



Knowledge, Awareness, Action: *Engaged Speakers, Engaged Citizens*

Spring 2017 Events



ECCE Speaker Series

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Spring 2017 ECCE Speaker Series Event Schedule

Feb 3	Film & Panel Discussion <i>13th: The Distance for How Far We've Come and Haven't Is the Only Thing Equal</i>
Feb 6	Richard Gilman-Opalsky <i>The Propaganda Game</i>
Feb 21	Panel <i>Black Lives Matter - Through the Prism of Fredrick Douglass</i>
Mar 1	KMA Sullivan & Justin Reed <i>Literary Citizenship: Publishing, Writing, and Editing in 2017</i>
Mar 2	Diaz Lewis <i>34,000 Pillows</i>
Mar 7	Panel <i>The US Immigrant Population: Myths vs. Facts</i>
Mar 8	Samantha Drew Gordon <i>Does Leadership Have a Gender?</i>
Mar 21	Neill Franklin <i>The Failure of the War on Drugs: Finding Humanity in an Unjust System</i>
Apr 4	Pamela Constable <i>Immigrants & Refugees: A Dilemma for US Leaders & Society</i>
Apr 10	Richard Gilman-Opalsky <i>Specters of Revolt</i>
Apr 18	Michelle Carr <i>River Reconnections: A Story of Science & Hope</i>
Apr 20	Ross Gay <i>Cataloguing Gratitude</i>
Apr 21	Robyn Ochs <i>Break The Silence: Beyond Binaries - Identity and Sexuality</i>
Apr 26	Dennis Fox & Ron Sakolsky <i>Anarchist Possibilities</i>

For a list of other upcoming ECCE Speaker Series events, visit www.uis.edu/speakerseries/. All events are free and open to the public. Individuals with disabilities who anticipate the need for accommodations should contact the UIS Speaker Series Office at 217/206-8507 or speakerseries@uis.edu in advance.

February 3

Friday

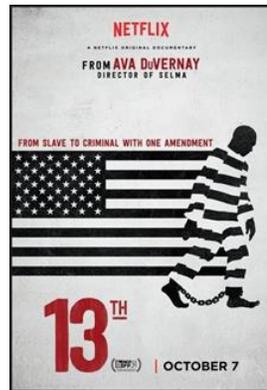
6:00 p.m.

Brookens Auditorium

Black History Month Event

Co-Sponsored by UIS Diversity Center

13th: The Distance for How Far We've Come and Haven't is the Only Thing Equal



Panel

Centered on race in the United States criminal justice system, “13th” is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the constitution, which outlawed slavery (unless as punishment for a crime). The documentary demonstrates how slavery has been perpetuated through mass incarceration. The filmmaker claims that the criminal justice system has been exploited through a variety of bad legislation measures passed by and supported by many U.S. congress members and presidents. As a result, many African Americans and other minorities from impoverished environments found themselves in vulnerable positions, most commonly landing them in prison after the passing of this legislation.

Snippets of the film will be shown with a moderated discussion to follow.

Kamau Kemayo - UIS Associate Professor and Chair of African American Studies

Deanie Brown - UIS Associate Chancellor for Access and Equal Opportunity

Larry Golden - UIS Emeritus Professor and Founding Director of the Illinois Innocence Project

Teshome Campbell—Exoneree from the Innocence Project

February 6

Monday

6:00 p.m.

Brookens Auditorium

The Propaganda Game



Richard Gilman-Opalsky, Moderator

“The Propaganda Game” is a documentary film about North Korea that explores how propaganda functions both inside and outside the country. Director Álvaro Longoria was allowed to film within the country, although his visit was monitored by a Spanish sympathizer for the North Korean government who himself becomes a subject of the documentary. The film includes interviews as well as archival and contemporary news footage as it attempts to describe the nation’s social and political realities with attention to media manipulation by and against the government of North Korea.

The ECCE Speaker Series will screen and discuss the film, confronting basic and important questions about how people around the world acquire political knowledge of places and events they’ve never experienced.

