

2023 Teach-In on Social Justice

Theme: How Social Justice Issues Collide: Poverty, Wealth, and Public Policy

March 6, 2023

Open to all Benedictine University students, faculty, & staff
Registration required

Register at ben.edu/teach-in

Program Schedule

8:15-8:30AM (CST)--Orientation: What is the Teach-In?

- **Mode:** Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)

9:00-10:15AM (CST)--Morning Keynote Presentation: "Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation: A Necessary Path Forward" Dr. Gail Christopher

- **Mode:** Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)
- **Description:** This presentation will offer a comprehensive framework for addressing the legacy of racism in America. The framework is focused on eliminating the belief system of a false hierarchy of human value and its harmful consequences. The antiquated belief system is being replaced with a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness and interdependence as a human family. We will explore how local communities are implementing and adapting the framework as well as the growing movement in America to address related social justice and policy issues. Multi-sector collaborations and diverse coalitions are hallmarks of this work.
- **About the Speaker:** Dr. Christopher is an award-winning social change agent with expertise in the social determinants of health and well-being and in related public policies. She is known for her pioneering work to infuse holistic health and diversity concepts into public sector programs and policy discourse. She is the author of *Rx Racial Healing: A Guide to Embracing Our Humanity*, a book that provides tools and resources for teaching racial healing in colleges, institution, and communities.

10:30-11:45AM (CST)--Morning Concurrent Session (Select One)

- **Catholic Social Teaching**
 - The Catholic Church has a centuries-long tradition of service and justice. Catholic Social Teaching is the culmination of this tradition. Learn the Catholic perspective on why and how we should be good to each other.
 - SPEAKERS: Carrie Ankeny & Carol Allen, Campus Ministry Team
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Trends in LGBTQ+ Legislation**
 - Over the past several years, there has been an increase in legislation that would directly impact members of the LGBTQ+ population. This is especially true for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. This session will present on those trends, the affect they can and have had on the LGBTQ+ community, and then open the room up for thoughtful discussion.
 - SPEAKER: Martyn Welenc
 - SESSION TYPE: Roundtable
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Healthy Relationships and Gender-Based Violence**
 - Relationships are complex. They can make one feel on top of the world or at their lowest. We build relationships with many people throughout our lives but that does not mean they are all healthy. In this session, we will explore the dynamics of relationships and how they can lead to gender-based violence.
 - SPEAKER: Radhika Sharma from Apna Ghar, a human rights organization working to end gender violence
 - SESSION TYPE: Speaker
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Transformation and Healing Circles**
 - Transformation and healing circles are a "compassionate and expansive forum for sharing personal truth to help begin the process of transforming hearts and minds" when we engage with open-mindedness and exploration in community (AAC&U). We will prepare to engage in this practice in hopes it will become a regular experience leading to "deepening our capacity to heal, alleviating our suffering, and finding meaning in both challenge and joy" (Healing Circles).
 - SPEAKERS: Anti-racism Group of staff, faculty, & students
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)

- **Learning Leadership**

- How do people learn to become leaders? In this session, the Arthur J. Schmitt Scholars will guide attendees on how best to unleash the inner leader in all of us to build a solid foundation for a lifetime of leadership growth and mastery. Emerging leaders will learn practical examples to apply the fundamentals for becoming the best leaders they can be.
- SPEAKERS: Arthur J. Schmitt Future Leader Scholars
- SESSION TYPE: Panel
- MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **Equity in Government: A Must**

- As diversity becomes commonplace, it is vital that local governments build an inclusive public sector uplifting communities and addressing barriers to equity and inclusion for all. Participants get a glimpse into one city's approach and are invited to consider whether and how its strategy is a possibility given current realities.
 - SPEAKER: Dr. Geneace Williams, DEI Manager of Naperville, IL
 - SESSION TYPE: Facilitated Discussion
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **Healthcare Equity**

