

Augustana College

639 38th Street | Rock Island | Illinois 61201-2296
Office of Student Activities (309) 794-2695

EXPLORE

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

2012 WHITE PRIVILEGE SUMMIT

Community leaders and engaged citizens are invited
to join in discussions on economic inequality and its
impact on opportunity in America.

March 21-22



Augustana College

Welcome to

EXPLORE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY 2012 WHITE PRIVILEGE SUMMIT

EXPLORING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Economic inequality has come to the forefront in recent years in political and social discourse in America. There has been a renewed interest in examining disparities along the lines of income as well as the concentration of wealth in the hands of a very small group at the top of the economic ladder. Recent protests have brought national and international attention to “the 1%” and “the 99%.” Economic inequality plays a role in many current issues, including immigration, education, the criminal justice system and healthcare. Many of the conversations at the summit throughout the day will explore the relationship between economics and inequalities along the lines of race, class and gender. In the United States, the social construction of race has created systems of advantage and disadvantage. A complete discussion of inequality needs to examine not only disadvantage, but advantage—or white privilege—as well.

WHAT IS WHITE PRIVILEGE?

Do whites benefit when non-whites face discrimination and exclusion? If non-whites face barriers in their daily lives, what is the effect for whites? Are whites unaffected by race, or are they privileged by race? Peggy McIntosh, an anti-racism activist and scholar, describes white privilege in the following way:

“ I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was ‘meant’ to remain oblivious. White privilege is like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, maps, passports, codebooks, visas, clothes, tools and blank checks.”

White privilege is about experience on an individual level, in addition to a web of institutional and cultural preferential treatment. It is about not only our own personal experiences, but also how society may be structured to provide opportunities for some and challenges for others.

ABOUT THE SUMMIT

Explore Economic Inequality: 2012 White Privilege Summit (WPS) provides an opportunity for critical discussions about diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social justice, race, gender, class, sexual orientation, environment, health, religion and systems of privilege/oppression.

The summit serves as an opportunity for all of us to examine and explore difficult issues related to white privilege, white supremacy and oppression.

This summit is not about making white people feel guilty. The summit is about critically examining the society in which we live and working to dismantle systems of power, prejudice and inequality.

The WPS is a challenging, empowering and educational experience. The keynote, workshops and small group reflections not only will inform participants but also engage and challenge them, while providing practical tips and strategies to fight for social justice. We highly encourage you to actively participate in the day's activities.

Explore Economic Inequality

2012 White Privilege Summit is sponsored by:

Augustana Multicultural Programming Board

Augustana Office of Student Activities

Augustana College Diversity Initiatives Committee

Augustana Institute for Leadership/Service

Augustana Office of Multicultural Services

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 21

Kick-off event

8 p.m.

MPAACT: Urban Poetry Jam

Wallenberg Hall

Thursday, March 22

Keynote address **“Power, Privilege and Democracy”** | Marc Morial

Centennial Hall (attendees are encouraged to arrive early)

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Lunch break

11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

Concurrent sessions (descriptions and locations are included in the following pages)

1:15-2:15 p.m. | 2:30-3:30 p.m. | 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Reception & reflective session

4:45-6:15 p.m.

Hanson Hall of Science 2nd floor lobby

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | Marc Morial

“Power, Privilege and Democracy”



In his 25-year professional career, Morial has become one of the most accomplished servant-leaders in the nation. Here are just a few of his accomplishments:

- **Entrepreneur**—Launched several successful small businesses, including an apparel wholesale company, a special events company and a janitorial company, which was his first venture at age 15 with two childhood friends.
- **Lawyer**—Winner of the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Pro Bono Publico Award for his legal service to the poor and disadvantaged. He also was one of the youngest lawyers, at age 26, to argue and win a major case before the Louisiana Supreme Court.

- **Professor**—Served as an adjunct member of the faculty at Xavier University in Louisiana, where he taught constitutional law and business law.
- **State Senator**—Named Legislative Rookie of the Year, Education Senator of the Year, and Environmental Senator of the Year, while authoring laws on a wide range of issues.
- **Mayor**—Built a broad multi-racial coalition to lead New Orleans’ 1990s renaissance, and left office with a 70-percent approval rating.

As the mayor of New Orleans, Morial passionately attacked his city’s vast urban problems with vigor and creativity. Violent crimes and murders dropped by 60 percent, the unemployment rate was cut in half and New Orleans’ poverty rate fell, according to the 2000 Census.

The city’s economy experienced its most dramatic growth in more than 20 years as the Convention Center was expanded, thousands of new hotel rooms were built, the Downtown Casino and Sports Arena opened, and New Orleans hosted Super Bowls and Music Festivals, as well as International and Hemispheric Summits. The NBA also returned to New Orleans as Morial led the effort to relocate the Hornets from Charlotte.

