



# RISE

SOCIAL WORK  
IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

NYU Kimmel Center  
September 18th, 2009  
[www.riseconference.org](http://www.riseconference.org)

**NYUSilver**  
Silver School *of* Social Work  
Graduate Student Association



HUNTER COLLEGE  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Welcome to the first RISE: Social Work in an Era of Change conference!

From its start—a germ of an idea during a casual afternoon-conversation earlier this year—RISE was envisioned as an interdisciplinary conference empowering social-work students and emerging professionals to become effective agents of social change. Since then the conference has taken on a life of its own. We've been joined by countless social workers, social-justice activists, and community members who felt that RISE was tapping into a unique need: a reclamation of our profession's focus on social justice.

Drawing together experts from various fields to dialogue on how the current social and economic climate is influencing progressive work, RISE will address the changing shape of social activism and grassroots funding, as well as broaden the scope of what has traditionally been thought of as social work. Our diverse and dynamic program is grounded in a 21st century approach to social-justice work, which focuses on the challenges of intersectionality and institutional oppression. We hope that our panels, skill-building workshops, and networking opportunities will help you build new alliances and create practical strategies towards this end.

True to form, RISE was a grassroots effort and labor of love for our all-volunteer staff. We have held meetings on the subway, conducted conference calls while on vacation, and made midnight runs to the copy center. However, RISE would not have been possible without the help and contributions of our supporters and community partners. Specifically, RISE organizers would like to thank our amazing presenters, who are all donating their time, and our official conference sponsors.

Ultimately, we hope that the RISE: Social Work in an Era of Change conference does not span just one day, but marks the beginning of a broader movement of social workers committed to fostering healthy, sustainable communities through tackling systemic social problems.

**Kate Barrow**  
Conference Chair

**Aliyah Vinikoor**  
Lead Organizer

**Sarah Tarshis**  
Community Outreach  
& Development

**Omega Frazier**  
Media Coordinator

**Shane Crary-Ross**  
Conference Co-Chair

**Josie Harris**  
Venue Coordinator

**Heidi Lopez**  
Organizing Consultant

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### 9:00 - 9:30AM

Registration

9th Floor

### 9:30 - 10:00AM

Coalition-Building Breakfast

Room 914

### 10:00 - 10:30AM

Keynote: Marie Romeo

Room 802

### 10:30 - 11:30AM

#### BLOCK ONE

Environmental Justice, Capitalism  
and Your Work

Room 909

Ground-up Healthcare Access

Room 912

Thwarting the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline

Room 808

### 11:45 - 1:00PM

#### BLOCK TWO

Community Organizing

Room 912

Non-Profit Funding

Room 802

The Role of Radicalism

Room 909

Undoing Racism

Room 808

### 1:00 - 2:00PM

#### LUNCH, Room 914

### 2:00 - 3:15PM

#### BLOCK THREE

Introduction to the Theater  
of the Oppressed

Room 903

Media Activism

Room 808

A Post-Racial America?

Room 912

Social Work Values

Room 909

### 3:30 - 4:30PM

#### BLOCK FOUR

Community Gardens and Community  
Well-Being

Room 912

Gender-Variant Individuals in Healthcare

Room 909

Let it Begin with Me

Room 808

Working Against Adulthood

Room 903

### 4:30 - 5:00PM

#### CLOSING REMARKS, Room 802

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**10:00-10:30**

**Room 802**      **Keynote**  
Marie Romeo  
GSW, Common Ground Health Clinic, New Orleans

Jump-starting the daylong conference, this keynote address will discuss the power and agency inherent to social work. Marie was trained as a clinical social-worker, but after Hurricane Katrina she asked herself: As social workers, what is our overall goal? The social-work profession has historically been charged with fighting the status quo while simultaneously working to enforce it. Largely built on a race- and class-based structure, social work itself stands as a systemic power. Yet while our work poses potential dangers to different oppressed groups, it may also serve to undo the root causes of these very oppressions. Marie's speech will offer an analysis of how social work plays a role in larger social movements and can be a conduit for change.

**10:30-11:30**      **Block 1**

**Room 909**      **Environmental Justice, Capitalism, and Your Work**

Institutional racism and classism create inequitable environmental conditions for the poor and people of color, and for their neighborhoods as a whole. We will explore the connections between the people we serve, the urban environment and its impact on their lives. Despite the greater environmental visibility in the Obama administration, capitalism's continued exploitation of the environment requires an understanding of environmental justice, social change and our roles in the world.

