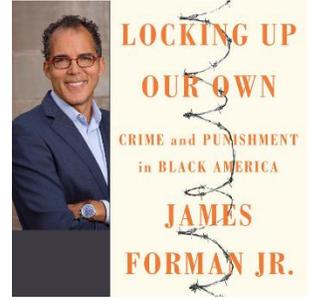




**Justice in America
Council for American Studies Education
Conference 2019
February 22, 8am - 2pm
Chicago History Museum**

www.casechicago.org



At a time when justice can seem far away -- a very distant American ideal -- we need to envision it. We need to ask what true justice looks like and how we make it happen. We need to re-tell and re-articulate the stories and statements of justice that have informed and inspired movements for change throughout American history, and we need to generate new stories and statements that give us strength and hope in our present struggles. This envisioning of justice requires a delicate balance between the pessimistic and optimistic sides of the American personality -- between an awareness of the seemingly intractable systemic injustices that shape American life and a hope in our capacity for revolution and transformation. The work of our keynote speaker eloquently articulates that balance as he explores devastatingly flawed attempts at criminal justice reform in order to see a path to a better future.

Conference Schedule

- Chicago Room/ Registration & Continental Breakfast** 8:00 am
- Chicago Room/ Welcome from CASE Steering Committee** 8:45 am
- Chicago Room/ Keynote Address: Justice and Race in America** James Forman, Jr., Professor of Law, Yale Law School and author of *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*

Session I 10:10 am - 11:00 am

- Society Conference Room**
- Teaching Black Lives Matter Through YA Fiction** Ryan Poll, Northeastern Illinois University

This presentation will focus on strategies to teach Black Lives Matter through the lens of young adult (YA) fiction. In particular, this session will explore how Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give, recognized as the first YA novel to directly address the BLM movement, narrates the social-political conditions that gave rise to this movement for social justice and how the novel situates the movement with the long history of radical Black politics. YA fiction is at the center of developing new aesthetics for imagining a more socially and politically just world.

- Mandel Room**
- Anti-Bias/Anti-Racist Pedagogy And Our OWN Racial Identity** Sarah Dennis, Loyola University and University of Illinois-Chicago
Miriam Bhimani, AGL Consulting

Research indicates that a positive racial identity is associated with positive academic attitudes and outcomes. This presentation will discuss the importance of learning the racial identity in our students and ourselves and how this is central to instructional planning and practices.

- Chicago Room**
- Break out session with our keynote speaker** James Forman, Jr., Yale Law School

Professor Forman has been working with Macmillan to develop a teacher's guide and curriculum for Locking Up Our Own. This breakout session will allow for small group discussions about how to integrate Locking Up Our Own in our classrooms, as well as a chance for participants to give James feedback on the curriculum. James' publisher will have copies available for signing.

Chicago History Museum Exhibitions

Facing Freedom: Then and Now

Megan Clark, School Programs, Chicago History Museum

Heidi Moisan, School Programs, Chicago History Museum

Facing Freedom examines eight moments in our history when Americans have struggled over the meaning of freedom in the areas of worker's rights, armed conflict, public protest, and race and citizenship. Explore the gallery with museum educators Heidi Moisan and Megan Clark, and leave with resources that encourage students to critically examine the past and engage in conversation and action around issues of social justice.

Break-Snacks

11:00 am - 11:20 am

Enjoy snacks and explore the Chicago History Museum

Session II

11:25 am - 12:15 pm

Society Conference Room

Discussion Skills for Civic Engagement

Liz Kenney and Marie Zlotnikov, Adlai E. Stevenson High School

It has never been more important to teach the art of civic dialogue. By teaching a handful of specific discussion skills—and giving students ample opportunity to hone those skills—we can promote civic engagement and clearer thinking. We will share tools for teaching these skills, as well as a specific protocol for reflecting on identity that helps students understand how their complex identities shape their relationships with each other and their engagement with society.

Mandel Room

Voice of the Nameless:

Randy Harper, Maine West High School

A High School Human Rights Program

This presentation will illustrate the evolution of Maine West High School's human rights program that received the Midwest Student Group of the Year award from Amnesty International. Randy will show teachers how to incorporate human rights and issues of justice into a history class through personal philosophical reflection and historical application as well as exploring some of the activities Voice of the Nameless has undertaken over the last two decades such as working with refugees and issues of poverty in Chicago, letter-writing campaigns for prisoners of conscience, as well as participation in marches and protests at school and in the city.

Chicago Room

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Session III

12:20 pm - 1:10 pm

Society Conference Room

Zanfina Rrahmani Muja and Seth MacLowry, Maine West High School

This is America: Is this America?

Childish Gambino's critically acclaimed song and video "This Is America" has racked up nearly a half-billion views. This presentation will look at teaching this text at the core of our introductory unit that compares and contrasts Gambino's vision of America with our students' visions. One goal of the lesson is to teach students how to "read" multiple texts to make meaning: lyrics, music, and visual texts. This presentation will also look at how we connect this work to Richard Wright's poem "Between the World and Me" and Ta-nehisi Coates Between the World and Me.

Mandel Room

Tim Libretti, Northeastern Illinois University

Why is Social Justice So Elusive?

Post-Revolutionary America promised for many not just a transformation in government, but a transformation of American society itself. Two incompatible notions of the self-informed American thinking and evolved through the nineteenth century. One demanded a new kind of person who would adhere to the new government concept of "virtue" that enjoined that citizens put the public good before private interests. The other defined the self in possessive individualist terms where one owned one's self and owed nothing to society while reaping the benefits of that ownership freely on the market with a primary focus on the accumulation of wealth. In short, America has struggled between capitalism and social/economy justice.

Chicago Room

Aileen Heidkamp and Todd Maxman, New Trier High School

No Easy Answers: A Look at The 1990 WTO Protest through Fiction and History

What is the function of civil disobedience in fighting for justice? This session will explore the use of multiple perspectives in determining what is just. The 2016 novel Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist by Sunil Yapa presents a fictional account of the real life protest in Seattle. The presenters will discuss approaches to both the novel and the larger historical context. This presentation will highlight the themes of the novel including protest, civil disobedience, immigration, race, and global politics.

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Chicago Room

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

Lunch & Closing Remarks

CASE Hosts 2019: Seth MacLowry and Matt McClure, Maine West High School