



Session II A, July 17-21, 2017

16. Linking Social Justice and Intercultural Communication in the Global Context

Globalization has catapulted people from different cultures into shared and contested physical and virtual spaces in homes, relationships, schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces, resulting in new forms of misunderstanding and conflict as well as unparalleled potential for intercultural alliances. Magnified economic inequity and political polarization have given rise to increased ethnic nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and other forms of fear and exclusion. This workshop offers a critical theory, social justice approach to intercultural communication, providing theoretical frameworks and process models for developing dynamic, multicultural communities committed to a more just and equitable world.

Designed for: Educators and trainers as well as organization and community leaders who want to gain proactive approaches to effectively link social justice and intercultural communication in the global context.

Workshop Objectives

- Gain knowledge for understanding the complexities of intercultural alliance and resource building for social justice
- Gain theoretical frameworks and process models for developing dynamic, multicultural communities committed to equity and justice
- Translate theory into practice by engaging in and reflecting upon processes and practices for building socially responsible intercultural communities
- Learn from case studies that exemplify the success and challenges of linking intercultural communication and social justice work
- Learn pedagogies and practical methods for addressing intercultural conflict and building intercultural alliances
- Develop resources and connections among participants for intercultural partnerships committed to social justice

Learning Activities

- Lectures and discussions on social justice and intercultural communication paradigms
- Experiential activities and discussions on the role of power, privilege, and social responsibility for intercultural communication in the global context
- Presentation and discussion of case studies and site-based community action projects for developing intercultural alliances for social justice
- Small group and experiential activities to experience, reflect upon, and develop strategies for intercultural community building for social justice



Dr. Amer F. Ahmed serves as the director of intercultural teaching and faculty development at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and is a member of *SpeakOut: The Institute for Democratic Education and Culture*. Amer is a social justice educator and scholar, hip-hop activist, intercultural diversity consultant, and higher education administrator. His background in anthropology, Black studies, higher education, and global involvement supports his efforts to address issues of social justice that continue to affect traditionally marginalized communities globally.

Dr. Kathryn Sorrells is a professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, Northridge. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in intercultural communication, intercultural training, cultural studies, and feminist theory. Kathryn has also designed and taught classes on communication and globalization, as well as global peace and justice. She has been instrumental in developing a campus-wide initiative, *Civil Discourse and Social Change*, dedicated to creating a proactively engaged campus based on humanistic values, inclusivity, and social justice. Kathryn has facilitated change processes for individuals, groups, and institutions in the areas of diversity, gender, and intercultural conflict. She is also a potter and artist, and she brings her creative interests into the classroom and scholarly work. Kathryn founded and directed the *Communicating Common Ground Project*, an innovative community action research project that develops creative alternatives to intercultural and interethnic conflict. She is the author of *Intercultural Communication: Globalization and Social Justice*, co-editor of *Globalizing Intercultural Communication*, and has published a variety of articles related to intercultural communication, gender, and social justice.



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