

RACIAL REDRESS AND REPARATIONS: Policy Approaches to Remediating Historical Racial Injustice

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 | 9:00am - 12:00pm ET

9:00am - 9:15am Introductory Remarks

James Hackney, Dean and Professor of Law, Northeastern University School of Law

Uta Poiger, Dean, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Professor of History, Northeastern University

Margaret Burnham, Director, Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project, and Professor of Law, Northeastern University

9:15am - 9:45am Keynote

Melissa Nobles, Chancellor and Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

9:45am - 10:45am Panel: State and Local Truth-Seeking Initiatives

Moderator/Presenter: Jennifer Llewellyn, Professor of Law and Restorative Justice Chair, Dalhousie University

Panelists: Joseline Peña-Melnyk, State Delegate, Maryland

Nicholas Creary, Commissioner, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Andrea Campbell, City Councilor, Boston, Massachusetts

10:45am - 10:55am Break

10:55am - 11:55am Panel: State and Local Reparations Legislation

Moderator: Theodore C. Landsmark, Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University

Panelists: Kamilah Moore, Chair, California Reparations Task Force

Robin Rue Simmons, Executive Director, First Repair, and Former Alderman, City of Evanston, Illinois

David Reid, State Representative, Virginia

11:55am - 12:00pm Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS

Margaret Burnham

Director, Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project, and Professor of Law, Northeastern University

Margaret Burnham is University Distinguished Professor of Law and Africana Studies at Northeastern University, and founder and director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. Her fields of expertise are civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights, and international criminal law. She has received numerous awards for her scholarship, including, in 2016, the “Andrew Carnegie Fellowship for Distinguished Scholars Addressing Challenges to US Democracy.” Professor Burnham served as a Massachusetts judge. In 1993, South African president Nelson Mandela appointed Professor Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress. The commission was a precursor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 2021, President Biden nominated Professor Burnham to serve on the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. Her book, *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow’s Legal Executioners* (Norton), is forthcoming in September 2022.

Andrea Campbell

City Councilor, Boston, Massachusetts

As a Boston City Councilor representing District 4, which includes large sections of Dorchester and Mattapan, as well as pieces of Jamaica Plain and Roslindale, Andrea Campbell has focused on closing generational inequities in Boston, whether in an unjust criminal justice system, a school system that under-serves communities of color, or one of the worst racial wealth gaps in America. Campbell served as Deputy Legal Counsel in Governor Deval Patrick’s administration, working to create more equitable systems and deliver progressive change to communities across the Commonwealth. In 2015, Campbell defeated a 32-year incumbent to become the first woman and second-ever District 4 City Councilor.

Since then, Campbell has been a leader for equity, justice, and opportunity for all in Boston. As the first Black woman to serve as Boston City Council President, she championed an agenda that put racial equity at the top of Boston’s priority list. For years, she has led the fight to reform our police and criminal legal systems and pushed the City and school leaders to act urgently to provide a quality public education to every student.

Nicholas Creary

Commissioner, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Associate Professor of History, Moravian College

Nicholas Creary is an Associate Professor of History at Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, and has also served as Associate Provost for Academic Inclusion and Innovation. He received his doctorate in African history at Michigan State University. His most recent book, *South African Literary Cultural Nationalism-Abalobi beSizwe eMzansi - 1918-45: Returning to the Source* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), is a theoretical reflection on the history and nature of the interactions between sub-Saharan Africa and Europe from 1341 to 1945 that builds on research comparing literary cultural nationalist movements among Africans and peoples of African descent in the Atlantic world during the first half of the 20th century. He is the principal author of the preliminary draft of H.B. 307 (2019) which established the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and he serves as a member of the Commission.

Theodore C. Landsmark

Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University

Ted Landsmark is University Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Director of the Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. As Mayor Martin J. Walsh's first appointment to the Boston Planning and Development Agency's Board of Directors, Dr. Landsmark has brought to the board a wealth of expertise in architecture, urban design, civic leadership, architectural and construction law, and community advocacy. During his seventeen-year tenure as President and CEO of the Boston Architectural College, Dr. Landsmark led the growth of the school from a center into an internationally recognized, multi-disciplinary institution. In August 2014, he was named President Emeritus of the college. Landsmark has served as Academic Vice President of the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston, South Carolina, and as a faculty member and administrator at the Massachusetts College of Art, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and UMass Boston. He was also President of the National Architectural Accrediting Board, and the Association of the Collegiate School of Architects.

His research and practice interests include diversity in design, environmental design, design education, higher education administration, community-based economic development, historic preservation, and African American art and artisanry.

Jennifer Llewellyn

Professor of Law and Chair in Restorative Justice, Dalhousie University

Jennifer Llewellyn is Professor of Law, Chair in Restorative Justice, and Director of the Restorative Research, Innovation and Education Lab (RRIELab), at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada. Having published extensively on the theory and practice of a restorative approach, her teaching and research are focused in the areas of relational theory, restorative justice, truth commissions, peacebuilding, international and domestic human rights law, public law and Canadian constitutional law. From 2006-2012, Professor Llewellyn was the Director of the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Community University Research Alliance (NSRJ-CURA). She is currently Director of the International Learning Community on a Restorative Approach.