- This session focuses on direct service of NGOs and healthcare equity, examining global humanitarian crises and local relief efforts and shedding light on equity gaps, basic needs Insecurities and NGO efforts as tied to the historical narrative within which NGOs serve, empowering attendees to be part of the solution.
- SPEAKERS: American Red Cross and Care to Cure at Benedictine University
- SESSION TYPE: Workshop
- MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **The Rent is Too Dang High**

- Why is the rent so high? Why can't you walk five minutes to the store for a Coke? Much housing policy is rooted in racial segregation, and it affects you more than you probably think: cost of living, health, safety, and climate change. You can help change it.
- SPEAKER: Dr. Kaveh Hemmat
- SESSION TYPE: Speaker
- MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **Effects of Displacement on Refugee Children**

- Child refugees arrive with limited resources and limited access to education, healthcare, and other basic needs which can perpetuate a cycle of poverty for the children and their families, making it difficult to escape refugee status and achieve social and economic mobility. Public policies and attitudes towards refugees can further exacerbate the challenges.
- SPEAKERS: Benedictine UNICEF Board
- MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

12:00-12:30PM (CST)—Mass

- **Mode:** In-person on the Lisle Campus only

1:30-2:45PM (CST)—Afternoon Keynote Presentation: “Resolving Adoptee Multiversity: Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing as a Proxy for Birth Family Search among Adopted Adults” Dr. Kim Park Nelson

- **Mode:** Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)
- **Description:** What does it mean to be separated from the family of one’s birth, to lose one’s first identity? The "life that could have been" and the fact of parental replacement is continually present for adoptees. The desire to learn more about our first families is inescapable. We become the people we are as the result of our adoptions, but we also know there must be a "could have been"—if only we could find it. This presentation theorizes adoptee multiversity as a lived experience, with birth search through direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DTC GT) as one remedy adoptees use to recover information central to their identities.
- **About the Speaker:** Kim Park Nelson is a Korean adoptee, educator, and researcher whose work uses adoption as a lens to understand race and culture. Her work has contributed to building the field of Adoption Studies and Korean Adoption Studies in the U.S. and internationally. She is director and associate professor of Ethnic Studies at the Winona State University. Dr. Park Nelson has authored or coauthored several published articles on adoption cultures and communities. Her book, *Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences and Racial Exceptionalism* (2016) published by Rutgers University Press, dismantles the stereotype that Asian Americans are untouched by racial marginalization. The book is based on her ethnographic research exploring the many identities of adult Korean adoptees, as well as the cultural, social, historical, and political significance of seventy years of Korean adoption to the United States.

3:00-4:15PM (CST)--Afternoon Concurrent Session (Select One)

- **Catholic Social Teaching**
 - The Catholic Church has a centuries-long tradition of service and justice. Catholic Social Teaching is the culmination of this tradition. Learn the Catholic perspective on why and how we should be good to each other.
 - SPEAKERS: Carrie Ankeny & Carol Allen, Campus Ministry Team
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Suicide Prevention as Social Justice**
 - Talking about suicide can be uncomfortable but learning what to do before there's a crisis can help. Suicide cuts across all socioeconomic and racial boundaries; no group is immune. This panel will provide real-world advice and tools to help people be proactive in suicide prevention.
 - SPEAKERS: Chris Birks and Rachel Kenealy
 - SESSION TYPE: Panel
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Period Poverty**
 - "Period poverty" is unequal access to menstrual products, education, or sanitary facilities. Join us to learn about the realities of period poverty through interactive games and real-life scenarios that menstruators experiencing period poverty face every day.
 - SPEAKERS: Olivia LaVallie, Bianca Huerta, and Ariana Rodriguez
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Racist Roots of Police Brutality**
 - Interdisciplinary workshop on the racist origins of policing in America and the socioeconomic and health detriments of police brutality on black people. The workshop shows segments from the documentary *13th* to guide intergenerational dialogue on the interconnectedness of racism, policy-making and law enforcement.
 - SPEAKERS: Jennifer Griffin, Dr. Legutki, Dr. Hills, Dr. Sarver, Theta Phi Alpa, and PSSA
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)