*Irene HongPing Shen, MSW, BASE Partnership Director, Prospect Park Alliance*

**Room 912**      **Ground-Up Healthcare Access:  
Two Allies Fighting for Community Based Change**

In this moment of health care crisis and American introspection, this session will focus on how advocates, social workers, and legal services lawyers—who are traditionally thought to provide atomistic, repetitive, crisis-management services to individual clients—can instead work in culturally appropriate, community-based settings serving movements for change. This presentation will draw on the cooperative work of the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center and the Commission on the Public's Health System, encouraging dialogue about interdisciplinary collaborations and service provision in the context of community organizing.

*E. Tammy Kim, Staff Attorney, Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, and Judy Wessler, MPH, Commission on the Public's Health System*

**Room 808**      **Thwarting the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline**

During the last twenty years justice systems across the U.S. have increasingly subjected juvenile offenders to unfair punitive treatment: prosecuting them in adult criminal courts, imposing harsher sanctions, and often jailing them in adult facilities. Not only inhumane, these trends have also proven counterproductive: detaining minors is tremendously costly, youth disconnected from their families and home-communities are shown to emerge more criminal, and recidivism rates have risen in the last decade. As a result, a restorative juvenile justice movement has recently gained momentum around the country. With its roots in indigenous approaches to justice, restorative justice is concerned with the repairing of harm caused to a community in the wake of a crime. This workshop will explore the cradle-to-prison pipeline in New York and how social workers can employ restorative justice practices to fight it.

*Aliyah Vinikoor, MSW, Safe Horizon*

**11:45-1:00**      **Block 2**

**Room 912**      **Community Organizing in the 21st Century**

Community organizing has always been vital to social workers' fight for economic and social justice. Yet the NASW reports that just a third of licensed social workers participate in any grassroots social-action. This panel will discuss the historical role of community organizers and what it means to have a former organizer in the White House. Organizers will share their professional trajectories and experiences mobilizing communities to fight for social change. Finally, we will discuss specific organizing strategies and how social workers interested in empowering people to solve shared problems can get involved.

*Panelists include: John Bonelli, Community Relations Coordinator, Project Achieve; Leah Obias, Community Organizer, DAMAYAN; Camilo Romero, International Organizer with Workers Union of Colombia – SINALTRAINAL; Joycelyn Gill-Campbell, Organizer, Domestic Workers United; Patrice Queen, Community Organizer, Voices of Women Organizing Project; and Gabriel Sayegh, Director, State Organizing and Policy Project, Drug Policy Alliance Network. Moderator: Harriet Putterman, MSW, Social Policy Associate, NASW-NYC.*

**Room 802**      **Non-Profit Funding: Issues and Strategies**

Whether we like it or not, funding — and the way we get it — has a tremendous influence on our work. In this panel we will discuss various aspects of non-profit funding, particularly the impact funding has on the mission and objectives of an organization, and how this shapes the work we do. We will explore strategies for alternative funding sources in order to become more financially self-sufficient.

*Panelists include: Harvey Epstein, Director, Community Development Project, Urban Justice Center; Marjorie Fine, Director, Linchpin Campaign, Center for Community Change; Mario Lugay, Program Director, Funders' Committee for Civic Participation; Maria Mottola, Executive Director, New York Foundation; and Max Uhlenbeck, Development Coordinator, The Brecht Forum. Moderator: Lauren Moore, Associate Director of Development, NYU's Silver School of Social Work.*

**Room 909      The Role of Radicalism**

What is radical social work, and what's so radical about it? This session will be an open discussion on the meaning and practice of radical social work, examining what differentiates it from traditional social work. We will explore how power differentials affect the work we do and critically examine our role as social workers. We'll also discuss radicalism in social justice movements more generally, weighing reform versus revolution, and addressing how the label 'radical' affects our work.

*Featured participants include: Baylah Wolfe, East Side Institute and Social Therapy Group; Anna Ortega, Founding Member, Radical Social Workers Brunch; and Heidi Lopez, Single Stop Coordinator, Kingsborough Community College. Facilitator: Mara Gottlieb, LMSW, NYU's Silver School of Social Work*

**Room 808      Undoing Racism™ Transforming the Social Work Profession**

Members of the Antiracist Alliance will discuss the movement to undo structural racism. It is a movement that goes beyond a focus on the symptoms of racism to an understanding of what it is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists and how it can be undone. We are an organizing collective of human service practitioners and educators whose vision is to bring a clear and deliberate anti-racist structural power analysis to social service education and practice.

