

THE



SUBVERSIVE

Issue 12

Fall 2018

KEEANGA-YAMAHTTA TAYLOR: 12TH ANNUAL ANNE BRADEN MEMORIAL LECTURER



We are thrilled to announce Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor as the 12th Annual Anne Braden Memorial lecturer. On November 1, 2018, at 5:30PM in the University of Louisville's Strickler Hall Auditorium, Taylor will deliver "From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation," based on her book of the same name. As always, the lecture is free and open to the public.

The author of two books, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* (Haymarket Books, 2016) and *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective* (Haymarket Books, 6451), Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor has been awarded the Lannan Foundation's Cultural Freedom Award for an Especially Notable Book and the 2018 Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality, while connecting anti-police brutality protests with a larger anti-capitalist movement. Race matters. Class matters.

Taylor received national attention in 2016 when she was forced to cancel speeches in Washington and California due to violent threats from the right-wing after referring to Donald Trump as "a racist, sexist megalomaniac" in a commencement speech at Hampshire College. Her insight and voice are more vital than ever in today's political climate, and we are honored to host her visit to Louisville.

Dr. Taylor is currently Assistant Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, after serving as the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2013-2014.

Please spread the word about this exciting event! Stay tuned for information on our 6th Annual Research Meets Activism Breakfast on November 2, where Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor will respond to a panel of local scholars and activists on the topic of solidarity and global liberation. For promotional materials or for more information, please contact us.



Anne Braden canvassing with a comrade during the 2000 anti-merger campaign.

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

September 26 ★

Belknap Deaf Awareness & Pride Week Keynote Address by Nyle Dimarco, 7:00 PM. Student Activities Center Ballroom

September 28 ★

Pride Week showing of the film *Major!* and talkback with Dawn Wilson, 12pm-2pm. Chao Auditorium

October 3 ★

17th annual Latin American & Latino Studies Heritage Lecture on Crime, Violence, and Migration by Dr. Abby Córdova, Elaine Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library, 4:30-5:30 PM

October 18 ★

Building Beyond Borders discussion led by Cuban pastor, ecumenical leader, popular educator, and prison educator Alicia Sevilla Hidalgo. Time and location TBA

November 1 ★★

12th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, 5:30pm, Strickler Auditorium

November 2 ★★

Research Meets Activism Breakfast, including a panel discussion on Solidarity and Global Liberation, 9am, location TBA

November 2 ★

Crossing Borders: Translating Research into Action Symposium, 10:45am-5:30pm, with reception to follow

★★ ABI EVENT

★ CO-SPONSORED EVENT

Anne Braden Institute Reading Room
Ekstrom Library, Room 258
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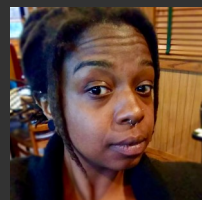


Meet Our 2018-2019 Grad Students!



Tara Lee Sexton is a first-year Master's student in the Women's and Gender Studies Department. She graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a dual degree in Police Studies and Criminal Justice. Tara has been a Certified Addictions Professional since 2013. Her interests are social justice, anthropology, and history. She plans to graduate in 2020.

Jerika Jones is a first-year Graduate Assistant at the Anne Braden Institute. She received her BA in Psychology and a BA in Philosophy with a social science concentration at the University of Louisville. She is interested in the phenomenology of musical experiences of female-identified listeners as it is represented in American Rock Music.



Lizz Perkins is a first-year Graduate Assistant at the Anne Braden Institute working towards a dual degree in Social Work and Women's & Gender Studies. She graduated from the University of Dayton with a BA in Spanish and Women's & Gender Studies. Lizz's interests include immigrant rights, reproductive justice, and LGBTQ issues. She plans to graduate in 2020.



#SPIRITOF68

Fifty years ago, revolution was in the air in the U.S., Paris, Mexico City, Prague, and countless places worldwide. Some parts of the U.S. literally went up in flames of protest as racial injustices continued while thousands of young people and civilians died abroad in an unpopular war that could not be won. 1968 was a year of incredible upheaval here in the U.S. and a year of global revolutions. The internet, email, and social media did not exist, but ideas for new forms of experimentation were exchanged and spread like wildfire across millions of miles.

Transformative organizing swept people into social movements, including civil rights, workers, Black/Red/Brown Power, anti-war, women's, and gay liberation. In the U.S. activists were able to connect the civil rights and anti-war movements to global struggles against colonialism and racism. The political climate seeped into pop culture by way of hippies, yuppies, and rock-n-roll. The tragic assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy shook the U.S. In Mexico City the government massacred hundreds of student protesters as the summer Olympics began. John Carlos and Tommie Smith used their international platform and raised their fists in protest as they received medals at the games.