- **Higher Ed Best Practices**
 - Student Senate will define what it means to be "student-centered," as tied to student health and wellness, access to education, campus climate and intersectionality. Hear from the voice of the students! And let this session, itself, be an example of a best practice in application. Join Benedictine University's Student Senate!
 - SPEAKERS: Student Senate
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Sustainability in Healthcare**
 - The increasing interest in the use of sustainability reporting in health care has prompted many organizations to start looking into how they can improve their environmental performance. This concept aims to build a more sustainable health system by utilizing effective metrics.
 - SPEAKERS: SEEDs Club & Doctors Without Borders Club board members
 - SESSION TYPE: Roundtable
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Safe Space Training Part I**
 - An introduction to life as an LGBTQ+ student, understanding needs, terminology, etc. This session includes activities that provide an understanding of some of the experiences that LGBTQ+ youth go through and has time set aside for meaningful discussion.
 - SPEAKER: Laura Markun
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Repercussions of Adoptee Search**
 - Join adoption researcher and Korean adoptee Dr. Kim Park Nelson for a dialogue about the many paths and challenges in adoptee birth and heritage search.
 - SPEAKERS: Dr. Kim Park Nelson, Dr. Kim Langrehr, and Michelle Kim, LCP
 - SESSION TYPE: Roundtable
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only
- **Domestic Violence 101**
 - What is domestic violence? What are the types of abuse? What is the cycle of violence? What can you do to help?
 - SPEAKERS: Metropolitan Family Services and Peer Prevention Team
 - SESSION TYPE: Workshop
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **Education as a Common Thread: An Interreligious Dialogue**
 - Quality education provides the opportunity to escape generational poverty, leads to financial stability, and improves one's confidence of a community. Forming ~20% of the world population, India is home to people from diverse religious backgrounds, housing not only Hindus, Sikhs and Jains but also one of the world's largest Muslim populations and millions of Christians. Come join us and our panelists to have a dialogue of how and why there are age- and gender-specific hurdles to gaining good quality education and the importance of education for children to break the never-ending cycle of poverty to improve the socio-economic standards of 1.4 billion people in India.
 - SPEAKERS: Hindu Student Association
 - SESSION TYPE: Roundtable
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

- **Dialogue with Associate Provost for DEI**
 - An intimate dialogue with the Associate Provost for (DEI), recommended for faculty and staff with questions about matters of DEI. Conversations will be organic; participants are encouraged to come with their questions, whatever they may be.
 - SPEAKER: Dr. Julie Dockery
 - SESSION TYPE: Facilitated Discussion
 - LIMIT: Staff & faculty only
 - MODE: In-person on the Lisle Campus only

7:00-9:00PM (CST)--Evening Program: LET THE LITTLE LIGHT SHINE: Film screening & discussion with Kevin Shaw (award winning director, producer, and cinematographer), Elisabeth Greer (professor of English at Harold Washington College), & Isaac Castelaz (educational consultant and former NTA principal)

- **Mode:** Hybrid (In-person on the Lisle Campus with a virtual option available for Mesa Campus and Fully-Online attendees)
- **Description:** *LET THE LITTLE LIGHT SHINE* is the story of the National Teachers Academy (NTA), a thriving elementary school in Chicago's fastest growing neighborhood that is a beacon for Black children, until gentrification threatens its closure. When a proposal is initiated to close the NTA and transform it into a high school benefiting the community's wealthier residents, parents, students and educators fight for the elementary school's survival.
- **About the Film Director:** As a director, producer and cinematographer, Kevin Shaw has created award-winning content for national television networks. *LET THE LITTLE LIGHT SHINE* is the story of a thriving elementary school in Chicago's fastest growing neighborhood that is a beacon for Black children, until gentrification threatens its closure. When a proposal is initiated to close the National Teachers Academy and transform it

into a high school benefiting the community's wealthier residents, parents, students and educators fight for the elementary school's survival.