*Presenters include: Sandy Bernabei, Founding Member, Antiracist Alliance; Maurice Lacey, Executive Director, FAITH MISSION CRISIS CENTER, INC., & Founding Member, The People's Institute's Men of Color; Onaje Muid, Clinical Associate Director Reality House, Inc., & Founding Member, The People's Institute's Men of Color; and Mary Pender-Greene, Antiracist Alliance.*

**2:00-3:15      Block 3**

**Room 903      An Introduction to Theater of the Oppressed**

This highly interactive workshop will introduce participants to Theater of the Oppressed techniques developed by Augusto Boal building on the work of Paulo Freire. Participants will use their bodies and voices to express and analyze their own experiences of oppression, locating opportunities for changing the outcomes of potentially oppressive situations. This is a workshop for people of all physical abilities.

*Ellen Baxt and Kayhan Irani, Adult Educators /Theater Practitioners, Theater of the Oppressed Laboratory, The Brecht Forum*

**Room 808      Media Activism**

In an increasingly interconnected world, how are local and global movements aided or challenged by the changing media environment? This panel will look at ways in which media makers and activists are creatively leveraging new forums to foster awareness, advance causes, and build communities. Moreover, we will explore specific ways social-justice workers can engage old and new media to facilitate dialogue around underrepresented issues.

*Speakers include: Steve Goodman, Executive Director, Educational Video Center; Arun Gupta, Founding Editor, The Independent Newspaper; Rhodine Louisaire, Youth Filmmaker; Ted Perlmutter, Director of Knowledge Management, Center for International Conflict Resolution; and Tazuko Shibusawa, Associate Professor, NYU's Silver School of Social Work. Moderator: Sam Trudeau, New York Representative and United Nations Correspondent, Reporters Without Borders.*

**Room 912      A Post-Racial America?**

With the election of our first African-American president many in the media triumphantly heralded the dawn of a new "post-racial" age. However, gross disparities, injustices, and racial bias continue to plague our country. This panel will question the notion that we are living in a post-racial society and explore how this idea influences anti-racist work. Moreover, we will discuss how social workers can tackle the institutional realities of racism even as our cultural understanding of race is shifting.

*Panelists include: Sandy Bernabei, Founding Member, Antiracist Alliance; Jen Chau, Executive Director of Swirl, Inc; Robert Hawkins, Assistant Professor, NYU's Silver School of Social Work; and Athena Moore. Moderator: Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Seminary Student at the Graduate Theological Union.*

**Room 909      Social Work Values**

For a field that spans everything from therapy to political advocacy, is it really possible to define a unified set of underlying values? This panel will reassess social work's stated values and focus on how they drive on-the-ground practice. We will take a fresh look at the trade-offs the field has made as it has "professionalized" and critically consider how the shift toward clinical work impacts our mission. Professors will discuss whether schools of social work privilege certain values over others and what role education has in shaping the priorities of workers.

*Panelists include: Edward Alessi, Professor, NYU's Silver School of Social Work; SJ Dodd, Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work and CUNY Graduate Center; Omega Fraizer, Student Leader at NYU's Silver School of Social Work; and Bobbi Nassar, Professor, Yeshiva School of Social Work. Moderator: Willie Tolliver, Associate Professor, Hunter College School of Social Work.*

3:30-4:30

Block 4

**Room 909      Addressing Disparities and Intersecting Oppressions for Gender-Variant Individuals in Healthcare**

The vast majority of human service providers are not educated on basic topics related to gender identity, let alone specific health issues that impact gender-variant communities. What do disparities in a healthcare setting look like and how are they dangerous? Using anecdotes, we will explore unidentified healthcare needs and how to advocate for and with marginalized communities.

*Vaughn McLaughlin, MSW and Quai Nystrom, MSW, Independent Trainers*

**Room 808      Let it Begin with Me: Self-Awareness and Social Justice**

This experiential workshop proposes that the path to social justice lies in self-awareness and self-compassion: when we know and accept all of who we are, we are more willing to extend that acceptance to others. Conversely, when we don't know or accept ourselves, we are less likely to understand or manage our reactions to others. Participants will have an opportunity to explore their own cultural identities, and to become more conscious of the ways in which these identities impact their relationship to others and to society in general.

