



“Crisis AND Opportunity
IN THE AGE OF OBAMA”

HYATT ON CAPITOL SQUARE
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
MARCH 11-13



Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama

Thursday, March 11 – Saturday, March 13, 2010

Hyatt on Capitol Square – Columbus, OH

National Call for Breakout Session Proposals

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is very pleased to announce its second biennial *Transforming Race* conference, subtitled *Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama*. The conference will feature three thematic tracks:

1. [Racial Dynamics and Systems Thinking](#). Sessions in Track I will consider the potential usefulness of “systems thinking” as a mode of problem definition and analysis, and as a guide to advocacy strategizing and policymaking, in the context of racial equity and social justice.
2. [Race Talk](#). Sessions in Track II will identify the implications of cutting-edge communications research and thinking for more or less constructive, productive, and inclusive dialogues about race.
3. [Race, Recession, and Recovery](#). Sessions in Track III will document the effects of the recession and benefits of the ongoing recovery on racially marginalized people, families and communities, and outlining the kinds of institutional and policy reforms needed to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits and burdens in the future.

Call for Proposals: Papers, Panels, Workshops, and More!

Are you involved in work that engages one of more of these themes in dynamic and interesting ways? If so, we'd like to know about it!

The Kirwan Institute encourages creative proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtables, fishbowls, performances, or other formats that will help advance thinking and practice around race and ethnicity in these challenging times. We especially encourage proposals that are experiential and participatory in design, multiracial in scope, and that are thematically cross-cutting. Emphasis throughout the conference will be placed on research, ideas, and practices that are applicable to racial justice advocates and policy makers.

The conference registration fee will be waived, and hotel and travel expenses substantially covered, for accepted presenters. Details to follow.

Racial Dynamics & Systems Thinking

This track will explore the use, or potential use, of “systems thinking” in the pursuit of racial and social justice. We especially hope to feature real examples of ways in which systems approaches have been used to understand complex problems and point to helpful advocacy strategies or policy actions.

1. What do “systems” approaches look like in the context of racial justice context? What are the strengths and weaknesses of such approaches? Of particular approaches?
2. When/in what context have systems thinking and approaches been applied usefully to racial justice and/or social justice work? What can we learn from these cases?
3. How does a systems approach shed needed light on such phenomena such as the national economic recession or the credit/housing foreclosure crisis?
4. What tools and models do we have – and what additional ones do we need – to realize the benefits of systems thinking and systems approaches more effectively in our work?

Race Talk

The Race Talk track will explore dominant public discourses around race, their individual and community-level impacts, and the kinds of strategies and practices that hold the potential to transform our national dialogue on race into a more informed and constructive one.

1. How has the advent of the nation’s first African American president complicated or simplified the ways that people talk about race?
2. What implications do emerging research and thinking about implicit bias, frames, symbolic attitudes, values, and persuasion have for practical communications about race?
3. How has our nation’s racial dialogue impacted policies such as the economic recovery efforts? In what ways does it shapes our long-term national potential?
4. How are new media (blogs, webpages, social networking sites, etc.) being used to advance, or undermine, an authentic dialogue about race? What other tools or mechanisms are needed?

Race, Recession & Recovery

Sessions in this track will promote a comprehensive understanding of the crisis and opportunity inherent in the global economic downturn, including consideration of the role of race in the historical policy decisions that shaped the crisis, the current experiences of marginalized populations, and the unusual opportunity the crisis affords to shift public institutional policies and practices in the direction of equity.

1. How is race implicated in the genesis and contours of our current economic state of affairs?
2. How can we effectively measure the racial impacts of the ongoing recession? Of recovery programs?
3. How can programs be designed to ensure the needs of the most marginalized are met?
4. What kinds of innovative institutional and policy reforms are needed to ensure a more equitable distribution of benefits and burdens in the future? What kinds of advocacy strategies are needed to effectively push those reforms?

Submission Instructions

Please email completed form to reno.34@osu.edu no later than 3pm, October 15, 2009. We will confirm receipt of your proposal within 48 hours.

We will notify you of the status of your proposal on or before October 30, 2009.

Thematic Track(s): Indicate all that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Systems Thinking & Racial Dynamics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Race Talk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Race Recession & Recovery
Format:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Panel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishbowl
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other. Please describe _____
Description	
Synopsis/Abstract (100 words)	
Please identify 2 primary learning outcomes/objectives of your session.	
1.	
2.	
Briefly describe how your session relates to the conference theme. (As applicable). 60 word Max.	
How will the session participants be involved in your session? (As applicable). 60 word Max.	

Additional Facilitators/Presenters (as applicable)		
Full Name	Current Position/Title	Institution/Organization

Coordinating Facilitator/Presenter's Information	
Name	
Title	
Institution/Organization	
Address	
City, State & Zip Code	
Phone:	
E-mail Address	

About the Conference Host

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University partners with people, communities, and institutions worldwide to think about, talk about, and act on race in ways that create and expand opportunity for all.

Questions? Please contact Becky Reno at 614-292-9869 or reno.34@osu.edu.

NOTE: *If you have any difficulty submitting this form via email, please print it out and fax it to 614-688-5592 (fax).*