Richard Gilman-Opalsky is Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science at UIS. He is the founder of Political Art and the Public Sphere (PAPS). The idea behind PAPS is to consider how “political art” raises provocative social and political questions, and to engage in discussion with students, faculty, and members of the general public.

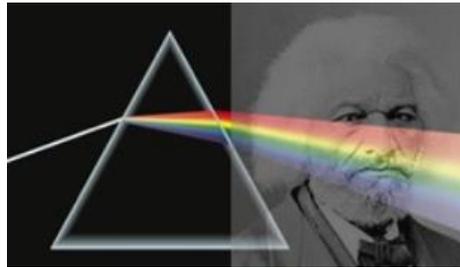
February 21

Tuesday
6:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Black History Month Event

Co-Sponsored by UIS Diversity Center and Departments of Public Administration, Legal Studies, African-American Studies, and Public Health

Black Lives Matter - Through the Prism of Fredrick Douglass



Panel

A panel of thought leaders in their respective fields will explore the Black Lives Matter Movement through the prism of Fredrick Douglass' "West India Emancipation" speech of 1857. The event, as part of Black History Month, will highlight societal and legal institutional challenges that continue to be faced by African Americans today. By illustrating their plight, this event hopes to build awareness to the struggles faced by at-risk populations in general, and African Americans specifically.

- Sophia Gehlhausen Anderson** - Coordinator of Programs & Outreach in UIS Diversity Center
- Pastor Jerry Doss** - Lead pastor of Abundant Faith Christian Center (AFCC) in Springfield
- Dorine Brand** - UIS Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health
- Ty Dooley** - Director of the MPA Program at UIS
- Tess Dooley** - Visiting Instructor of Legal Studies in CPAA at UIS
- Tiffani Saunders** - Instructor of Sociology and African American Studies at UIS

March 1

Wednesday
7:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Shelterbelt Reading Series

Literary Citizenship: Publishing, Writing, and Editing in 2017



KMA Sullivan and Justin Phillip Reed

Sullivan and Reed will read from their new books of poetry and discuss literary citizenship and the publishing process in the 21st century. As the founder of YesYes Books, a leading independent press recognized nationally for its commitment to diversity, Sullivan will discuss how she sustains an equitable press and builds a social just literary community. As a writer published by YesYes books, Reed will discuss the editorial relationship from the writer's standpoint. He will also discuss the creation of "The History of Flamboyance", a collection which explores place and the black queer experience, among other topics.

KMA Sullivan is the author of "Necessary Fire", winner of the St Lawrence Book Award (Black Lawrence Press, 2015). Her poems have appeared in Boston Review, Southern Humanities Review, and elsewhere. She is the editor-in-chief of Vinyl Poetry and the publisher at YesYes Books. She holds a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) from Virginia Tech.

Justin Phillip Reed has a full-length book of poetry, "Indecency", forthcoming from Coffee House Press in 2018. His work appears—or soon will—in Best American Essays, Callaloo, The Iowa Review, The Kenyon Review, and elsewhere. He received his MFA at Washington University in St. Louis.

March 2

Thursday
5:30 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by UIS Visual Arts
Gallery and Illinois Arts Council



34,000 Pillows



Diaz Lewis

Alejandro Figueredo Diaz-Perera and Cara Megan Lewis (Diaz Lewis) will give a lecture on their latest project, 34,000 Pillows, which was developed in response to the Congressional “detention-bed mandate,” a statutory quota that enforces Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain at least 34,000 immigrants every day in over 250 private prisons and county jails across the country. To materialize the human impact of the mandate, Díaz Lewis is creating a pillow to represent every designated bed and each immigrant detained as a result of the mandate. The pillows are comprised of articles of clothing donated by undocumented immigrants, prior detainees, and their allies. In an attempt to symbolically “buy back” the 34,000 beds for one single day, 100% of the funds raised from sales of the pillows* are going towards alternatives to the bed mandate, and organizations whose efforts restore human dignity such as Human Rights Watch and Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants.