*Mara Gottlieb, LMSW, PhD Candidate, Adjunct Lecturer, NYU's Silver School of Social Work*

**Room 912      The Relationship Between Community Gardens and Community Well-being**

This presentation will examine how community gardens have been shown to reduce violent crime, improve mental and physical health of community members, and facilitate social participation in neighborhoods. A panel discussion of representatives from various local community gardens and environmental agencies will also be included.

*Jenny Applegate, LMSW, New York Presbyterian Hospital*

**Room 903      Working Against Adulthood in Youth-Adult Collaborations**

This presentation will explore how adult privilege and adulthood interfere with successful youth/adult collaborations in social work. We will use activities and discussions to look at why meaningful youth participation in institutions and projects is important; how adulthood interferes with meaningful youth participation; how we can evaluate our work as adult allies; and tips for working collaboratively with youth. Materials and handouts were developed by a youth/adult organizing partnership.

*Karyn Brownson, LMSW, Teen Health Initiative Director, New York Civil Liberties Union*

## PRESENTER BIOS

**Marineves Alba**, MPA (*Post-Racial America?*) is best known as a youth advocate, cultural worker, and co-founder/director of the International Hip-Hop Exchange (IHX), a non-profit arts project founded in 2000 to promote and nurture the development of Hip-hop culture and activism, globally, by facilitating exchange between Hip-hop artists, activists, and youth communities worldwide. She has taught at El Puente Academy for Peace & Justice (Brooklyn, NY), Fanny Hamer Freedom High School (Bronx, NY), and the East Harlem Tutorial Program (El Barrio, NY) as a visiting artist and educator in the areas of media literacy/justice, radio production, and leadership development.

**Edward J. Alessi**, LCSW (*Social Work Values*) is an adjunct professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work and the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. A doctoral candidate at NYU's Silver School of Social Work, Edward's clinical and research interests include gay, lesbian, and bisexual mental health issues. He also maintains a private practice in Manhattan.

**Jenny Applegate**, MSW (*Community Gardens and Community Well-being*) was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, where she spent most days enjoying the greenery of the Pacific Northwest. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, and her MSW from NYU's Silver School of Social Work. Through her experience with community gardens she is able to serve and work alongside marginalized populations, and work towards her vision that human dignity and love will bring us together in respect and peace. Jenny is currently a social worker in the Emergency Department of New York Presbyterian Hospital.

**Kate Barrow**, LMSW, is the founder and chair of RISE. She became involved in anti-oppression and social justice work as a student at Naropa University, while completing her BA in Contemplative Psychology. She is currently the youth services coordinator at Midtown Community Court and has spent the last five years managing various non-profit youth programs. She completed her MSW at NYU's Silver School of Social Work and was the recipient of the NASW-NYC Student Award in 2008. She believes that real transformation occurs in community and conversation, and is grateful for the many amazing people who have come together to create RISE.

**Ellen Baxt** (*Theater of the Oppressed*) is a poet, dancer, teacher and theater practitioner. Her first book, *Analfabeto / An Alphabet*, was published in 2007 by Shearsman Books. She is currently writing her second book of poetry, *Enumeration of Colonies*. She teaches English as an Other Language in colleges, schools, and community organizations around New York City. She also works with community-based organizations to use theater in their organizing and activist work and, along with Kayhan Irani, trains individuals in theater techniques at the Theater of the Oppressed Lab, based in New York's Brecht Forum.

**Sandy Bernabei**, LCSW (*Post-Racial America?, Undoing Racism*) is a founding member of the Antiracist Alliance.

**John Bonelli**, MSW (*Community Organizing*) is a community organizer working within the LGBT, HIV/AIDS, homeless and progressive communities and currently works as the recruitment and community relations coordinator at Project ACHIEVE in New York City. He also serves as a field education coordinator at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

**Karyn Brownson**, MSW (*Working Against Adulthood*) is the director of New York Civil Liberties Union's Teen Health Initiative, which advocates for preserving, expanding and educating the public about minors' rights to confidential reproductive and other health care in New York State. Karyn is a 2002 graduate of the Hunter College School of Social Work and has previously done organizing and advocacy work with homeless and LGBT youth on the West Coast and with immigrant and low-income youth in New York City.

**Jen Chau**, MS (*Post-Racial America?*) is the founder and executive director of Swirl, Inc., a national multi-ethnic organization that challenges society's notions of race through community building, education, and action. She is also the national director of People Development and Human Resources at New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit education-reform organization. Jen received her BA in Women's Studies at Wellesley College and recently received her MS in Organizational Change Management from Milano, The New School for Management and Urban Policy. She currently lives in New York City and writes about her experiences in activism at The Time Is Always Right (<http://jenchau.typepad.com/>).

