

Agenda

9:30am - 10:00pm

Light Breakfast

Founders Hall Art Gallery

10:00am - 10:15am

Opening Remarks

Founders Hall Multipurpose Room 126

10:30am - 12:00pm

Workshops

Police Community Relations: Mediation, Training and Dialogue

Classroom 467

Ethics of Intervention & Reflective Practice

Classroom 470

Building Community Capacity – A Systems Approach to Sustainable Change

Classroom 475

12:00pm-12:45pm

Lunch (Served)

Founders Hall Art Gallery

12:45pm -1:15pm

Armchair Conversation

Founders Hall Multipurpose Room 126

Kevin Avruch, Dean, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Grande Lum, Director, U.S Department of Justice -Community Relations Service, DOJ
Moderated by Bill Potapchuk, President and Founder, Community Building Institute

1:20pm - 2:50pm

Panel and Q&A

Founders Hall Multipurpose Room 126

Conversations at the Cross Roads: Civil Rights, Justice and Conflict Resolution

Panelists:

Prof. Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, Assistant Professor, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution:
Trends in Racial Attitudes since 1964

Prof. Solon Simmons: Associate Professor, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Conflict Resolution as Public Business: Tensions and Opportunities

CRS Regional Director Reinaldo Rivera, Northeast Regional Director, Community Relations Service

CRS Regional Director Meg Gorecki, Midwest Regional Director, Community Relations Service

Moderated by Richard Rubenstein, Professor George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

3:00pm - 4:15pm

Evolving Approaches to Practice and Theory Building

Founders Hall Multipurpose Room 125

Table Presenters and Discussion Round 1

Table Presenters and Discussion Round 2

4:15pm-5:00pm

Reflections and Exploring the Frontiers for Conflict Resolution and Civil Rights

Founders Hall Multipurpose Room 125

5:10pm-5:15pm

Closing Comments

Workshops

Police Community Relations: Mediation, Training and Dialogue

Classroom 467

This session will briefly take participants through a brief history of the evolution of CRS practice from the 1964 Civil Rights Act to the present in parallel to LE law enforcement efforts to address police-community relations issues. Following this review, using examples from CRS and American present history (Rodney King, Trayvon Martin, Ferguson), CRS experts and thought-leaders from S-CAR will discuss current best practices covering both the theoretical and practice points-of-view, the importance of timing from a ripeness perspective, and why, despite considerable advancement, tensions continue to escalate. This session will then explore the future of police-community relations from a practitioner point of view.

Workshop Leads:

Frank Amoroso, New England Regional Director, Community Relations Service

Kenith Bergeron, Senior Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service

Megan Price, Director, Insight Conflict Resolution Program, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Ethics of Intervention & Reflective Practice

Classroom 470

One of Jim Laue's most significant contributions to the field was on the ethics of intervention. This panel will explore topics such as the importance of understanding the potential implications of intervention, exploring the potential impact on power asymmetries, changing the status quo, and the importance of reflective practice and creating consensus in communities as conceptualized by Wallace Warfield.

Workshop Leads:

Susan H. Allen, Associate Professor, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Suzanne Buchanan, Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service (CRS),

James Williams, III, Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service

Frank Blechman, Private Consultant, Formerly at George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Building Community Capacity – A Systems Approach to Sustainable Change

Classroom 475

As practitioners our role is not only to help resolve conflict but to engage parties in a participatory learning process that will build community capacity to resolve conflict themselves. This session will not only address why this is so important from a theoretical framework but provide practical examples of what this process looks like. From Human Relations Commissions to fostering youth organizing, participants will explore various capacity building strategies, learn how decisions on which sustainable solution to choose are made, and better understand the importance of participatory development in creating solutions that last.

Workshop Leads:

Christopher Chalberg, Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service

Harpreet Singh Mokha, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Community Relations Service

Charles Phillips, Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service

Arthur Romano, Assistant Professor, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Keynote: Armchair Conversation

Both Kevin Avruch, Dean of the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and Grande Lum, Director of the Community Relations Service carry the mantle for organizations that Jim Laue, Wallace Warfield, Roger Wilkins and many others helped bring into being. In this conversation, they will explore the contributions of these conflict resolution leaders, probe the intersections of theory and practice, and suggest ideas for continuing the conversations at the crossroads of civil rights and conflict resolution. Bill Potapchuk of the Community Building Institute will moderate.



Grande H. Lum

Director

Grande H. Lum was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the ninth Director of the Community Relations Service on June 29, 2012. Mr. Lum brings extensive expertise in dispute resolution, including providing mediation, facilitation, and training.



