

RFP for 2019 Overcoming Racism Conference Workshops



2019 Overcoming Racism Conference

November 15 and 16, 2019
Metropolitan State University, St. Paul

Presented by the Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative
(FREC)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Conference Theme: *Dismantling White Supremacy - Its Power, Structure, and Culture*

“If you are attempting to study American history, and you don't understand the force of white supremacy, you fundamentally misunderstand America.”

- Ta-Nehisi Coates

“By ‘white supremacy’ I do not mean to allude only to the self-conscious racism of white supremacist hate groups. I refer instead to a political, economic and cultural system in which whites overwhelmingly control power and material resources, conscious and unconscious ideas of white superiority and entitlement are widespread, and relations of white dominance and non-white subordination are daily reenacted across a broad array of institutions and social settings.”

- Frances Lee Ansley

“When liberal whites fail to understand how they can and/or do embody white supremacist values and beliefs even though they may not embrace racism as prejudice or domination (especially domination that involves coercive control), they cannot recognize the ways their actions support and affirm the very structure of racist domination and oppression that they wish to see eradicated.”

- bell hooks, *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*

“White supremacy ... doesn't demand the individual participation of the singular bigot. It is a machine operating in perpetuity, because it doesn't demand that somebody be in place driving.”

- Michael Eric Dyson

This year's conference theme is *Dismantling White Supremacy - Its Power, Structure, and Culture*

Say white supremacy and many people envision white hoods or tiki torches. Such images may generate headlines, but white supremacy manifests in other ways that are far more insidious and damaging. Culturally speaking, white supremacy is the idea that white people are better and more deserving of wealth, power, and privilege than people of color. It is a self-perpetuating system that continues to fuel colonialism, exploitation, oppressions, inequities, and the brutalities that people of color continue to endure. The

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2019 Overcoming Racism Conference is dedicated to dismantling its power, its structures, and the culture that enables it to thrive.

We seek proposals that speak to a broad audience, both people of color and white allies, who include:

- Community artists and activists
- Employees working within organizations/institutions
- Students and educators
- People trying to discuss issues of race with friends and family
- Individuals working to change the internalized racism we all carry in our heads and hearts

Be Prepared

The work that we are doing at the conference is challenging for all involved, particularly people of color. The material you present could bring up painful memories and re-traumatize participants. Be aware of your audience and woke to this possibility. Be prepared to step out of your planned presentation and facilitate a process to unpack whatever is coming up for people. It could be a powerful learning opportunity for everyone. FREC volunteers will attend each workshop and be able to bring in additional support if needed.

2019 Overcoming Racism Conference Learning Objectives

Our 2019 conference goals are for participants to:

- Acknowledge and confront the construct and legacy of white supremacy in this country
- Identify how white supremacy is embedded in the policies, practices, and structures of the criminal justice, education, housing, wealth accrual, medical, social service, and land usage systems
- Become familiar with tools, resources, and networks available to those who have committed themselves to removing the vestiges of white supremacy from these systems
- Discover ways to further the internal work each of us must do in order to effectively confront institutions long grounded in white supremacy
- Learn from each other about the work currently being done to dismantle white supremacy, and how we can replicate that work in our own communities
- Creatively envision a world without white supremacy in which everyone can flourish

Call for Proposals

Proposals are invited for workshops/breakout sessions that address the conference theme and objectives above. They will be offered the afternoons of the conference in breakout sessions lasting 90 minutes each. While you are welcome to include as many presenters/facilitators as

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you wish, a maximum of 2 free full conference registrations will be offered to presenters per workshop/session selected.

We expect our workshop presenters to create participatory and reflective opportunities for participants to be actively engaged and stimulated.

Your proposed workshop/session should explicitly address how to “*Dismantle White Supremacy - Its Power, Structure, and Culture*” and be consistent with one or more of the learning objectives of the Overcoming Racism 2019 conference (above.)

To propose a workshop/session, **please use the online form at <https://forms.gle/ScVxGyxAZ5t2Dthy9>** (also linked from www.overcomingracism.org) Or alternatively submit your proposal by email as indicated below. You are encouraged to design a participatory and challenging experience that includes skill building for all participants.

Proposals must be received by 5:00 pm on July 22nd, 2019. The Conference Program committee will review submitted proposals, and a decision will be communicated to the indicated contact person by August 30th, 2019.

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Proposal Outline – If possible, please submit your proposal online:
<https://forms.gle/ScVxGyxAZ5t2Dthy9>

1. Title:

2. Level (Choose the ONE that best applies):

Introductory: These workshops or sessions are designed to support those newer to conversations on race, power, and privilege. Participants will be introduced to fundamental concepts of how racial bias and prejudice develop and how they become structured into institutions and systems.

Intermediate: These workshops or sessions are designed for participants who already have some working knowledge of systems of privilege and oppression. Participants will be challenged to apply their knowledge and analyze effective ways to disrupt racism as it manifests in their daily lives, institutions, and society-at-large.

Advanced: These workshops or sessions offer experienced practitioners ways to share insights, deepen their knowledge, and refine their techniques, methodologies, and skills to effectively disrupt racism and building an antiracist/anti-oppressive society.

3. Sector (Choose all that apply):

- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- Human Services
- Government
- Health/Health care
- Community Organizing
- Faith
- Arts
- Criminal Justice
- Environment
- Business/Economy

4. Please describe what specific skills participants will walk away with by attending your workshop/session:

5. Workshop/Session Learning Objectives for Participants (should support one or more Conference Learning Objectives):

6. Workshop/Session Description, 50 words or fewer, for printed Conference Program:

7. Additional Workshop/Session Description, up to 200 words, for Program Committee to use in workshop selection. (Please describe what you plan to include in your session: e.g.

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roleplaying, exploration of theory/information, story telling, participatory or interactive activities, etc.)

8. Name(s) of facilitator(s)/presenter(s) with title and/or organizational affiliation for printed Conference Program:

9. Scheduling restrictions:

[Workshops/Sessions will be held in the afternoon on Friday, November 15th and in the afternoon on Saturday November 16th.]

10. Contact Person

Name:

Email:

Phone:

The Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative (FREC) hopes to be able to share materials from 2019 Overcoming Racism conference workshops in future webinars and/or other formats, in order to build local, state and regional capacity to understand, resist and overcome racism. Materials and learning opportunities would be provided to participants at cost (not-for-profit.) Recordings and materials would be credited to presenters.

Please indicate your willingness to participate in this effort by checking all that apply:

- Presenters agree to have this workshop or session video or audio recorded
- Presenters agree to provide slides and/or handouts used in workshop or session to FREC

Note: All workshop rooms have projection capability, white boards and markers. *If you need chart paper or handouts, you will be responsible for supplying them. No printing or copying will be available onsite.* We suggest you bring A/V content on disc or USB drive, rather than bringing a laptop.

Submit proposals online at <https://forms.gle/ScVxGyxAZ5t2Dthy9>

Or if that is not possible, send a Word or text document (NOT .pdf) following this proposal outline, attached to an email addressed to: ***proposals@overcomingracism.org***

Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 pm on Monday, July 22nd, 2019