Nineteen sixty-eight may have been the most turbulent, revolutionary year in history, but how transformative was it, really? TIME magazine's 2015 cover featuring the Baltimore protests following the murder of Freddie Gray asked a similar question. Contemporary public reactions to Colin Kaepernick's symbolic protest, including death threats and joblessness, were not dissimilar to what Tommie Smith and John Carlos faced in 1968. From the election of Donald Trump, the nomination of Brent Kavanaugh as a Supreme Court justice, and the emergence of Black Lives Matter and Mijente in recent years to popular TV shows like the Handmaid's Tale and musicians like Janelle Monae, Kendrick Lamar, and Residente, a new era of political activism and cultural resistance has emerged.

The Anne Braden Institute's #spiritof68 campaign highlights important moments fifty years ago such as the DNC riots in Chicago, the massacre in Mexico City, the grape boycott, and the Prague spring. Be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram to keep up with our posts, and examine their importance in today's political and cultural climate. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram to join the #spiritof68 conversation.

FACULTY PROFILE

Many of you know Dr. Cherie Dawson-Edwards through her work with the ABI, both as our first Faculty Fellow and, more recently, as Acting Director during Dr. Cate Fosl's 2017-18 sabbatical. You may not be as familiar, however, with her community-engaged research, her direction of the Social Change minor, or her new role as Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice. Read on to learn more about Dr. Dawson-Edwards and the many hats she wears.

Tell us a little about your research.

Community involvement and service to the profession keep me up to date with current problems, policies, and practices in criminal justice and related systems. I spend time with the community – whether it is juvenile justice or school practitioners or grassroots organizers – before embarking on any research endeavors.

In 2008, I was commissioned by Governor Beshear to serve on the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB), participating in decision-making about the direction of juvenile justice in Kentucky. I've served on the JJAB Subcommittee of Equity and Justice for All Youth (SEJAY) since 2008 and coordinated their 2010 and 2012 Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Summits. Through this work, I became Principal Investigator on a grant studying DMC in Kentucky, and all of the recommendations from our 2014 report were included in SEJAY's 2016 strategic plan. The recommendations were also used to craft proposed legislation regarding improvement on data collection and reporting by race, gender, disability status, presence of father in the home, and age across agencies that work with youth, as well as requiring agencies to share any efforts underway to address disparities in opportunity.

How does your work fit with the mission of the ABI?

My favorite Anne Braden quote is: "In every age, no matter how cruel the oppression carried on by those in power, there have been those who struggled for a different world. I believe this is the genius of humankind, the thing that makes us half divine: the fact that some human beings can envision a world that has never existed." I use this quote on my social change syllabi and when I speak to groups about the Social Change minor – which I direct. I like to think my community engaged scholarship is inspiring not only to my students, but to everyone who experiences my passion for making this a better world.

What are you looking forward to this academic year?

My Spring course – SCHG 399, Lectures in Social Change, "Structural Inequalities." This is one of the capstone courses in the Social Change minor, and it requires students to develop a grant-making process and award a small grant to an organization impacted by the course topic.

What is something about you that our readers may not know?

I am pretty much an open book – if people know me, they probably know everything! The main thing to know is that I wear many hats, and I try my best to inform people which hat I am wearing. When I do work in the community, I am wearing the hat of mom first, then community member, then researcher.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



A sabbatical is an incredible privilege and I'm grateful to the many folks who made it possible for me to take the time away, but most especially to Cherie Dawson-Edwards, who did a wonderful job directing the ABI this past year, and to admin assistant Jamie Beard, for all kinds of behind-the-scenes support.

The time allowed me a sort of vision quest--a chance to rest, recharge, and get to work at last on a new book about Guy and Candie Carawan, southern cultural activists long based at the Highlander Center. I'm excited to be working with Candie on the project and though it isn't finished yet, most all of the research is complete and the writing has begun!

Okay, I also have to admit that coming back after a year's sabbatical has been an adjustment. But a sabbatical allows a kind of renovation or refurbishment, and I came back ready to see familiar sights and people with new eyes.

We are therefore trying out some new looks and new ways of doing things, as *The Subversive* demonstrates. We have plans for some innovative programming this fall in remembrance of 1968, a globally revolutionary year exactly half a century ago, and some restructuring come spring.

How do you want to see the ABI evolve and engage most effectively as we enter our 13th year of working to bridge the gap between research and action for racial and social justice? That question is on my mind and it's one we need to hear more on from you, our faculty and community affiliates, as this new academic year unfolds.

—Cate Fosl

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Thank you for your support.

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