

# Transcending Punishment: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Inequality & Social Justice



**Friday, October 7 (4-8 pm) – Saturday, October 8, 2016 (8 am-5 pm)**

Borough of Manhattan Community College | 199 Chambers Street, New York, NY

*Sponsored by the BMCC Criminal Justice/Social Justice Faculty Interest Group (through the BMCC Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship [CETLS]) and the BMCC Department of Human Services, Social Sciences & Criminal Justice. Funding for the conference comes from a five-year Title V Department of Education grant that BMCC shares with John Jay College/CUNY.*

# TRANSCENDING PUNISHMENT | FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

**4-6 pm | Richard Harris Terrace:** Community organization tabling & Conference registration

**6-8 pm | Richard Harris Terrace:** Conference opening and two keynotes, with Q & A

**Conference opening remarks:** Dr. Sangeeta Bishop, Professor of Economics, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, & Criminal Justice, Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC)/CUNY

**First Keynote Speaker introduction:** Dr. Yolanda Martín, Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator of Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

**First Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Baz Dreisinger, Associate Professor of English, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

**Second Keynote Speaker Introduction:** Dr. Benjamin Haas, Assistant Professor of Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

**Second Keynote Speaker:** Daniel McGowan

**Q&A:** Question and Answer to directly follow keynote speakers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016

**8 am-5 pm | Richard Harris Terrace:** Community Organization Tabling

**8-9 am | Richard Harris Terrace:** Breakfast & Conference Registration  
**Opening remarks:** Dr. Benjamin Haas

**9-10:15 am: PANEL SESSIONS**

**9-10:15 am | ROOM N-452: Race and the Criminal Justice System**

*Public Education is a Civil Right: Detroit Public Schools Impact on African American Children*  
Christopher K Jackson, Assistant Professor, Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

*Social Justice and Racial Diversity as Worthy Goals: the Future of Police Forces*  
Itai Sneh, Associate Professor, Department of History, John Jay college of Criminal Justice/CUNY

*Community Colleges and Racial Justice*  
Chet Jordan, PhD student in Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center and Instructor of English at Guttman Community College

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016 (continued)**

**9-10:15 am | ROOM S-719: The Role of Modern Mass Incarceration in Social Justice**

*How We Know and Don't Know About Mass Incarceration*

Christina Nadler, PhD candidate in Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center

*Incarcerated Men and Social Visibility: Examining the Humanistic Potential of Prison Visits*

Shenique S. Thomas, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

**9-10:15 am | ROOM S-341: What does Criminal Justice Mean to Me? Using Visual Ethnography to Demonstrate Students' Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System  
POSTER SESSION**

Shirley Leyro, PhD candidate at the Graduate Center (CUNY) in the Criminal Justice program at John Jay College, and Instructor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

BMCC students: Ayana Henry, Kimberly Vazquez, Skye Gomez, Brian Moran, & Jeffrey Cordero

**9-10:15 am | Richard Harris Terrace: Developing Pedagogy with Social Justice Concerns, First Session**

*United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): An interdisciplinary teaching vehicle for economic, social and environmental justice*

Christine Farias, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

*Combined Classrooms: Exploring the Shared Learning Experiences of College Students Inside and Outside Prison*

Michelle Ronda, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

Ragnhild Utheim, PhD, Lecturer in Anthropology, SUNY Purchase College

**10:30-11:45: PANEL SESSIONS**

**10:30-11:45 am | ROOM N-452: We Fight Back: College Professors Fighting Neoliberalism at the Community College through Social Justice**

Daphnie Sicre, PhD candidate, Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions, NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and Instructor, Department of Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

Shirley P. Leyro, PhD candidate at the Graduate Center (CUNY) in the Criminal Justice program at John Jay College, and Instructor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

Michael Partis, Instructor, Center for Ethnic Studies, BMCC/CUNY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016 (continued)**

**10:30-11:45 am | ROOM S-719: Human Services Students with Criminal Justice Involvement and Internships: Part of the Pipeline or Jim Crow 2.1?**

Rose Marie Äikäs, Assistant Professor, Social Science Department, Queensborough Community College

Glenny Valoy, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

Lori Cohen, J.D., Adjunct Instructor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

Lisa Hale Rose, Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY

**10:30-11:45 am | ROOM S-341: Women's Perspectives on Social Justice Issues**

*What Is To Be Done*  
Jan Descartes

*Looking the Part: Standards of Beauty and Imagined Male Desires amongst Exotic Dancers*  
Michelle Gjuraj, M.A., New School for Social Research

*Elder abuse as a Social Justice issue*  
Agnes K. Halarewicz, PhD candidate in Social Welfare, The Graduate Center, CUNY