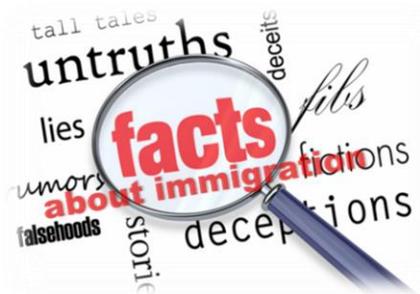
Diaz Lewis - the collaborative duo comprised of Alejandro Figueredo Diaz-Perera and Cara Megan Lewis - creates art to prompt social change. After the couple met in 2012, they worked across the divide between Cuba and the US. Now based in Los Angeles, their practice as artists and activists is fueled by deconstructing social processes and the symbols and politics behind them. In the selection of topics such as rhetoric, immigration or property rights, they dissect relevant themes from two distinct and often opposing angles. Recent exhibitions include “Home Land Security” For Site Foundation, San Francisco (2016); “Soul Asylum” Weinberg Newton Gallery, Chicago (2016); “A Dream Deferred” Aspect/Ratio, Chicago (2015); “Cul De Sac” Mission Gallery, Chicago (2015); and “The Other’s Voice” Rapid Pulse International Performance Art Festival, Chicago (2014). Diaz Lewis were most recently artists-in-residence at the Chicago Cultural Center at the end of 2016 with the support of the Joyce Foundation.

March 7

Tuesday
4:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by Diversity Center and
Gamma Phi Omega International
Sorority, Inc.

The U.S. Immigrant Population: Myths vs. Facts



Panel

Immigration has become a hotly contested political issue in the United States, and many Americans hold beliefs based on widely-held misconceptions. Our goal of this panel discussion is to dispel the myths associated with immigration and give the audience a clearer understanding of the subject. We will explore the history of immigration to the United States, U.S. immigration policy, and how border protection efforts have failed to deter immigrants from risking their lives for the opportunity to work in this country. We will look at the impact of immigrant workers on the U.S. economy and consumer prices, and associated human rights issues. We will discuss how American culture has been influenced by immigrant populations, and how many iconic symbols like our national anthem and country music are actually cultural hybrids. Finally, we will cover how the impacts of U.S. foreign policy has fueled the exodus of emigrants from nations in Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia.

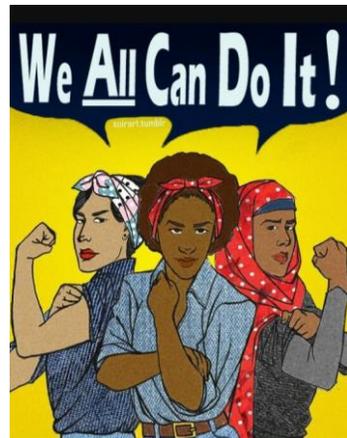
Adriana Crocker - UIS Associate Professor of Political Science
Anette Sikka - UIS Assistant Professor in the Legal Studies Department
Yona Stamatis - UIS Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology

March 8
Wednesday
6:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

International Women's Day Event
UIS Campus Safety Week

Co-Sponsored by UIS Women's Center

Does Leadership Have a Gender?



Samantha Drew Gordon, UIS alumnae

Increasingly, women are rising to leadership roles in traditionally male environments. These women often find themselves struggling to be respected and taken seriously unless they resort to traditional aggressive leadership modalities. Samantha Drew Gordon will offer suggestions on ways that women can lead and achieve respect.

Samantha Drew Gordon was president of the Student Government Association her junior and senior years as a student at UIS. Following graduation, she started her career working at a shelter for survivors of domestic violence, Sojourner Center in Phoenix. In 2008, she began working for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in Arizona as an organizer working to bring child care providers a living wage and a union. Over the last nine years at SEIU, Gordon has worked on various political campaigns, organizing initiatives, and helped build and implement a national leadership development program for the union. In 2015, Gordon moved to California as statewide field director of SEIU Local 1000, which represents 95,000 California state workers.