During his tenure, New Orleans won the All-American City Award in 1996 for the first time in 50 years, as well as the prestigious City Livability Award, and finished first in the National Night Out Against Crime Competition on two occasions.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 22

Keynote address | 10:30-11:30 a.m. | Centennial Hall

Lunch break | 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

Concurrent sessions | 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Note: Concurrent sessions labeled with an (I) may be of interest to those who are new to discussions of economic inequality and/or white privilege.

“Social Justice for Immigrants” (I)

Peter Kivisto, Ph.D., and Molly Todd, Ph.D.

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 102

This session examines some of the most pressing issues facing immigrants in the United States. Although the focus is on current issues of special interest to those of us in the Midwest, these issues also will be placed within national and historical contexts.

Dr. Peter Kivisto received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his M.Div. from Yale University. After completing those degrees, he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research. Currently, he is the head of the sociology department at Augustana College and is working on a book on race and ethnicity with Dr. Paul Croll; a project on minority integration in the Nordic countries, with a focus on Finland; and a project on multiculturalism as theory and social policy.

Born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Molly Todd was first introduced to Latin America in a grade school Spanish class. Since then, she has lived, worked and traveled throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Her interests in Latin America led her to earn a B.A. in Spanish literature (Reed College), an M.A. in Latin American studies (University of Texas-Austin), and a Ph.D. in Latin American history (University of Wisconsin-Madison).

“The Impact of ‘White Flight’ on Court-Mandated School Desegregation Efforts in the Midwest”

Vincent Briley

Room: Olin 201

As we approach 60 years of the landmark school desegregation decision *Brown v. Board of Education* 1954, the achievement gaps between black and white students still exist. Although the “Separate but Equal” doctrine of 1896 was overturned with the *Brown* decision in 1954, public education in the United States has experienced a rapid re-segregation of its public schools, which has had a direct impact on educational outcomes. This interactive session will explore how race and class interact to diminish the ideals of the *Brown* decision. Participants will share their narratives and scholarship in regard to addressing white privilege through educational policy.

Vincent Briley serves as the assistant dean of academic advising and testing at Scott Community College/EICC in Bettendorf, Iowa. Briley completed his doctoral coursework at The Ohio State University in 2010 focusing on court-mandated school desegregation in the Midwest and has presented his research at the American Educational Research Association, Ohio University (Athens) and Capital University Law School (Columbus, Ohio), among other educational research focused conferences. Briley is a 2006 alumnus of the Social Justice Training Institute and participated in the 2011 National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for Community College Faculty at Jackson State University and Rhodes College.

“Inequality and Health: When Care and Culture Collide”

Valerie Garr

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 305

This session will focus on the film “Unnatural Causes” and look at inequalities in health-care related to racial/ethnic groups.

Valerie Garr, a 23-year student services veteran at the University of Iowa (UI), is a diversity coordinator in the College of Nursing where two of her roles include chairing the College of Nursing’s Diversity Committee and administrating the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars mentoring program for underrepresented nursing students in addition to the Supplemental Instruction Program for pre-nursing majors. She also is an adjunct instructor and practicum faculty advisor in the University of Iowa College of Education Higher Education Student Affairs Program. In addition, Garr is a member of the University of Iowa Health Sciences Diversity Committee, an advisory board member of the Iowa Area Health Education Center, a member of the UI Council on STEM, and a member of the University of Iowa Student Success Team.

“The Racial Wealth Gap: The Roots of Privilege” (I)

Paul Croll, Ph.D., and Christopher Whitt, Ph.D.

Room: Olin Auditorium

This session will center on a discussion of the connections between the racial wealth gap and privilege. Current public opinion about race and racial inequality will be compared against economic indicators (the average white household holds 20 times more wealth than the average black household) of wealth in the United States. Dr. Christopher Whitt and Dr. Paul Croll will discuss key public policy actions and historical events that have helped some groups in America accumulate much more wealth than others and pass that accumulated wealth down through generations. The session will conclude with a discussion about the implications of a wealth gap for our nation and all individuals in our society as we move forward in the 21st century.

Dr. Whitt has been a faculty member in Augustana’s political science department since 2007. He teaches a number of courses related to American government/institutions, American politics and political behavior. Additionally, Dr. Whitt is one of the founders of Augustana’s Africana Studies Program and a co-founder of *The Political Denizens Blog*.

Dr. Croll is an assistant professor of sociology at Augustana College. He joined the department in 2008. In addition to his recent book, *Race and Ethnicity: The Basics* (with Peter Kivisto, 2011), his research has appeared in the journals *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, and *The American Sociologist*. Dr. Croll also helped design and manage the American Mosaic Project Survey, a national telephone survey conducted by the department of sociology at the University of Minnesota.

“Economic Inequality and Environmental Policy”

Keva Steadman, Ph.D.