*(Co) Curricular Social Justice for women and GNC Students*  
Brianna Waychoff, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

**12:00-12:45 | Richard Harris Terrace: LUNCH**

**12:45-2 pm | Richard Harris Terrace: Keynote Workshop with Joshua Allen**  
**Keynote Speaker introduction:** Michelle Ronda, PhD

**2:15-3:30 pm: PANEL SESSIONS**

**2:15-3:30 pm | ROOM N-452: Panel with Representatives from ALKQN**

Participants to be announced

**2:15-3:30 pm | ROOM S-719: Developing Pedagogy with Social Justice Concerns, Second Session**

*Cultivating Rebel Knowledge: On the Strategic Importance of Social Movement Literacy*  
Jason Del Gandio, PhD, Assistant Professor of Instruction, Department of Strategic Communication, Sequence Head for Rhetoric and Public Advocacy, Temple University (Continued on next page)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016 (continued)**

**2:15-3:30 pm | ROOM S-719: Developing Pedagogy with Social Justice Concerns, Second Session (continued)**

*Unpacking our Relationship between Literacy, Power, and Privilege in Society*

Angela Pack, Assistant Professor, Hudson County Community College (HCCC)

Alyssa Smith, Teacher Education major, Hudson County Community College (HCCC)

Lindsay DePaul, Teacher Education major, Hudson County Community College (HCCC)

Adrianna Santos, HCCC alum and current junior at the College of Saint Elizabeth

**3:45-5 pm: PANEL SESSIONS**

**3:45-5 pm | ROOM N-452: College Readiness Inside and Out**

Rose Marie Äikäs, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Queensborough CC/CUNY

Agnieszka Tuszynska, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Queensborough CC/CUNY

Franca Ferrari, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts, Queensborough CC/CUNY

Carolyn King, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Queensborough CC/CUNY

Danny Sexton, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Queensborough CC/CUNY

Emily Tai, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of History, Queensborough CC/CUNY, and Chair, CUNY University Faculty Senate Higher Education in the Prisons Committee

**3:45-5 pm | ROOM S-719: What Happens to Women after they are Released?**

Jane Maher, PhD, Professor in the college program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Elaine Lord, Retired Superintendent of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

Women who were formerly incarcerated who were part of the Marymount Manhattan College Program at Bedford Hills

**3:45-5 pm | ROOM S-341: Performing Social Justice**

*Regarding Silence, Witnessing, and Human Rights Abuses*

Naida Zukić, Associate Professor, Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

(Continued on next page)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016 (continued)**

**3:45-5 pm | ROOM S-341: Performing Social Justice (continued)**

*Queer performance of utopia as a pedagogy of social justice education*

Rachel Briggs, M. Ed., Social Justice Education, and PhD candidate, Department of Communication,  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Hopelessness and Social Justice Activism*

Benjamin Haas, PhD, Assistant Professor of Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY

## **BIOS FOR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS [Alphabetical order]**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**Joshua Allen** is a black trans-feminine organizer and abolitionist whose work revolves around issues of race, gender and policing. Their work of coordinating direct actions, movement building and analyzing the intersections of race and gender have been featured in major news outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, BBC, and ABC. Joshua has been invited to workshop, keynote and organize at universities, conferences and within movements in countries across the world.

**Baz Dreisinger, PhD** is Associate Professor in the Department of English and Founder/Director of the Prison-to-College Pipeline at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. She is the author of *Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in American Culture* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2008), and *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons around the World* (Other Press, 2016). Together with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Peter Spirer, Professor Dreisinger produced and wrote the documentaries *Black & Blue: Legends of the Hip-Hop Cop*, which investigates the New York Police Department's monitoring of the hip-hop industry, and *Rhyme & Punishment*, about hip-hop and the prison industrial complex. Professor Dreisinger is also a reporter for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and *NPR*.

**Daniel McGowan** spent the last five and a half years in federal prison (much of it in a Communications Management Unit) after being convicted of arson and conspiracy charges related to events that occurred at the turn of the century. Daniel was the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary film *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*. Currently, He works at a nonprofit focused on prison reform and is enjoying life back in his hometown with friends and family.

### **PRESENTERS**

**Dr. Rose Marie Äikäs**, Assistant Professor, Social Science Department, Queensborough Community College. Received her PhD in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University and her, MSW Jane Addams School of Social Work, University of Chicago. She has international and domestic prison research experience, professional background as a criminal justice and social work practitioner and as a teacher at four year and two your college levels.

**Rachel Briggs** has an M.Ed. in Social Justice Education and currently is a performance studies PhD candidate in the Department of Communication and a Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies certificate student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research focuses on queer performativity in various contexts, including drag king performance and gender performativity in the classroom. This interdisciplinary work brings together the fields of social justice education, queer theory, and performance studies.