An international expert in restorative justice, Professor Llewellyn has advised and supported many governments, projects and programs including the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Jamaican government, the government of New Zealand and the United Nations. Additionally, Professor Llewellyn facilitated the design process for the first-ever restorative public inquiry (into the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children) and served as a Commissioner for the Inquiry. She previously advised the Assembly of First Nations and Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the response to Residential School abuse. She has co-edited two books in the area: *Being Relational: Reflections on Relational Theory and Health Law* (UBC Press, 2011) and *Restorative Justice, Reconciliation and Peacebuilding* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Kamilah Moore

Chair, California Reparations Task Force

Kamilah Moore is a reparatory justice scholar, an attorney specializing in entertainment and intellectual property transactions, and Chair of the California Reparations Task Force. As a law student, Moore contributed to reports on domestic and international human rights issues, including, but not limited to racial inequality in Brazil; the human right to sanitation in Lowndes County, Alabama, USA; and the human right to remedy for indigenous Black women affected by racialized gender violence in Papua New Guinea. While studying abroad at the University of Amsterdam, Moore wrote a master thesis exploring the intersections between international law and reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade, chattel slavery, and their legacies. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School in New York City, a Master of Laws degree in International Criminal Law from the University of Amsterdam, and a Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Melissa Nobles

Chancellor and Professor of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Melissa Nobles is Chancellor and Professor of Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Nobles' research and teaching have focused on the comparative study of racial and ethnic politics, and issues of retrospective justice. Her current research centers on constructing a database of racial killings in the American South, 1930–1954. Working closely as a faculty collaborator and advisory board member of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, Nobles has conducted extensive archival research, unearthing understudied and unknown deaths and contributing to legal investigations. She is the author of two books, *Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics* (Stanford University Press, 2000), and *The Politics of Official Apologies* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and co-editor with Jun-Hyeok Kwak of *Inherited Responsibility and Historical Reconciliation in East Asia* (Routledge Press, 2013). Her scholarship has appeared in the *Annual Review of Political Science*, *Daedalus*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and several edited books.

Nobles is a graduate of Brown University where she majored in History. She received her MA and PhD in Political Science from Yale University. Nobles has held fellowships at Boston University's Institute for Race and Social Division and Harvard University's Radcliffe Center for Advanced Study. She has served on the editorial boards of *Polity*, *American Political Science Review*, and *Perspectives on Politics* journals.

Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk

State Delegate, Maryland

Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk is a fierce champion of equal rights. After graduating law school, she worked as a public defender and guardian for vulnerable children. Later she served as a prosecutor. In 2003, she was elected to the College Park City Council, then moved to the Maryland General Assembly in 2007. She represents portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties. The Delegate serves as the Vice Chair of the Health and Government Operations Committee, and chairs the Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee. She is a recognized health policy expert who specializes in promoting access to affordable health care and supporting vulnerable populations. The Delegate has sponsored more than 80 successful bills, several of which were the first in the nation. She is active in the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and numerous appointed positions. She and her family live in College Park.

David Reid

State Delegate, Virginia

David Reid was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2017 representing the 32nd District, which includes much of eastern Loudoun County. Delegate Reid serves on the Privileges and Elections, Transportation, and Appropriations Committees. He chairs the Privileges and Elections – Campaign Finance Subcommittee.

In 1988, Delegate Reid joined the US Navy Reserve and served as a Naval Intelligence Officer for 23 years until 2011, when he honorably retired as Commander. While in the Navy, he made two deployments to South Korea and one to Iceland, and a field deployment with the US Army. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on three occasions. His experience in the Navy gave him the tools needed to become a business professional in strategic management, banking, global telecommunications, and the defense industry. In 2014, he founded his own small business, Rockbridge Consulting. Delegate Reid earned a BA in political science from Northeastern Oklahoma State University. He also holds a master's diploma in strategic intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C.

Robin Rue Simmons

Executive Director, First Repair, and Former Alderman, City of Evanston, Illinois

Robin Rue Simmons is the Founder and Executive Director of FirstRepair, a new not-for-profit organization that informs local reparations, nationally. She is the former 5th Ward Alderman for the City of Evanston, IL, where she led the passage of the nation's first municipal-funded reparations legislation. Rue Simmons was born and raised in the segregated 5th Ward of Evanston. As an entrepreneur, she launched and operated multiple businesses. Most recently, Rue Simmons was the Director of Innovation and Outreach for Sunshine Enterprises, a not-for-profit on Chicago's South Side.

Rue Simmons served as an alderman from 2017-2021, serving on and chairing multiple committees. During her tenure, she prioritized improving the lived experiences of, and expanding opportunities for, Black residents in Evanston, most notably through her work on reparations. Rue Simmons is an at-large member of the City Council's Reparations Committee. She is a commissioner of the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC), a member of the Legislative Committee of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), a board member of Evanston's Connections for the Homeless, and was a fellow at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference/McCormick Theological Seminary. She previously served as a board member for the National League of Cities' National Black Caucus of Local Elected Leaders and the President of the Evanston Black Business Alliance.