

**Overcoming Racism Conference 2020**  
**November 13th and 14th**  
**Request for Workshop Proposals**

Tumultuous times--rampant disease and death, the legacy of the practices and behaviors that maintain racism and oppression, extreme economic inequality, unprecedented change, uncertain future, flagrant domination of one people over others. Sound familiar? Yes, you are right to think 2020, but imagine what life was like on this land in 1619. And then imagine out of that tumultuous span of over 400 years evolved a constitution to support a government—a constitution that begins with the words, “We the People, in order to create a more perfect union...” Imagine.

Our own tumultuous time calls us to step up by stepping back to find out where these words came from and what they mean—what they meant then and what they mean now. The Overcoming Racism 2020 Conference aims to respond to our times in a ways that reflect concern for the health and safety of conference attendees as a virtual event. As heartbreaking as that is to us who have found previous Overcoming Racism conferences to be viral in terms of information exchange, learning and relationship-building, we wish to keep our physical viral exchange to a minimum. And as it turns out, a virtual conference allows for even more voices, more learning and more relationship-building.

Allow your voice to put forth ideas for discussion among those who value scholarship, truth-seeking, democracy, and equity in every sense of the word. We are committed to providing the same quality conference as we have in the past around topics that are of utmost concern to those who work for social justice and racial and economic equity. This year’s theme, “We the People” will be explained below in the Conference Learning Objectives. To insure quality in the process as well as the content, all presenters will be required to participate in a training session with our conference. It’s our turn to create something new together—all of us.

**Conference Theme: Overcoming Racism: Taking Back “We the People”**

What does it mean to be “We the People” through an antiracist lens, in these times? How do we address the rise of right wing populism worldwide? In the USA, Brazil, the UK, Hungary and Turkey, right wing populism and neo-fascism are taking hold. In all cases, the divides are ethnic and cultural. In the USA, the fault lines are explicitly racialized. How do we take back, or claim for the first time in our history, the idea that “all means all” when we talk about “We the People”?

Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran gives us in her book [How to Lose a Country: The Seven Steps from Democracy to Dictatorship](#) this insight: (include page # quote is from)

*Fascism*, reads Madeleine Albright's book title, in big red letters, and the subtitle, *A Warning*. The former secretary of state says she felt compelled to write the book not only because of the election of Donald Trump, but because she has observed a far bigger danger in terms of the current political and social *zeitgeist*, and she does not hesitate to call it fascism. With her students at Princeton University, she explores the symptoms of the current political and social malaise in the US, and tries to conceptualize them. One of the three main ways fascism takes hold, she says, is by 'pushing away the empathy'

So in this endeavor, we are desperately seeking to kindle empathy. It is essential to "We the People". How do we create "the Beloved Community" in these times? Please look at this year's conference's learning objectives.

### **Conference Keynote Presenters**

November 13<sup>th</sup>: [Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. Ph.D.](#), Chair of the Department of African American Studies and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University.

November 14<sup>th</sup>: [Funny Asian Women's Kollektive \(FAWK\)](#). FAWK exists to combat the invisibility and dehumanization of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) women.

### **Conference Learning Objectives**

By attending this conference, participants will:

- Understand the phrase "We the People" through a racial equity lens and in an anti-racist context.
  - Be able to connect the historical dots that led to the intentional and prominent placing of the phrase "We the People" in the Constitution of the United States of America.
  - Understand how the phrase "We the People" has been interpreted, exploited and co-opted over time.
- Draw parallels between white nationalism in America and populism in other countries and show how they mirror each other to oppress people and take away basic human rights.

- Understand how white nationalism in America is working against the goal of “creating a more perfect union.”
  - Create a “We the People” vision that reflects who all THE PEOPLE are in order to create a more perfect union.”
  - Generate ideas and actions that each one of us as individuals “We the People” can do to create racially equitable organizations and communities.
- Learn and practice skills that help us to care for ourselves and support each other as we do this work.

### **Logistics and Technical Considerations**

- Workshops will be 90 minutes in length and should be formatted with breakout rooms and breakout room facilitators. If needed, the Conference can assist in securing breakout room facilitators.
- All powerpoints that will be used in the workshop will need to be submitted to the Conference Coordinator by September 14th to provide adequate time to get them prepped for the virtual conference.
  - All presenters will be required to participate in at least one training session organized and facilitated by the Conference’s Event Planner. Training dates are to be determined, and will be set early enough to provide presenters adequate time to format their workshop presentation in line with best practices for a virtual conference. Additional support/training will be provided to presenters as needed or requested.
- **The deadline for workshop submissions is July 20th, 2020**
- The following information must be included in your workshop proposal submission:
  - Your ability to be connected to a secure internet connection and not rely solely on wifi
  - Your experience in conducting an online training session. (Training /support will be provided to those who have not conducted online training before.)
  - What tools you plan to use to make your workshop interactive
  - What assistance you will need to make your session interactive
- Selection notifications will be sent out by August 17th, 2020.  
Free registration is provided for up to two presenters from each workshop selected.

**All workshop proposals should be submitted using [Google Forms](#).**

Please use the following [link](#) to access the form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd448ucrnG0Aw1D1kwNILDX\\_nmc1FByEN3dIZtzHVVd0VD7Sg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd448ucrnG0Aw1D1kwNILDX_nmc1FByEN3dIZtzHVVd0VD7Sg/viewform?usp=sf_link).