**Dr. Johnna Christian** is an Associate Professor at the Rutgers University Newark School of Criminal Justice. She has conducted research about incarcerated individual's familial ties, prison visitation, and prisoner reentry. She is currently conducting a study of the role of informal social support systems, such as family and faith based communities, in the reentry process.

**Lori Cohen, Esq.** – Received her J.D., University of Buffalo, in an addition to teaching criminal justice, she has a criminal defense practice in New York City and is Vice President of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys.

**Lindsay DePaul** is a Teacher Education major at Hudson County Community College (HCCC). She is in the process of transferring to a four-year institution. She is working to further her education and achieve her goal of becoming a certified teacher. She is dedicated to social justice in the classroom

**Jason Del Gandio, PhD** is an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Public Advocacy at Temple University. His area of expertise is the theory and practice of social justice, with an emphasis on grassroots activism and social movements. Jason has been directly involved with activism for more than fifteen years, participating in the global justice movement, the anti-war movement, and the Occupy movement; working on issues of free trade, economic inequality, Latin American solidarity, and sweatshop labor; and acting as an ally for feminist causes, the LGBTQ movement and, most recently, Black Lives Matter. Some of his publications include *Rhetoric for Radicals: A Handbook for 21st Century Activists* (2008) and (w/Anthony Nocella) *Educating for Action: Strategies to Ignite Social Justice* (2014). More information can be found at [www.jasondelgandio.net](http://www.jasondelgandio.net).

**Christine Farias** is an Assistant Professor who currently teaches Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Introduction to Economics in the Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department at Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY. Dr. Farias is an environmental economist and her main areas of interest include poverty alleviation, forestry, sustainable development, social enterprise, education and labor issues. Dr. Farias received her PhD from Texas Tech University and has published in various academic journals and books. In addition she has worked with students on sustainability initiatives as well as co-authored and presented with students at conferences.

**Dr. Franca Ferrari** is an assistant professor of Communications at Queensborough CC. She has been teaching communication workshops at Federal and State prisons since 2013.

**Michelle Gjuraj** is a retired sex worker of nine years who has recently earned her Master's degree in sociology from the New School for Social Research in New York City. Her research focuses on the social discourse that surrounds sex workers, specifically the polarization of narratives and its effects on working conditions, including the perpetuation of social stigma, violence, criminalization, and the internalization of patriarchal beauty standards. In addition to being a former sex worker and current academic, Michelle has also been an activist for over 11 years, organizing and fighting for many different causes including, but not limited to, sex worker rights, political prisoner support, state and police repression, and animal rights.

**Benjamin Haas** is an Assistant Professor of Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts at Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University New York. He is also a poet, performer, activist, punk, and vegan.

**Agnes Halarewicz** is a geriatric social worker and a current doctoral student in Social Welfare, pursuing research in Elder Abuse, at the CUNY Graduate Center. Ms. Halarewicz is an adjunct instructor at BMCC and teaches courses in criminal justice and human services. Previously she served as a director of a newly established private homecare program at People Care, Inc., and oversaw numerous agency services, including Legal Elder Abuse, NORCs, Caregiving Support and Geriatric Mental Health programs, as the Manhattan District Director at JASA. Her tenure at JASA also included work with the Community Guardian Program, which served over 400 court mandated clients, where she was an assistant director. Ms. Halarewicz began her work with older adults as a program manager at the Catholic Charities Senior Center.

**Dr. Christopher Jackson**, Assistant Professor, Speech, Communications, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY  
Expertise in Women's Studies, Popular Culture, Media Studies

**Chet Jordan** is a PhD student in Urban Education at the CUNY Graduate Center and Instructor of English at Guttman Community College. His research interests focus on the political economy of higher education and the



role of the community college in the education of Students of Color. Jordan's work at Guttman has afforded him a unique opportunity to understand and critique the community college completion agenda as both a scholar and educator. As a teacher, Jordan grounds his pedagogy in critical discussions of the dynamics of social power.

**Dr. Carolyn D. King** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Queensborough CC. Her research focuses on underrepresented minorities and STEM education. Dr. Franca Ferrari is an assistant professor of Communications at Queensborough CC. She has been teaching communication workshops at Federal and State prisons since 2013.

**Shirley P. Leyro** is a PhD candidate at the Graduate Center (CUNY) in the Criminal Justice program at John Jay College. She is the Immigration Policy & Practice Fellow and co-Managing Fellow at the Center on Race, Crime, and Justice at John Jay College. She is also a full-time instructor at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Her dissertation work examines the effects of the fear of deportation. Ms. Leyro is also a coeditor of "Outside justice: Immigration and the criminalizing impact of changing policy and practice," as well as a contributing author in the same volume.

