

THE



SUBVERSIVE

Issue 13

Fall 2019

JELANI COBB: 13TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURER



We are delighted to announce that Dr. Jelani Cobb will present "The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today" as the 13th Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture November 20, 2019, at 5:30 pm in Comstock Music Auditorium at the Belknap

Campus. The lecture is free and open to the public and there will be a reception with Dr. Cobb immediately following the lecture.

Jelani Cobb is a staff writer at the *New Yorker*, historian, and the Ira A. Lipton Professor of Journalism at Columbia Journalism School. His work focuses on race, politics, and culture while connecting the historical context of racism to current affairs. Dr. Cobb is the author of several titles including *The Substance of Hope: Barack Obama and the Paradox of Progress*, *The Devil and Dave Chappell & Other Essays*, and *To the Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip Hop Aesthetic*. Dr. Cobb was a 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary and has been a featured commentator on media platforms such as NPR, Al-Jazeera, CNN, MSNBC and others.

His recent work includes participating in Ava DuVernay's landmark documentary "The 13th." Dr. Cobb contrasts the values of democracy with the reality of the U.S.'s status as having the largest prison population in the world. Throughout the film he advances the argument that the economic realities of the decimated South and the specific clause written into the 13th amendment allowing people convicted of a crime to be punished through manual labor during imprisonment led to the rise of the prison industrial complex.

In addition to the lecture, our annual Research Meets Activism Breakfast will include a panel of local activist, journalists, and scholars who will join Dr. Cobb in discussing the current administration's attacks on the free press November 21, 2019. The panel and breakfast will kick off the Social Justice Research Symposium hosted by the Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research. The symposium will be centered around a writing workshop facilitated by the Progressive Media Project. The Symposium is free, but registration is required. Please contact us at (502) 852-6142 or bradeninstitutesocialjustice@gmail.com for more information or promotional materials.

2019-2020

FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPT
29

Braden Center Open House*

CARL BRADEN MEMORIAL CENTER,
4 PM-6 PM

The Carl Braden Memorial Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary! An historical marker telling the story of the Center and its connection to the civil rights movement will be unveiled at 4:45pm.

OCT
3

Pride Keynote: Dominique Jackson*

UOFL SAC, BALLROOM, 7 PM

Model, actress, author, advocate, and activist Dominique Jackson is a star of the television show *Pose* & author of *The Transsexual from Tobago*; followed by a Q&A with #TeamStrangeFruit.

OCT
17

The Greensboro Massacre of 1979: Lessons for Our Times*

WESTERN BRANCH LIBRARY, 5:30PM-7:30PM

Community conversation with local organizers and Roz Pelles, who survived the Klan massacre of 5 activists in North Carolina 40 years ago. Moderated by Pam McMichael.

OCT
31

Honduras Resists: Confronting a U.S.-fueled Human Rights Crisis*

TBA

Heidy Alachán is a lawyer, writer, and activist with the Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y Justicia in Honduras. She is part of the legal team representing the family of indigenous and environmental activist, Berta Cáceres in their fight for justice.

NOV
4

The 13th Showing

UOFL CHAO AUDITORIUM, 5:30PM

A screening of Ava DuVernay's "The 13th," followed by an interactive discussion on the intersections of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States.

NOV
7

Know Your Rights Workshop*

ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE, 6PM-8PM

This student workshop is intended to empower UofL students with information about their rights around organizing on campus.

NOV
20

Anne Braden Memorial Lecture

COMSTOCK MUSIC AUDITORIUM, 5:30PM

Columbia Professor of Journalism and award-winning columnist on race, history, & politics Dr. Jelani Cobb will present the 13th Annual Memorial Lecture titled "The Half-Life of Freedom: Race and Justice in America Today."

NOV
21

Social Justice Research Symposium

URBAN LEAGUE, 9AM-5PM

ABI Research-Meets-Activism Breakfast with Jelani Cobb & local panel, "Racial Justice in Journalism Today," 9-10:30 followed by writing workshop with Progressive Media Project 11AM-5PM. Free; preregistration begins Oct. 10.

* indicates co-sponsorship

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ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH





Marker dedication at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Carl Braden Memorial Center on September 29, 2019. The open house and community potluck included speakers and youth activists who read quotes by Anne and Carl Braden. Pictured from left to right: Bob Cunningham, Mattie Jones, Representative Attica Scott, Lijah Fosl, and Antonio Wickliffe.

Meet Our 2019-2020 Team!

Aundria Radmacher, CPM, is a long-time member of the social justice community in Louisville who joined the ABI staff in June. Her work focuses on Reproductive and Racial Justice with a specific emphasis on access to healthcare. She is a Certified Professional Midwife and has attended almost 300 families during the perinatal period over the last 10 years. Aundria's goals include becoming a master gardener, continuing to practice midwifery in a sustainable way, and delving into more policy work.



Moriah Bellamy is a first-year Graduate Assistant at the ABI. She received her BS in Pan-African Studies and a BS in Criminal Justice at UofL. Currently she is working towards a Master's degree in Pan-African Studies. Her interests are mass incarceration, the school to prison pipeline, and racial disparities in education. She will complete her degree in May 2021.



Lizz Perkins is a second-year Graduate Assistant working towards a dual degree in Social Work and Women's & Gender, & Sexuality Studies. She graduated from the University of Dayton with a BA in Spanish and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Lizz's interests include immigrant rights, reproductive justice, and economic justice. She will graduate in May 2020.



