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SELECTION 1 - Love and Solidarity in the Time of Covid-19

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SELECTION 1: Love and Solidarity in the Time of Covid-19

Creator and Moderator of the Series: Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Montclair State University

Zoom Sessions #1 and #2 (May 1 and 15): Informal Beginnings of Love and Solidarity in the Time of Corona: "Desi" Feministas Envisioning Change Through Staying Engaged: Building a Community!

Session #3 (May 22): Meeting with Pakistani feminist scholar-activist Afiya S. Zia: Forging solidarities

Session #4 (May 29): Led by our South Asian Feminist Caucus founding member Shreerexha Subramanian, introducing attendees to the founder-leaders of SAYHU, a Houston-based Social Justice organization aimed at community building between South Asian and African-American and Latino youth

Session #5: (June 5): Featuring our South Asian Feminist Caucus founding member Pramila Venkateswaran on feminist Indian poetry, followed by attendees reading poems that speak to our moment

Zoom session # 6 (June 12): Reform and Revolution: Reform or Revolution? Envisioning better futures through transnational frames

Overview: In this roundtable discussion panelists draw on recent protests in the United States to reflect on systemic injustice and oppression from a transnational perspective. While recent demonstrations in the wake of the George Floyd killing by Minnesota police officers have recalled the urgent need to fight and address institutionalized violence against minority populations and people of color, particularly African Americans, in the United States, this event connects calls for solidarity and calls for action by exploring issues of social injustice across different global settings. Questions raised in this context include: 1) Has the Covid-19 pandemic led to a global crisis that requires us to rethink systemic inequalities from the ground up? 2) And if so, does it require revolutionary change, i.e. starting from a new, clean slate, or should the system be changed from within, i.e. incrementally? 3) How can we, as scholars and activists, foster sustainable social change in our communities, nationally, regionally and internationally, based on our different perspectives and tools?

Speakers:

Nicole Fields, Montclair State University, Perspectives from the Field: Police, Gender & Race
Arnaud Kurze, Montclair State University, Youth, Social Change and Collective Memory: A Tunisian Perspective

Barbara Nimri Aziz, former radio host, Voices of Arab America, Race, Covid-19 and US Politics

Richard Schechner, Emeritus, New York University, Reforms in the US: The Need for a New, New Deal

Rekha Subramaniam, University of Texas Clearlake, The Paradox of Prison Reform via Revolutionary Education

Kate Temoney, Montclair State University, Mass Violence and Moving Forward

Anuj Vaidya, University of California, Davis, Defunding Campus Police: Abolitionist University Perspective

Jason Williams, Montclair State University, Race, Police and Justice in the United States

Zoom session #7 (June 19): Transnational Feminists and Social Change: Feminist thought leaders representing different interventions in support of progressive change for our shared world as we pay homage to Black Lives Matter and how we can learn from it in different contexts.

Speakers:

Diana Fox – Professor Bridgewater State University, and Founder/Editor of JIWS: Journal of International Women's Studies; Research focus Caribbean, Nepal, Japan.

Daisy Khan – Executive Director of WISE: Women's Islamic Initiative for Spirituality and Equality

Nyla Ali Khan – Professor and scholar who works on many forms of Kashmiri resistance against multiple oppressions

Alka Kurian – Founding member South Asian Feminist Caucus and Professor teaching courses in Film, Literature, Gender Studies and Human Rights

Dina Siddiqui – Professor trained in Anthropology, focus on transnational feminism with groundbreaking work on Bangladeshi women workers of the garment industry

Kami Sid – Leading transgender activist from Karachi, Pakistan

Zoom Session #8 (June 26): Transnational Youth Panel: Young people on the future

Features a panel of young adults based in USA, Pakistan, UK, Abu Dhabi-- on the future of social justice. The discussion will cover topics on how young people navigate the world based on their own intersectionality, their understanding and experiences of the current political climate, while at the same time exploring what a "better future" will look like.

Student Speakers:

Alex Mazen (USA)

Ellie Allen (UK, Abu Dhabi)

Leslie Gray (USA, Abu Dhabi)

Florence Ogalo (USA/Kenya)

Maleeha Basharat (Pakistan)

Bilal Zafar Ranjha (Pakistan)

Hamza Omer (Pakistan)