**Shane Cray-Ross** is the co-chair of the RISE Conference. She is a student at NYU, where she is double majoring in Social Work and Economics. She is especially interested in public health and environmental justice. Outside of class, Shane leads Sustainable Silver, the School of Social Work's greening initiative, and works in the NYU Sustainability Office. She is excited about RISE because she thinks that learning about issues of structural injustice is an extremely important part of her education as a social worker, and hopes her classmates will feel the same way.

**SJ Dodd**, MEd, MSW, PhD (*Social Work Values*) is an associate professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work and the CUNY Graduate Center. Dr. Dodd teaches courses on social policy, research, and human sexuality and conducts workshops on values and ethics. She has conducted research on social work students' commitment to social justice.

**Harvey Epstein**, Esq (*Non-Profit Funding*) is the project director of the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, which provides legal, technical and research and policy assistance to community associations throughout New York City. In the past Harvey served as the associate director/managing attorney for Housing Conservation Coordinators, a community-based not-for-profit organization working to preserve decent affordable housing. He was also a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Housing Development Unit, where he helped numerous tenant associations obtain ownership of their buildings and was instrumental in creating the Legal Aid Society's Community Economic Development Project.

**Marjorie Fine**, MSW (*Non-Profit Funding*), a leader in progressive philanthropy for over 20 years, leads the Linchpin Campaign at the Center for Community Change. Prior to joining the Center, Margie was the executive director of the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, and also directed the North Star Fund. She has served on the committees and boards of many philanthropic institutions, including: New York Regional Association of Grantmakers, Interfaith Funders, National Network of Grantmakers, and Social Justice Infrastructure Funders.

**Omega Frazier**, MSW (*Social Work Values*) is a recent graduate of NYU's Silver School of Social Work. During her time at NYU she served on the GSA Council and created a student group to address a gap in discussions surrounding diversity and discrimination. She also designed and implemented strategies to encourage young women without a social work background to mentor young girls in their respective communities. Omega's interests lie in youth development in minority communities as well as bridging the gap between spirituality, sexuality, and mental health.

**Joycelyn Gill-Campbell** (*Community Organizing*) is an organizer with Domestic Workers United. Before joining the staff over a year ago, she worked as a domestic worker for 8 years. Originally from Barbados, Joyce also serves on the Coordinating Committee of Grassroots Global Justice and is a graduate of the Foundations of Organizing program of Social Justice Leadership.

**Steven Goodman** (*Media Activism*) is the founding executive director of the Educational Video Center. Steve trained as a journalist at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He has produced independent documentaries and has written numerous articles about youth media, social justice, and education, and is the author of *Teaching Youth Media: Literacy, Video Production & Social Change* (Teachers College Press). He has developed youth media programs in schools and community centers across the country, taught community media courses in NYC high schools and at several universities including NYU, the University of London Institute of Education, Ohio University/Ohio SchoolNet, and Bank Street College of Education.

**Mara Gottlieb**, LMSW (*Let it Begin with Me, Role of Radicalism*) is a doctoral candidate and adjunct professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. Mara is the founder of Talking Changes, a consulting company whose mission is to create and implement trainings in which participants can be and express themselves in a safe, supportive environment. Her trainings focus on a range of topics, including cultural/bias awareness, sexual health, sexual orientation, communication, team-building, stress management, and time management. She has lectured at various universities and at Morgan Stanley, Time Warner, New Jersey State Police, the Anti-Defamation League, the New York Public Library, and the Administration for Children's Services.

**Arun Gupta** (*Media Activism*) is a founding editor of *The Independent* newspaper and writes for many other publications, including Alternet. He is a regular commentator on "Democracy Now!," Al Jazeera, GRITtv and the Pacifica radio network. He is currently writing a book for Haymarket Books.

**Josie Harris** is the venue coordinator for RISE. She joined RISE based on a shared passion for discussing and ultimately enacting social change. She has previously worked at a Children's Aid Society Community School as a social work intern and would like to work with LGBTQ adults with substance abuse issues. Josie is currently pursuing a MSW at NYU's Silver School of Social Work and is the secretary of the Graduate Student Association. She is excited to see what was initially just an idea discussed amongst friends become an engaging and thought provoking conference.