Kevin Avruch

Dean

Kevin Avruch, since 2013 S-CAR's Dean, is also the Henry Hart Rice Professor of Conflict Resolution and Professor of Anthropology in the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and faculty and senior fellow in the Peace Operations Policy Program (School of Public Policy), at George Mason University.

Panel:

Conversations at the Cross Roads: Civil Rights, Justice and Conflict Resolution

Prof. Tehama Lopez Bunyasi: *Trends in Racial Attitudes since 1964*

Abstract: How much have racial attitudes changed over the past 50 years? Are we coming to a consensus about what justice and equality should look like, or are we as divided as ever? Dr. Lopez Bunyasi will offer observations and insights.

Prof. Solon Simmons: *Conflict Resolution as Public Business: Tensions and Opportunities*

Abstract: One of the most exciting outcomes of the civil rights legislation of the mid-1960s was the creation of the CRS, a part of the federal government whose job it was to intervene in violent and contentious conflicts across the country. Although this public sector innovation created a platform for important conflict resolution work, it also made some questions dangerous to pose in this institutionalized version of the field. In this talk I explore one such question, that of structural violence and the challenge a state agency faces in working to address it with specialized mediators.

CRS Regional Director Meg Gorecki - Forthcoming

CRS Regional Director Reinaldo Rivera- Forthcoming

Moderated by Prof. Richard Rubenstein

Evolving Approaches to Practice and Theory Building Round Table Presenters:

Prof. Sara Cobb, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Narrative: A Lens for Engaging Communities in Climate Change Conversations

There is empirical evidence that the impact of climate change, out over the next 50 years will differentially harm the poor, the marginalized, the “vulnerable” in our communities. Given that the conversation about climate change is itself polarized, the narratives of the marginalized may never make it into the corridors where policy planning takes place. How can we work to ensure that marginalized populations can not only influence climate adaptation and mitigation, but reconstruct themselves as more than just victims, at the effect of climate change? What would this imply for changes in the nature of the way we discuss climate change and how can we design spaces and processes where the experience of the vulnerable can be central to the communities’ response to climate change?

Prof. Leslie Dwyer, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Gender, Race and Violence in U.S. Communities

Recent news has highlighted the extreme vulnerability of black male bodies to violence and criminalization. At the same time, we know that racism makes women of color far less safe in their homes and communities. This roundtable will discuss race and gender in the U.S. context, drawing on theories of intersectionality and narrative approaches to conflict resolution to imagine new possibilities for cultural and social structural transformations.

Derek Sweetman, PhD Candidate George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Michael English, PhD Candidate George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Critical Conflict Resolution

Critical Conflict Resolution seeks to further the conversation around the roles and possibilities for intervenors in systemic conflicts; these are situations where the unequal distribution of power and resources takes precedent in reproducing cycles of violence. Building from the insights of Laue and Cormick, we attempt to refocus the relationship between conflict practice and theory building in a manner that generates a more productive cycle of understanding and application for all involved. Our focus for this session moves beyond mediation and encourages discussion on roles that envision conflict resolution as a more robust tool for community engagement.

Megan Price, PhD Candidate George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Insight Policing -- How recognizing conflict in crime can enhance police legitimacy

The Insight Conflict Resolution Program's Retaliatory Violence Insight Project (RVIP) was funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of its larger effort to foster innovative and effective approaches to predicting and preventing crimes of retaliatory violence and homicide. Over the course of the project, RVIP validated its basic hypothesis: that when police officers augment their standard law enforcement training with the conceptual and practical skills associated with the Insight approach to conflict analysis and resolution – that is to say, when they are trained in Insight policing – they become favorably positioned in the course of their regular duties to ameliorate two linked and seemingly intractable problems of law enforcement: retaliatory violence and police legitimacy.

Stephen Kotev, Conflict Resolution Consultant, George Mason School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Somatic Skills for Conflict Resolvers

This presentation will focus on the physical skills necessary for conflict resolvers to manage more effectively the physiological stresses of conflict experienced during high-conflict interventions.

Kenith Bergeron Senior Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service
Police Community Relations

Continuing the morning conversation, this presentation will focus on Police Community Relations and further explore the future of police-community relations from a practitioner point of view.

S-CAR and CRS 101

Join S-CAR and CRS at a table to discuss anything and everything you have ever wanted to know about their history, ongoing projects, how to find out more about their shared DNA..

Suzanne Buchanan (CRS)
Non-concentric Identities – A Visual Tool
Abstract forthcoming

Arthur Romano (S-CAR)
Theater of the Oppressed
Abstract forthcoming

Kelly Collins-McMurry (CRS)
Hate Crimes Prevention Act
Abstract forthcoming



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