disabilities

- Includes mental, physical, developmental, emotional, learning, can be congenital or acquired

Sexual Orientation: Who you're attracted to romantically, sexually, or emotionally

- Ex. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Asexual, Straight
- Some definitions of sexual orientations also include levels of romanticism (like the one above from Planned Parenthood), while others differentiate between "sexual orientations" vs. "romantic orientations"

Gender Identity & Pronouns: One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.

- Gender ID Ex. female, male, transgender, gender-fluid, gender non- conforming, non-binary, genderqueer
- Pronoun Ex. She/her/hers, he/him/his, they/them/their

Family: The role of transracial adoption and/or transnational adoption in your family. Did you grow up with parents who reflected your racial identity? National identity? How have colonialism and imperialism impacted your family?

SPACE FOR MORE THOUGHTS

THANK YOU

We're so fortunate to be able to work in partnership with so many amazing businesses and people within our community.

First, we want to thank all of our attendees for making it out to the conference. Without you there would be no conference. Thank you for sharing your love and light.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO SO GRACIOUSLY DONATED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS WITH US TO BE ABLE TO EXECUTE CONFERENCE NEEDS.

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PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND SUPPORT THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO FACILITATE SPACES LIKE THESE.



Leslie Barlow

Carolina BreAnne Vinchattle Huircán
60" x 48" Oil, pastel, acrylic on panel
2019