CIVIL LIBERTIES FELLOW: BROOKLYNN ALCORN

An exciting new research project we are piloting this fall is the Nathan Lord Civil Liberties Fellowship, which is held this year by Brooklyn Alcorn, a second-year law student from Georgetown. Brooklyn, selected for her background in LGBTQ and racial equity in housing, will be completing legal research into how "neutral" policies and statutes disproportionately affect marginalized communities. The fellowship commemorates Nathan Lord, a former UofL law professor whose son, Sam Lord, wished to honor his father's commitment to civil liberties.

The specific focus is on barriers that have historically prevented racial minorities, particularly African Americans, access to home ownership, and how that disparity leads to other structural inequalities in society and the legal system. A prime example is how long-standing barriers to equitable Black homeownership make it harder for families of color to post property bonds today if a loved one is charged with a crime.

Conducted in partnership with Metropolitan Housing Coalition, this research will become part of a larger conversation to educate people on how historical oppressions such as slavery, segregation, and the war on drugs continue to disproportionately affect African Americans in 2019. This conversation may take many forms, but should help Kentuckians realize how and why "neutral legislation" that is applied to everyone across the board may still be harmful to those communities that it disparately impacts. The research goal is to draft a policy paper that can be published online and used to generate media op-eds that demonstrate the importance of strengthening the 2015 Supreme Court "disparate impact" ruling on the Fair Housing Act.

While education is vital, only through the combination of scholarship and activism can we see lasting changes in the more damaging policies currently affecting African American home ownership, eviction rates, and incarceration rates, to name a few of the areas most directly impacted by "neutral" legislation and policies.

Anne Braden Institute
Reading Room

Ekstrom Library, Room 258
(502) 852-6142

FACULTY PROFILE: DR. LAUREN HEBERLE

The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research strives to work from a transdisciplinary framework to advance social justice research. A primary focus for the institute includes building lasting relationships that foster scholarship and support the community in tangible ways. Through our Faculty Affiliate Program we have had the honor of working with dedicated researchers who are changing our community through a social justice framework.

Dr. Lauren Heberle is a valued member of ABI's Faculty Affiliate Program and exemplifies a dedication to using research rooted in social justice and community engagement to advance scholarship in sociology, urban planning, and environmental studies. As the Director of the Center for Environmental Policy and Management her work includes fostering community partnerships, conducting environmental research with focuses on brownfields, advocating for affordable housing policy in Louisville, and working on environmental policy working with local and state government and industry.

As an Associate Professor in Sociology she teaches on a range of topics encompassing environmental and social policy, urban sociology, and sustainability. Dr. Heberle's work as the Co-Coordinator with ABI Faculty Affiliate Dr. Kelly Kinahan in writing the Metropolitan Housing Coalition's annual report highlights the community oriented, transdisciplinary approach that the ABI and sister organization, the Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research, are invested in supporting. At the UofL Superfund Research Center, Dr. Heberle's work with the Community Engagement Core (CEC) centers information transmission between community members, researchers, and policy makers. The CEC utilizes knowledge exchanges, community and advisory board meetings to build dialogue between stakeholders who are often isolated from each other. The effort to create space where community members and academics can come together enhances the usefulness of research while amplifying the needs of communities most affected by environmental pollution.

When asked to share something about herself that is not widely known, Dr. Heberle responded, "Perhaps folks don't know that I grew up in Kentucky, first in Richmond from the age of 4 until 10, and then in Louisville until I left for college in Chicago. I thought I wanted to be a lawyer. However, I decided to go to grad school in New Jersey after working for a labor law firm and the Communications Workers of America in D.C. on the historic, and successful, pregnancy discrimination class action law suit against AT&T. I got to talk to women from all over the country about their experiences as part of the information collection phase of the law suit. Listening to their stories changed my life."



DIRECTOR'S NOTE BY CATE FOSL



Fosl interviewed Vicky Catlin (R) & Barb Howe, now deceased, for this project.

This summer I was proud to learn that the ABI had won for the University of Louisville a regional award given by the Kellogg Foundation for the best community-engaged research project in a U.S. southern university. The winning project was our partnership with the Fairness Campaign that produced the nation's first LGBTQ statewide historic context narrative. Later this fall Fairness Director Chris Hartman and I travel to Denver to compete for the national award.

Historic context statements, for those not familiar with public history, are written in accessible prose and produced to give a historical overview of a given topic with an eye toward preservation-minded folks who might use it to designate historic sites and monuments. This narrative is an introductory encyclopedia of Kentucky's LGBTQ history that includes way more politics, people, and U.S. queer history than such a document would typically provide.

We profile figures like "Sweet Evening Breeze" — an iconic African American whom several generations of central Kentuckians, queer or not, recall from his strolls through downtown Lexington from the 1930s-80s wearing full or partial drag, or from his performing the part of a bride at one of the many "womanless weddings" popular in the early twentieth century. The narrative reaches back to precolonial Kentucky to revisit cross-dressing practices of native peoples, then forward through the passage of Fairness laws. When we started, there was not 1 "official" LGBTQ-historic site in Kentucky: now there are 4, with more coming. We need lots more research like this but I'm honored to have led the research team in this ground-breaking work. Thanks to all who contributed stories, mementos, and expertise!

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Thank you for your support.

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ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

Ekstrom Library, Room 258
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

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