2020 Vision: Expanding an Intersectional Feminist Future

Select Wednesdays from Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Webinar and/or Atwood Theatre
The nation (and world) has been in major transformation in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and the political climate—including the intensifying call for racial justice and the upcoming national elections. These realities have sparked candid and, in some cases, new discussions about injustices in society. Many people in the United States have called for real change and are insisting that leaders be held accountable to fulfill the values of justice, fairness and opportunity. The voices of women of color, indigenous women, multiracial women, trans women, women from a multiplicity of social identities, and many walks of life continue to be central to envisioning and creating a society that is liberating, safe and equitable for all people. We invite you to look towards the future with 20/20 vision and find inspiration, purpose and hope from our esteemed and diverse speakers presenting on what is possible in an intersectional feminist future.
For those with resources, the past year has included self-isolation, work at home, video calls, and food delivery services. But what about those who don’t have a safe place to quarantine? Or people who work in jobs requiring contact with the public? Or those who got laid off due to the pandemic and can no longer provide for themselves and/or their families? This session will explore the many ways in which marginalized communities are disproportionately and negatively affected by the pandemic.

Presenters: Ana Maria Studer (She/Her/Hers) is the Latino Community Advocate at Anna Marie’s Alliance, Central Minnesota’s shelter for battered women and their children. For almost 15 years, Ana Maria has helped to build healthy relationships within Latino families, increase awareness on the issues of domestic violence facing the Latino community, provide referrals to community organizations, and network with community resources to increase Latino/a-responsive processes and procedures. She is also a medical interpreter for Centracare.

Ralonda Mason (She/Her/Hers) is a Supervising Attorney at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid’s St. Cloud office. She oversees the office’s Healthcare Outreach and Enrollment Project, supervises its 3 Medical/Legal Partnerships, and represents clients in public benefits issues. Ralonda is member of the Racial Justice Institute’s 2016 Cohort. She chairs MMLA’s Racial Equity Committee and is actively engaged in the agency’s race equity initiative.
As we’ve seen throughout this year’s staggering events and changes, activism has never been simple nor yielding in the presence of perpetual injustices. It has always been and will continue to be the time to acknowledge the interconnectedness of our identities, as well as what is possible within ourselves by knowing who we are and what we stand for. This session will focus on the significance of using activism as a way of challenging and expanding on one’s values and individuality.

**Presenter: Bekah Bailey (she/her/hers)** is a queer and disabled activist and organizer, both locally (MN) and nationally (DC) working on social issues that intersect with government, and that include the strategy of civil disobedience. Through her lived experiences, she uses story-telling and first-hand knowledge to educate others on things ranging from disability history and accessibility to showing others how to use activism to find a sense of identity and belonging in the current age. Bekah’s journey of being an activist and now organizer has been lifelong. She has just finished her Master’s Degree from Metropolitan State University, and holds a Bachelors in Theatre, Stage Management. Bekah now works as a Campaign Manager and will continue her work as a queer and disabled activist, committed to correcting social injustices through informed community organization and intersectional outreach.

*Co-sponsored by Student Accessibility Services*
The murder of George Floyd on May 25 amplified to the world the hatred, oppression and trauma experienced by Black people and communities in the U.S., in this case by officers employed by the Minneapolis Police Department. People of all races and identities poured into the streets to rise up against systemic racism, declaring N.O. M.O.R.E. Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we will hear the perspectives and stories from two people who are affiliated with St. Cloud State University.

**Presenter: Sharai Sims (She/Her/Hers)** is a St. Cloud State University and Women’s Center Alum, and a passionate young Black Woman fighting for change. She currently works for Hennepin County as an advocate for health equity for communities of color. Sharai holds a bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies with an emphasis in business communications, and an impressive listing of leadership activities including founding the Women of Color Collective, directing the performance of “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf,” and as originator of a WoW presentation titled, #BlackGirlMagic: A political identity. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Public Administration.

**Seth Kaempfer (He/Him/Sie/Sim)** has served as the director of the LGBT Resource Center at St. Cloud State since 2017. Prior, he served as the Interim Assistant Director of the Multicultural Center at Ball State University, which is where he obtained a master’s degree in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education. In both roles, Seth has specifically supported BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and international students, staff, and faculty through enhanced services, increased recruitment and retention efforts, and advancing inclusive policies and procedures. His passion and drive for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work includes serving as a skillful presenter, facilitator, and consultant bringing in multicultural, intercultural, and intersectional approaches to various businesses and organizations.
OCTOBER 14, 2020

MINNESOTA HOUSE DECLARES RACISM A STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

On July 20, 2020, in a bi-partisan vote, the MN House of Representatives supported a resolution proclaiming racism a statewide public health crisis in response to the murder of George Floyd and countless other Black people in Minnesota. Chief author Rep. Ruth Richardson notes how centuries of racist violence and oppression have led to serious racial inequities in median income, educational achievement and opportunity, home ownership, maternal and infant health, and much more. She will discuss the purpose of the resolution, progress in racial justice policy this session, and why she ran for office in 2018 – perfectly timed for election 2020.