Room: Olin 304

At the Stockholm UNEP Convention in 1972, many developing countries rejected the idea of environment protection because they felt it compromised their path to economic development. This seemed to change after the Rio Summit of 1992, when it became increasingly clear that economic development and environmental protection were compatible, and so the idea of sustainable development was born. While in theory this makes abundant sense, developing countries soon realized that operationalizing the implementation of environmental policy was going to be challenging. In addition,

there was pressure from international donor agencies to get it right. In this session, we will explore how challenges in implementing environmental policy relate to the economic disparity across countries, and what steps disadvantaged countries can take to overcome some of these challenges.

Dr. Keva Steadman is an assistant professor in the economics department at Augustana College. Her research interests are environmental policy and economic development. She recently completed doctoral studies in economics at Binghamton University.

Concurrent sessions | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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"Poverty, Incarceration and 'The New Jim Crow'"

Khara Coleman Washington, J.D., and Tionn Fambro, J.D.

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 305

Khara Coleman Washington and co-presenter Tionn Fambro will discuss the themes of the book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander, with special emphasis on the connection between poverty and incarceration, including the ways in which poverty affects access to legal counsel.

Originally from New Orleans, Washington is an Assistant Scott County Attorney in Davenport, Iowa. Her work includes the prosecution of misdemeanor to felony level cases in juvenile, associate and district court. She is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, where she majored in French and English. After graduating with college honors, she was selected as a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs in St. Louis, Missouri. At the end of the yearlong Coro Fellowship, she attended Washington University School of Law as a Chancellor's Fellow scholar. Her community activities include work with the Scott Community College Foundation, Ballet Quad Cities, the African American Museum of Iowa, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Fambro was born in Chicago. She earned her B.A. in 2005 from Tennessee State University and her J.D. in 2008 from Southern Illinois University, where she concentrated in litigation and trial skills. She also has studied constitutional and comparative law abroad at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. Fambro's practice areas are criminal litigation, both felony and misdemeanor, and civil litigation including family, immigration, bankruptcy and civil rights law.

"White Privilege and Hurricane Katrina: New Orleans Six Years Later"

Kate Parks, Ph.D.

Room: Olin 307

Are so-called natural disasters color-blind? This session will examine how white privilege impacted evacuation and recovery during and after Hurricane Katrina, specifically focusing on how the city has bounced back after the disaster. Though there is/was a desire to de-racialize the events of August 2005 by the media and the public, race did and continues to play a role in the response to this disaster. Even six years later, racialized aspects of the disaster continue to surface. This is especially acute when exploring 2010 census data for the city.

Dr. Kate Parks is an assistant professor of sociology at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Her teaching and research interests focus on race and ethnicity, inequality, education and demography. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 2007 and returned to her undergraduate alma mater. Dr. Parks' current research is focused on assessing the campus climate at Loras.

"Exploring Intersections Between Gender and Economic Inequality" (II)

Jane Simonsen, Ph.D., Vicki Sommer, Ph.D., and Marsha Smith, Ph.D.

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 102

This session will look at the ways economic inequalities emerge from the nexus of race, gender, and political and economic realities. It will bring historical and global perspectives to bear on an understanding of the ways that assumptions about women's "nature" and women's work combine with women's lived experience, both in the United States and in China, to maintain systems of privilege.

Dr. Jane Simonsen is an associate professor of history and women's and gender studies and the coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Augustana College. Her book *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860-1919*, looks at the role white women played in assimilation crusades to uncover the anxiety and conflict that both white and indigenous women experienced as a result of the devaluation of household labor.

Dr. Marsha Smith is a professor of sociology at Augustana College and has served as the president of the Illinois Sociological Association and on the Board of Directors of ASIANetwork. She has presented her work on Chinese women, tourism and communities in the United States and China. Her work on this topic recently was published as "Navigating a Space for Labor Activism: Labor NGOs in the Pearl River Delta of South China," co-authored with Zhang Hong of Colby College, in *State and Society Responses to Social Welfare Needs in China: Serving the People*.

Dr. Vicki Sommer is a professor of sociology and the longtime coordinator of the women's and gender studies program at Augustana College. She has served as the president of the Illinois Sociological Association and is a board member of the American Men's Studies Association. She has written and presented on the intersections between women's studies and masculinity studies as well as on masculinity studies and teaching.

"The White Privilege of Higher Education"

Danielle Geary

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 304

Higher education is not exempt from the influences of white privilege. Due to the unequal admission policies, unwelcoming collegiate experiences and lack of educational support, minority students are not completing four-year degrees at the same rate as whites. In an economy that demands a higher education for entrance into the professional world, the system of higher education can limit social mobility. In this workshop, the history of higher education will be explored through the lens of accessibility for minorities.