**Robert L. Hawkins**, MPA, MA, PhD (*Post-Racial America?*) is an assistant professor at NYU's Silver School of Social Work where he holds the first named professorship in poverty studies and is the director and principal investigator of the McSilver Institute on Poverty, Policy, and Research. Dr. Hawkins is an expert on how poverty and cultural issues affect families and children. Currently, Dr. Hawkins's research focuses on understanding complex poverty and negative life events in the lives of women and men of color involved with domestic violence. His most recent research focused on the lives of low-income, majority African American families affected by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

**Kayhan Irani** (*Theater of the Oppressed*) is a writer, director, performer, and facilitator. Her acclaimed one-woman show, "We've Come Undone," which tells the stories of immigrant women post 9/11, has toured nationally and internationally. She is currently a writer for the "We Are New York" TV series produced by the New York City Mayor's Office of Adult Education and the City University of New York. She has also co-edited a volume of essays, *Telling Stories to Change the World: Global Voices on the Power of Stories to Build Community and Make Social Justice Claims*.

**E. Tammy Kim**, Esq. (*Ground-up Healthcare*) is a staff attorney working in the areas of healthcare access for the uninsured and low-wage workers' rights at the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center, which supports the work of progressive grassroots organizations in New York. This fall she is also teaching at Yale University on reparations and other post-violence issues in the context of sexual slavery. Tammy was formerly a law clerk to the Honorable Janet Bond Arterton, U.S. District Judge. She studied at the NYU School of Law and Yale University.

**Maurice Lacey**, LCSW (*Undoing Racism*), is the executive director of Faith Mission Crisis Center, Inc. and founding member of The People's Institute's Men of Color.

**Heidi Lopez**, MSW (*Role of Radicalism*) has been working in youth development for 13 years in a variety of capacities; from group worker, to tutor, volunteer coordinator to director of a beacon. Most recently she's begun working as a social worker in higher education. Heidi graduated with her Master's in Social Work: Community Organizing from the Hunter College School of Social Work, where she became a member of the Anti Racist Collective at Hunter.

**Rhodine Louisaire** (*Media Activism*) is a 19-year-old Queens College junior majoring in Media and Journalism. Through the two years of intensive training she has received in Educational Video Center's youth documentary workshops, Rhodine has learned to collaboratively research, shoot and edit three documentaries on critical social issues in her community: *Shame On You!* on environmental justice, *The Baby in Me* on teen pregnancy; and *The War Within* on depression among youth of color. She has screened her documentaries in many communities around New York City and has facilitated discussions about the issues they raise.

**Mario Lugay** (*Non-Profit Funding*) joined the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) and the American Dream Fund in November 2006 and currently serves as FCCP's Program Director. Previously, Mario spent three years in the field of community organizing, both as the National Coordinator of Racial Justice 911: People of Color Against the War and as development coordinator for CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities in the Northwest Bronx. He has served on CAAAV's Strategizing Committee and on the Community Funding Board of the North Star Fund.

**Vaughn McLaughlin**, MSW (*Gender-Variant Individuals in Healthcare*) is a social worker with a focus on individual and group work with youth, especially in LGBTQ communities. A person of trans experience, he is concerned with and active in the struggle for justice for trans and gender-variant people. Vaughn is also a musician who volunteers with the Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls, a non-profit music and mentoring camp for girls and women.

**Athena B. Moore**, MS (*Post-Racial America?*) is a public policy consultant with the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. She recently served as the associate executive director of NASW-NY, where she provided leadership, developed and launched NASW's Social Workers of African Descent Task Force, and was a member of the Latino Social Work Task Force. Athena was also executive director of the Black Equity Alliance, a nonprofit created by the United Way to advocate for effective policies in human services, health and business. She's consulted for the Administration of Children Services, worked for the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and served as senior policy and budget analyst for the Bronx Borough President. She has taught social policy at NYU's Silver School of Social Work and Hostos Community College.

**Lauren Moore**, MSW (*Non-Profit Funding*) has worked in development for the past five years as director of development for Hudson Guild, a community center in Chelsea; campaign manager for The Juilliard School's Second Century Fund; and now as the associate director of development for NYU's Silver School of Social Work. Lauren received her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania (where she and other students started a class gift campaign!) and prior to that, graduated with a BA in Public Policy from Duke University. She is thrilled to be participating in this conference and looks forward to how it will shape the social work agenda for our city and the profession.