Presenter: Representative Ruth Richardson (She/Her/Hers) was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives for District 52B (DFL). She chairs the Select Committee on Racial Justice and serves on the committees of Commerce, Education Finance Division, and Transportation Finance and Policy Division. Rep. Richardson has chief authored 45 bills in her first two years in office, 16 of which have become law. These bills have influenced safety, equity, and education in the community she serves, and they include the Teacher Suicide Prevention Training, the MN Police Accountability Act, and support for homeless youth and foster care screening. Richardson is also a member of the House People of Color and Indigenous (POCI) Caucus. She received a BA in history and sociology from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. degree at William Mitchell College of Law.

Co-sponsored by Multicultural Student Services
October 21, 2020

Why the Feminist Movement Must be Trans Inclusive

The rise of the #MeToo movement, Trump’s win in 2016, and the Women’s March have fueled a resurgent feminist movement. Because millions of women are now activated, and because public support for LGBTQ+ rights is increasing, anti-feminist and anti-LGBTQ hate groups have been coordinating new lines of attack in their long-standing campaign against LGBTQ equality through a targeted effort to engage Trans-Exclusive Radical Feminists as a feminist movement wedge. Join this conversation to learn more about how anti-trans rhetoric shows up, the misogyny and racism that underpins that rhetoric, why it’s a threat to the feminist movement, and how we can ensure the feminist movement is trans inclusive.

Presenter: Erin Maye Quade (She/Her/Hers) is the Advocacy Director at Gender Justice, where she works to advance gender justice through public education, legislative outreach, strategic partnerships and coalition-building. The third black woman ever elected to the state legislature (2016), and the first to be elected from outside of Minneapolis or St. Paul, Erin was a founding member of The People of Color and Indigenous Legislator’s (POCI) Caucus. As a legislator, Erin quickly established herself as a candid and fierce advocate for Minnesotans by championing paid family medical leave; addressing racial disparities and advancing racial equity; expanding access to affordable child care; working to eliminate gun violence; investing in treatment for mental health; and fighting to pass comprehensive sex and consent education. Notably, Rep. Maye Quade held a 24-hour sit-in on the House floor to protest inaction on the issue of gun violence and shared stories of victims and survivors.
OCTOBER 28, 2020

INTERSECTIONAL EQUITY ADVOCACY

Educational Equity Advocacy: Students and educators who feel seen, safe, respected, valued, and celebrated are the ones who will find success (using a growth mindset). In this keynote, Kelly D. Holstine will reveal insights and strategies to increase Educational Equity in our schools.

Kelly D. Holstine is the 2018/2019 MN State Teacher of the Year (the first out LGBTQ+ teacher and the second alternative educator in MN to be given that honor.) In addition to being an educator, speaker, writer/author, and advocate, Holstine is also an Adjunct Education Professor at Augsburg University and an Educational Equity Consultant. Holstine has nearly 30 years of experience working with youth and in 2012 she helped to design and open Tokata Learning Center (an alternative high school). She has worked and volunteered in the fields of education, media, team building, social services, animal rescue, and theatre. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Massachusetts, a Communication Arts and Literature teaching license from Augsburg University, and a Master of Arts in Education from Augsburg University.

Co-sponsored by the LGBT Resource Center
November 3, 2020

**VOTE: IT’S ELECTION DAY!**

www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/
www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/686/Voter-Registration

November 4, 2020

**POST-ELECTION DISCUSSION**

Although all the results from the 2020 elections may not be known due to an increase in mail-in-ballots, we want to offer the opportunity to come together for discussion and reflection.

November 18, 2020

**RADIATING FEMINISM: LIVING AND LEADING FOR A BETTER WORLD**

How do we live our feminism in ways that are sustainable and transformational? What are some practices we can do every day to help us live and lead for social justice? This session will offer ways to RADIATE our feminism in ways that actually nourish, inspire, and help us collectively create a more liberatory world.

**Presenter: Beth Berila (She/Her/Hers)**, Ph.D. is the author of Radiating Feminism: Resilience Practices to Transform Our Inner and Outer Lives (Routledge 2020). She is the Director of the Gender & Women’s Studies Program at St. Cloud State University. She is also a mindfulness and yoga practitioner. Learn more at https://www.bethberila.com/