**Christina Nadler** is a social theorist, currently completing her dissertation "Denial: A Sociological Theory," in the Sociology Program at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Christina has earned the Interactive Technology and Pedagogy Certificate. She has taught undergraduate courses in the Sociology departments at Hunter College and Brooklyn College. Courses she has taught most recently include Classical Sociological Theory, Current Social Theory, and Sociology of Gender. In the past, Christina has also taught courses on race, social networks, and family. Since Fall 2014, Christina has worked as an Instructional Technology Fellow for Macaulay Honors College, CUNY, where she works with faculty members to integrate digital pedagogies into their courses.

**Angela Pack** is an Assistant Professor at HCCC. She is currently working on her doctorate at Montclair State University in teacher education and teacher development. Professor Pack is dedicated to social justice in the classroom.

**Michael Partis** is a practicing anthropologist and educator. He teaches in the Center for Ethnic Studies at CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College, and is a Graduate Researcher for the Bronx African American History Project. He's an executive board member of Young Movement Inc., working on community-based economic development.

**Dr. Lisa Hale Rose**, Professor, Social Science, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department, BMCC/CUNY. She received her MSW from Silberman School of Social her Work and her Doctorate in Social Welfare from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research interests include community college student persistence, the continuum of Human Services and Social Work Education, and barriers to human service education and training for students who are formerly incarcerated. Before coming to BMCC, she worked in the fields of domestic violence, child welfare, and aging.

**Adrianna Santos** a graduate of HCCC, is currently a junior at the College of Saint Elizabeth. She is working to further her education and achieve her goal of becoming a certified teacher. She is dedicated to social justice in the classroom

**Dr. Danny Sexton** is an Assistant Professor of Queensborough CC whose scholarship focuses on gender and race.

**Daphnie Sicre** is a full-time instructor at BMCC-CUNY, where she teaches courses in theatre, social justice, and advanced public speaking. With a focus on Afro-Latin@ performance, she is currently completing her PhD

at NYU in Educational Theatre. She was raised in Madrid, Spain, but born in Guayaquil, Ecuador to Peruvian and Spanish parents, Sicre shares a deep passion for discovering multiple Latino and African-American perspectives in theatre.

**Dr. Itai Sneh** obtained his doctorate at Columbia University. He holds a law degree and a Masters in Eastern European Jewish History from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and a B.A. in Jewish History (with minors in International Relations, Biblical Studies, and Yiddish Language and Culture) from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. His research interests, presentations, courses, and publications include books, articles, and lectures on the politics and history of terrorism, human rights, justice, American presidential, diplomatic, legal, and political history, international law, genocide, Israel, and the Middle East.

**Alyssa Smith** is a Teacher Education major at Hudson County Community College (HCCC). She is in the process of transferring to a four-year institution. She is working to further her education and achieve her goal of becoming a certified teacher. She is dedicated to social justice in the classroom

**Dr. Emily Tai** is an Associate Professor of History at Queensborough CC. She is also the Chair of the CUNY University Faculty Senate Higher Education in the Prisons Committee.

**Dr. Shenique S. Thomas** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC/CUNY. Her research sits within a criminology and human development framework and includes the social consequences of mass incarceration, race and ethnicity, and restorative justice. She has conducted research about the social implications of mass imprisonment and the utility of criminogenic risk assessments for specific offender groups.

**Dr. Agnieszka Tuszynska** is an assistant professor of English at Queensborough CC. Since 2009, she has taught in prisons in Illinois and New York State.

**Dr. Glenn Valoy**, Assistant Professor, Social Science, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department, BMCC. She received her MSW, Columbia University and PhD from Wertzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University. She comes to academia after working as a hospital social worker specializing in pediatric palliative care. Research interests include women in higher education and women and children's health.

**Dr. Naida Zukić**, Associate Professor, Speech, Communication, and Theatre Arts, BMCC/CUNY  
Expertise in Queer Theory, Popular Culture, Performance Studies, Media Studies

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Rose Kim, Assistant Professor, Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice, BMCC

Yolanda Martín, Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Criminal Justice Program, Department of Shirley Leyro, Instructor of Criminal Justice, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department, BMCC

Lisa Rose, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Human Services, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department, BMCC

Jill Strauss, Assistant Professor, Department of Speech, Communication and Theater Arts, BMCC

Shenique S. Thomas, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences, Human Services & Criminal Justice Department, BMCC

### **Special thanks to the faculty, staff and administrators who helped make this conference possible:**

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