**Maria Mottola**, MSW (*Non-Profit Funding*) is the executive director of the New York Foundation. Founded in 1909, the Foundation is one of the oldest in the United States and supports grassroots organizing and advocacy work in NYC. Maria was formerly the executive director of the Citywide Task Force on Housing Court and was the director of Neighborhood Programs and a community organizer at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. She received her MSW from Fordham University and is an adjunct professor at Hunter College.

**Onaje Muid**, MSW, LMHC, CASAC (*Undoing Racism*) is the clinical associate director Reality House, Inc. and founding member of The People's Institute's Men of Color.

**Bobbi Nassar**, MSSW, MA, DSW (*Social Work Values*) is a professor at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, where she has served since 1977. Dr. Nassar is also the chair of the NGO Committee on Human Rights at the United Nations where she represents the International Federation of Settlement Houses and Neighborhood Centers. For the past 27 years she's worked with refugee communities, providing human rights training as well as counseling to torture survivors.

**Quai Nystrom**, MSW (*Gender-Variant Individuals in Healthcare*) is an educator who emphasizes issues related to inequity and visibility for marginalized communities. She focuses on gender and sexuality and delivers trainings to a range of direct-service providers. Quai also instructs medical students in how to provide gynecological exams. She brings her experience counseling trauma survivors to educate health care students on providing services to survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

**Leah Obias** (*Community Organizing*) is a community organizer and case worker for Damayan Migrant Workers Association. She became active early in the Bush era around troop withdrawal from the Middle East, the Philippines, and everywhere. She continued anti-war, anti-US intervention work as a founding member of the youth organization Ugnayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan, where she helped to develop programs and campaigns on pro-people, relevant education, immigration, and fair wages for Filipino youth restaurant workers. Through Ugnayan she worked to expose and integrate youth and student activists with the larger Filipino community, and became active in domestic and low-wage workers' struggle for justice and dignity.

**Anna Ortega**, LMSW (*Role of Radicalism*) is a social worker, activist, and developing herbalist. She has been a community-based social worker in Red Hook, Brooklyn for over seven years, specializing in multi-family group work and youth development. Anna blends strengths-based counseling, theater, an eco-systems approach, play and solutions focused brief therapy to support individuals and families build power and inspire healing. She is also a founding member of the Radical Social Worker Brunch Group, which meets monthly. Originally from the Bronx, Anna is committed to transforming pavement into gardens and creating a world where everyone has enough. A Black/Bi/Woman/Healer, she seeks to generate spaces where we are free to exist and thrive as a human right. She completed her undergraduate studies at Hunter College and her graduate studies at SUNY Stony Brook.

**Ted Perlmutter**, PhD (*Media Activism*) is the director of knowledge management for the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University, where he has been involved in starting the Religious Peacemaking Database project. Dr. Perlmutter has published numerous articles and book chapters on immigration, refugees, political parties and civil society. His research also focuses on how Internet technology can promote knowledge networks among political and social activists and he has taught courses on social media and global movements at NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

**Harriet Putterman**, MSW (*Community Organizing*) is the social action associate at NASW-NY. She has done extensive volunteer community- and electoral organizing, both citywide and in her Lower East Side community. She has taught undergraduate community organizing at both NYU's Silver School of Social Work and the Hunter College School of Social Work.

**Patrice Queen** (Community Organizing) is an organizer with Voices of Women Organizing Project.

**Marie Romeo**, GSW (*Keynote*) graduated with her MSW from NYU, interning with Common Ground Health Clinic (CGHC) in New Orleans, LA. Marie is a social worker at CGHC where she has worked for the past three years to develop the social work program as well as other anti-racist programming. Marie is a community organizer and works with colleagues and community partners to address oppression through education, transparency and dialogue. She also works with Camp Ten Trees, in Seattle, Washington, to support dialogue around social justice. She lives on the west-bank in New Orleans with her partner Michelle.

**Camilo A. Romero** (*Community Organizing*) is a member and organizer of the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Industria de Alimentos (SINALTRAINAL) in Colombia. He coordinates the international campaign against the Coca-Cola Company for its kidnapping, torture, and murder of workers. Camilo lives in New York, enjoys dark berries, and has two younger sisters.

**gabriel sayegh** (*Community Organizing*) directs the State Organizing and Policy Project of the Drug Policy Alliance. The Project brings together community organizing and service groups and researchers to reform drug and criminal justice policies. Recent successes include real reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws in New York. Prior to joining DPA in 2003, sayegh was a staffer in the Washington State Senate, a researcher focused on global trade agreements and the U.S. prison system, and an organizer with the Direct Action Network.