March 21
Tuesday
6:30 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by Springfield
Dominican Sisters

The Failure of the War on Drugs: Finding Humanity in an Unjust System



Neill Franklin, Retired State Police Major and Executive Director of LEAP

Photo Credit: Roc Martin

Major Franklin will discuss why it is more compassionate to advocate for the regulation and control of drugs, and have a law enforcement approach that defends human rights and views drug misusers as persons in need of treatment as opposed to punishment.

Neill Franklin has served as the executive director of Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP), which advocates for the regulation and control of drugs, and a law enforcement approach that defends human rights and views drug misusers as persons in need of treatment as opposed to punishment since 2010. He is a 34-year law enforcement veteran of the Maryland State Police and the Baltimore Police Department. Early in his career, Neill served as a narcotics agent with the Maryland State police. His steadfast belief in fighting the drug war was changed first by the Mayor of Baltimore who declared that the drug war was not working; it was counter-productive and created excessive violence. Then a short time later, a close friend was killed in Washington, DC while making a drug deal as an undercover agent.

Immigrants and Refugees: A Dilemma for US Leaders and Society



Pamela Constable

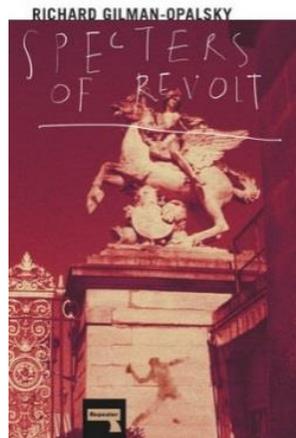
Many politicians in the U.S. have stridently argued that immigration should be severely limited, while others have argued that restrictions on immigration should be relaxed. Pamela Constable, deputy editor for the Washington Post, will draw on her deep experience writing about immigration to give us insight into the pros and cons of current immigration policy. She will also delve into international perceptions of our policy.

Pamela Constable is the deputy editor at the Washington Post. She has written numerous articles and books about Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and immigration policy. She has written Playing with Fire: Pakistan at War with Itself and Fragments of Grace: My Search for Meaning in the Strife of South Asia. She has also served as chief correspondent for the Washington Post in Kabul.

April 4
Tuesday
7:30 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by World Affairs
Council of Central Illinois

Specters of Revolt



Richard Gilman-Opalsky

In his fourth and latest book, *Specters of Revolt* (2016), Gilman-Opalsky explores how the most important thinking on the most pressing social, political, and economic issues is expressed in revolt. The problem is, we are accustomed to thinking of social upheaval and revolt as irrational, violent, and incoherent. To the contrary, Gilman-Opalsky develops a theory of revolt that accounts for its diverse critical content. He argues that the world is haunted by revolt, by the possibility of events that interrupt and disrupt the world, that throw its reality and justice into question. This lecture and open discussion based on Gilman-Opalsky's new book aims to help us understand recent global uprisings, and to resist ideological rejections of global uprisings as senseless violence. Making use of diverse sources in philosophy, and specific examples from the Middle East, Europe, and the U.S., we explore the intellect of insurrection.

Richard Gilman-Opalsky is Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science at the University of Illinois, Springfield. Dr. Gilman-Opalsky is author of four books: *Unbounded Publics* (2008), *Spectacular Capitalism* (2011), *Precarious Communism* (2014), and *Specters of Revolt* (2016). He is also co-editor of the forthcoming book, *Against Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, for Temple University Press.

April 10
Monday
6:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

River Reconnections: A Story of Science & Hope



Michelle Carr

Illinois State Director of The Nature Conservancy, Michelle Carr, will speak about her efforts to advance critical conservation issues across the state. In particular, Carr emphasizes how leadership strategies work to bridge the perceived gaps between conservation science and economic decision-making in Illinois. She will discuss how our local land and water conservation practices in Central Illinois contribute to global solutions for some of the most pressing environmental problems today. Her inspirational message will enhance our awareness of how students and citizens can get involved in local projects, and will stress the key importance of Illinois conservation and restoration projects as global models for understanding social & environmental resilience in cities, farmlands, artificial waterways, and other built environments.

