



March 13-15, 2018

Current Perspectives: Navigating Race, Gender, Class, and Nationality in 2018

Where are we in 2018? Sometimes it is hard to keep up with the rapid changes we are experiencing. What does it mean to live, work, teach, and create in such uncertain and polarizing times? Racial tension, xenophobia, ethnic nationalism, misogyny, and economic disparity are not only on the rise; they are increasingly valorized and normalized in many regions of the world. How, then, do we navigate the fault lines, assaults, and opportunities for solidarity across racial, gendered, class, and nation-based differences? This workshop is designed for faculty, trainers, and others interested in grappling critically and compassionately with the challenges of our times. Participants will gain an opportunity to understand the underlying intercultural dynamics at play, reflect on our roles in classrooms, on campuses, and in communities, and develop strategies to step forward in ways that encourage empathy over indifference, imagine solutions instead of obstacles. We will seek to humanize rather than denigrate.



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. 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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