



UWAA ALUMNI-STUDENT SEMINAR

Interrupting Privilege: Race and Politics

This seminar is connected to the UW General Studies 297 V class for Autumn Quarter which meets Wednesdays 5:30-6:50pm, UW Communications/Thompson 325 with Prof. Ralina Joseph (rjoseph@uw.edu) and Ph.D. student Marcus Johnson (mjj22@uw.edu)

Becoming aware of **privilege**

should not be viewed as a burden or source of guilt, but rather,

an opportunity

to learn and be responsible so that we may work toward **a more just and inclusive world.**

CHECK YOUR PRIVILEGE:

- WHITE
- MALE
- CLASS
- CHRISTIAN
- CISGENDER*
- ABLE-BODIED
- HETEROSEXUAL

*CISGENDER: a description for a person whose gender identity, gender expression and biological sex all align

privilege: unearned access to social power based on membership in a dominant social group

Developed at the University of San Francisco by Dr. Walker (Psychology), Dr. Poole (School of Management, Marketing), Professor Murray (Design), and Student Life. Original poster designs by Camille Esposito, Ray Cho, Veronica Cabanayan and Cat Bagg.



Credit: University of San Francisco "Check Your Privilege" Campaign



Overview

The **UW Alumni Association** in collaboration with the **UW Center for Communication, Difference, and Equity** has created a new opportunity for alumni and students to explore race and equity through a combination of lectures and conversations: ***Race and Equity Leadership: Interrupting Privilege.***

Dr. Ralina Joseph leads this seminar which engages questions of privilege through The Graduate School's year-long public lecture and workshop series on *Equity and Difference: Privilege*. Quarterly programming and curriculum has been designed especially for a small number of undergraduate students and a matching number of alumni who commit to a series of events and activities.

The Race and Equity lectures will serve as a backbone of the curriculum as well as the intersection where alumni and students can have rich conversations in a safe and structured environment. Using the theme of 'privilege' throughout the year, the Equity and Difference lecture series provides an opportunity for alumni to reconnect with their university at a very deep level—directly with students and around a vital topic; and the lecture series affords students the rare position to explore how they navigate equity and privilege issues and their collegiate experience in comparison to alumni who came before them.

“Regardless of whether the students and the alumni might be starting in different places, they can all lead and grow together to ultimately create change.” Prof. Ralina Joseph

Student Course Description

Most discussions of inequality focus on violence, disproportionality, and discrimination. But what about the concept of privilege? How does privilege – in terms of race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship status – shore up inequality?

This seminar engages questions of privilege through the Graduate School's yearlong public lecture and workshop series on "Privilege." Students will meet periodically with alumni to read and discuss the scholarship and activism of the 2016-17 public lecturers, and attend the lectures and workshops together, which in Autumn Quarter includes Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas on privilege and White college students' identities; UW Prof. Megan Ming Francis on privilege, race and politics; and Robin DiAngelo on White fragility.

Syllabus

Get Started

Watch TEDxHampshireCollege - Jay Smooth - How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race (2011) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU>

Thursday, October 6: Jose Antonio Vargas Lecture

5:00 pm: Orientation, Allen Auditorium, Allen Library

6:30 pm: reception for Vargas, Odegaard Rm. 220

7:30 pm: Vargas Lecture, "Define American: My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant"
Kane 130

Read, Vargas, J. (2011) "My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant"
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/26/magazine/my-life-as-an-undocumented-immigrant.html?_r=0

Watch, Vargas's documentary "White People"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj1PmJcRM>

or

<https://defineamerican.com/resources/films/white-people/>

(You can screen it for free but you will need to provide your email address to the website)

Wednesday, October 12: Megan Francis Lecture

7:30pm: Megan Ming Francis's lecture "Race and Violence in American Politics"

Read, Francis, M. (2015) "Here's how to make government care about black lives"
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/12/01/heres-how-to-make-government-care-about-black-lives/>

Read, The Movement for Black Lives, "Platform of The Movement for Black Lives"
<https://policy.m4bl.org/platform/>

Wednesday, October 19: Creating Toolkits to interrupt privilege

Read, Dowling, Johnson, & Krabill. (2016) *Teaching Ferguson: Can #BlackLivesMatter in the Neoliberal University?*

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08935696.2016.1168245>

Wednesday, October 26: Robin DiAngelo

7:30pm, DiAngelo Lecture "White Fragility" Kane 130

Read, DiAngelo, (2016) "White Fragility"

<http://robindiangelo.com/2014site/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/White-Fragility-Published.-1.pdf>

Read, Watts (2016), "White Fragility is Real: 4 Questions White People Should Ask Themselves During Discussions about Race?"

http://www.salon.com/2016/07/18/white_fragility_is_real_4_questions_white_people_should_ask_themselves_during_discussions_about_race/

Wednesday, November 2: Robin DiAngelo Workshop

6:30 – 8:30pm DiAngelo Workshop for UW students and Alumni Members

Read, DiAngelo, R. (2012). "Nothing to add: The role of white silence in racial discussions." *Journal of Understanding and Dismantling Privilege*, 2(2), 1-17.

<http://robindiangelo.com/2014site/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Nothing-to-Add-Published.pdf>

Read, Kegler (2016), "The Sugarcoated Language of White Fragility"

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/anna-kegler/the-sugarcoated-language-of-white-fragility_b_10909350.html

Wednesday, November 9: Megan Francis – Class with students

Read, Megan Ming Francis, (2016) "Black Surveillance Matters," African American Intellectual History Society

<http://www.aaihs.org/black-surveillance-matters/>

Wednesday, November 16: Thanksgiving

Read, (2007) "Thanksgiving: A Window into White Privilege"

<http://2xconsciousness.blogspot.com/2007/11/thanksgiving-window-into-white.html>

Read, Elston, (2015) "Why African and Native Americans Shouldn't Celebrate White Privilege"

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/african-native-americans-celebrate-thanksgiving>

Read, Feris (2015), "Thanksgiving/Thanks-taking and Privilege"

<http://www.raceconscious.org/2015/11/thanksgivingthanks-taking-and-privilege/>

Read, Tanfani and Bierman (2016), and "Trump's Art of the Deal with Native Americans: Racial Insults or Flattery, Whichever Was Good for Business"

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-trump-american-indians-20160617-snap-story.html>

Read, Hopkins (2013), "Native Appropriation Month,"
<http://lastrealindians.com/native-appropriation-month-by-ruth-hopkins/>

Wednesday, November 30: Race outside the Black/White paradigm

Read, Devega, C. (2016) Who gets to borrow white privilege? This is what happens when an Asian-American cop kills an unarmed African-American
http://www.salon.com/2016/04/23/who_gets_to_borrow_white_privilege_this_is_what_happens_when_an_asian_american_cop_kills_an_unarmed_african_american/

Read, Torio, L. (2016) Why Are Some Asians Still Supporting the Cop Who Shot Akai Gurley?
<https://www.thenation.com/article/ex-cop-peter-liang-is-set-to-appeal-his-manslaughter-conviction-why-are-some-asians-supporting-him/>

Wednesday, December 7: Class Presentation (undergrads and UWAA members; dinner provided) Room TBA

Read Serwer, A. (2016) "Colin Kaepernick's True Sin" *The Atlantic*, Aug. 30th, 2016
<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/08/kaepernicks-true-sin/498122/>

Read, Kelley, D. G. (2014) "Resisting the War against the Black and Brown Underclass Why We Won't Wait"
<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/11/25/why-we-wont-wait/>