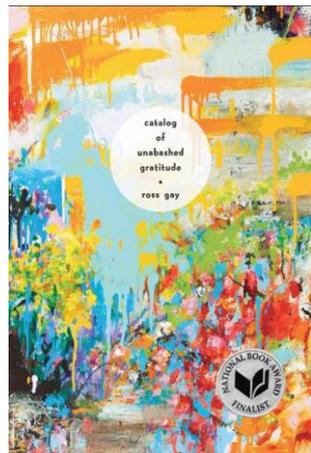
Michelle Carr is the Illinois State Director of The Nature Conservancy. She leads strategic efforts to advance critical conservation issues across the state, and works to bridge gaps between conservation and economic decision-making.

April 18
Tuesday
7:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Earth Week 2017

Sponsored by the Edmund L. Kowalczyk Fund for Leadership

Cataloguing Gratitude



Ross Gay

Poet Ross Gay will read from his most recent collection, *Catalogue of Unabashed Gratitude*, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry in 2016 and was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2015. His collection has been called a “bright book of life” that explores the importance of “singular compassion for the wounded world [through] musicality, intelligence, and intoxicating joy.” Ross Gay has received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Ross Gay is the author of three books: *Against Which*; *Bringing the Shovel Down*; and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* received the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry in 2016 and is currently a nominee for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. *Catalog* was also a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry, the Ohioana Book Award, the Balcones Poetry Prize, and it was nominated for an NAACP Image Award. Ross is a founding board member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, a non-profit, free-fruit-for-all food justice and joy project. He has received fellowships from Cave Canem, the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and the Guggenheim Foundation. Ross teaches at Indiana University.

April 20
Thursday
1:30 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

STARS Keynote Address

Co-Sponsored by College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Department of English & Modern Languages, and Friends of Brookens Library

April 21
Friday
3:00 p.m.
Lincoln Residence Hall - Great Room

National



Co-Sponsored by Diversity Center,
LGBTQ Office, Organization of Latin
American Students, and Disability
Services

Break the Silence: Beyond Binaries - Identity & Sexuality



Robyn Ochs

Robyn Ochs, an educator, speaker, award-winning activist and editor explores sexuality over a lifespan as she breaks the silence of fluid sexual identities. Her program explores the landscape of sexuality and how society maps sexual orientation. Given that no two people are alike, how do labels get assigned to an individual's complicated and unique experiences?

Ochs' interactive workshop will conduct an anonymous survey of participants, look at the data and find where the group falls on the sexuality continuum. The program will encourage participants in the UIS Day of Silence to share their experience.

Robyn Ochs has taught courses on LGBT history and politics in the United States, the politics of sexual orientation and the experiences of those who transgress traditional binary categories. Her work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements.

April 26
Wednesday
6:00 p.m.
Brookens Auditorium

Co-Sponsored by Radical Student
Union and the Department of Political
Science

Anarchist Possibilities



Dennis Fox & Ron Sakolsky

This event will briefly highlight the history of anarchism and its impact on the world. It will address common misunderstandings of anarchism (violence, overthrow of governments, etc.). Finally, the event will address anarchy in the 21st century and beyond. Ask two lifelong anarchists everything you want to know about anarchy and why it matters today for you.

Dennis Fox published several critical texts mostly in regard to the psychology of law and politics. His most recent publication is *Psycho-politics: The Cross-Sections of Science and Ideology in the History of Psy-sciences* (2016). Dr. Fox has participated in dozens of panels and workshops regarding theories on the psychology and morality of anarchism.

Ron Sakolsky is an editor for *The Oystercatcher* (an anarcho-surrealist magazine). Dr. Sakolsky has written several books relating to anarchism and surrealism like his collection of essays in *Creating Anarchy* (2005) which ranges widely from Mayday to Utopia, from Refusal to Autonomy, and from Insurrection to Imagination.