**Irene HongPing Shen**, MSW (*Environmental Justice*) was born and raised in a community with open space, trees, and living critters all around. There she learned to waste little, recycle, and care for the environment. Since coming to New York in 1992, she has adapted to the urban environment and has worked as a high-school science teacher, a youth organizer, and an environmental-justice activist. She is currently the partnership director at Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment, a public high school where she has developed a sustainable urban agriculture program, her area of passion. She holds a BA in Biology from Columbia University and a MSW from the Hunter College School of Social Work.

**Tazuko Shibusawa**, MSW, PhD (*Media Activism*) is an associate professor at NYU's Silver School of Social Work where she teaches advanced clinical courses. Tazuko's research focuses on aging among vulnerable populations. She has been involved in developing and evaluating a web- and video-based learning environment for teaching clinical practice skills at the school.

**Tai Amri Spann-Wilson** (*Post-Racial America?*) is a graduate of the Naropa University Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics and a second year Master's of Divinity Student in the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He is currently living in the Philadelphia area with family to "remember where he comes from" coming out of an academic system he finds increasingly capitalistic and disconnected from lived realities. Currently he teaches six-year-olds in an ethnically and socio-economically diverse Quaker school in Germantown, Philadelphia to express their full humanity. He believes social justice is just as real in the classroom with the youngest in our society as it is on the streets in protest.

**Sarah Tarshis**, MSW, has directed the community outreach and development efforts for RISE. She has worked at various agencies in New York City including non-profit community centers, healthcare facilities and at the United Nations. She is interested in relief work and human rights issues and speaks English, French and Spanish. She earned her MSW from New York University in 2009 and a BA from McGill University.

**Willie Tolliver**, DSW (*Social Work Values*) is an associate professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work where he teaches Policy, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, and Practice Lab. For 16 years he has served as co-chair of the faculty committee on Undoing Racism. He recently co-authored *Stories of Transformative Leadership in the Human Services* (2009) with Steve Burghardt.

**Sam Trudeau** (*Media Activism*) is the New York representative and the United Nations correspondent for Reporters Without Borders, an international press freedom organization advocating for the rights of journalists worldwide. He covers foreign policy and human rights issues at various think tanks in New York and Washington, D.C. and has participated in Reporters Without Borders' awareness campaigns on Iran, North Korea, Burma, and Mexico.

**Max Uhlenbeck** (*Non-Profit Funding*) works as the development coordinator at The Brecht Forum—a left movement-building institution and community center in the West Village—building their grassroots fundraising infrastructure. In February 2009 he organized the Brecht Forum's first annual Grassroots Fundraising Conference for activists. He is a member of *Left Turn* magazine's editorial collective and sits on the board of the North America Congress on Latin America.

**Aliyah Vinikoor**, MSW (*Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline*), a recent graduate of the Hunter College School of Social Work, currently directs a school-based anti-violence program in the South Bronx for Safe Horizon. She has previously provided therapy to adjudicated youth for the Vera Institute, organized around the changing city environment for the Urban Justice Center, and served as a Clinton Global Initiative fellow. Before entering graduate school Aliyah was an editor and writer in both print and radio. She graduated cum laude from Barnard College, Columbia University where she majored in History.

**Judy Wessler**, MPH (*Ground-up Healthcare*) is director of the Commission on the Public's Health System, a nonprofit organization that advocates for and protects access to quality health care for low-income New York residents. As a lifelong public-health warrior, Judy previously worked at the American Cancer Society, MFY Legal Services, Community Action for Legal Services, and the Community Service Society's Health Unit. She has served as senior health policy analyst for the Manhattan Borough President and was the founder of the New York office of the Children's Defense Fund. Judy was a Revson Fellow at Columbia University, where graduated from the School of Public Health, and is the recipient of a Soros Foundation fellowship, among other honors.

**Baylah Wolfe**, LCSW (*Role of Radicalism*) has been a political activist for 50 years. She is currently a therapist at the Manhattan and Brooklyn Social Therapy Group and a staff member at the East Side Institute. For over 30 years Baylah has worked with diverse groupings of clients, and relates to her clients/groups as revolutionaries, inviting them to grow in the face of life's challenges. Baylah has worked as a supervisor, trainer, and adjunct professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work. In the fall she will be teaching a four-week class entitled "Is there something too caring about social work?"



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