Danielle Geary is an assistant professor of social work at Carthage College. She graduated from Carthage College with a bachelor's in social work; her master's degree in public child welfare was obtained from UW-Madison. As a former child welfare social worker, she focuses on child abuse/neglect, family violence, and social welfare policy. Currently, Geary is working toward her doctorate in educational policy and leadership at Marquette University.

Concurrent sessions | 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Note: Concurrent sessions labeled with an (I) may be of interest to those who are new to discussions of economic inequality and/or white privilege.

“Learning from Their Voices: Developing Community-Based Programs of Research with Underserved Latino Populations”

Special Guest Speaker Jose Ruben Parra-Cardona, Ph.D.

(supported by the Lewis Stone Endowed Lectureship in Psychology)

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 102

Latinos in the United States, and particularly Latino immigrants, often are depicted as one of the main sources of problems for the U.S. society and economy. This presentation will briefly review the historical roots of Latino migration into the United States, as well as research findings from studies highlighting the life experiences of U.S. and foreign-born Latinos in the United States. The presentation of studies will center on contextual challenges suffered by this population, particularly as they refer to issues of discrimination and exploitation.

Dr. Parra-Cardona is an assistant professor in the department of family and child ecology at Michigan State University. He is an associate researcher at the Centro de Investigacion Familiar in Monterrey, Mexico. His research addresses issues related to Latino families, specifically Latino fatherhood, culturally appropriate parenting programs, and violence in Latino populations. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas Tech, his M.A. from Syracuse, and his B.S. from ITESO University.

“LGBT Issues and Economic Inequality”

Kara Brant and Erin Bertram

Room: Olin 201

This session will provide an in-depth look at the economic inequalities surrounding same-sex marriage and healthcare, two examples of the systemic oppression LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) individuals face.

Kara Brant joined Augustana College as an area coordinator in residential life in 2011. She earned her M.S. in student affairs and higher education from Indiana State University where she designed and implemented a “Safe Zone” program to increase awareness of LGBT issues. The Safe Zone workshops provided participants with the knowledge and resources to enhance their capacity to be an ally to the LGBT community. Brant currently trains the Augustana Residential Life student staff members on LGBT sensitivity and heteronormativity within the residence halls.

Erin Bertram, an Augustana College alumna, earned her M.F.A. in poetry and graduate certificate in women, gender and sexuality studies at Washington University in St. Louis, where she was a fellow. The author of eight chapbooks, including *The Vanishing of Camille Claudel* and *Inland Sea*, which won the 2009 Robin Becker Chapbook Prize for LGBTQ poets, Bertram has led creative writing workshops for homeless individuals in transition, a prisoner, and students at the elementary, high school and college level. She is a Fellowship Instructor at Augustana College, where she teaches composition, literature, creative writing and gender studies courses on same-sex desire in literature and queer theory.

“Occupy Wall Street & Occupy the Hood: Inserting Race and Gender into Conversations of Economic Inequality” (I)

Nadia Brown, Ph.D., and Justin Hansford, J.D.

Room: Hanson Hall of Science 304

Many would agree of the need for all citizens to engage in protest as a particular form of political participation. The Occupy Wall Street movements uniquely challenge privilege and Americans who believe in meritocracy. As part of protest culture, these localized movements have embraced progressive politics but have yet to fully address the racial and gender dynamics that suffer disproportionate economic instability. In this panel, we will present both challenges and opportunities to the Occupy Wall Street movement to heal the racial and gendered fractures of the movement.

Dr. Nadia Brown, assistant professor of political science and African American studies at Saint Louis University, teaches and conducts research in the areas of American politics, race and ethnicity, as well as women and politics. Dr. Brown currently is working on revising the dissertation into a book manuscript. In addition, she is exploring intra-group differences among black female state legislators to explore the complexity within groups.

Justin Hansford, professor of law at St. Louis University, clerked for Judge Damon Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (2009-2010) and served as a law fellow with both the University of Maryland School of Law and Georgetown University Law Center. Hansford’s research incorporates legal history, legal ethics, critical race theory, human rights and the Global Justice Movement in a broader attempt to interrogate injustice in society.

“Help or Hindrance? The Government’s Role in Making Higher Education Accessible”

Emily Johnson

Room: Olin 307

This session will explore the counterintuitive ways in which state and federal programs designed to make higher education more affordable or accessible can actually end up doing the opposite. As the Obama administration sets its sights on education reform, we’ll take a look at the nuances of new regulations, funding issues and what exactly it means for higher education to be “an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford.”

Johnson, an Augustana graduate, serves as an assistant director of admissions. Her professional areas of interest include issues specific to underrepresented and underserved student populations.

4:30 p.m. | Summit Reflection and Reflection

Hanson Hall of Science 2nd floor lobby

Reflective sessions are an opportunity for you to reflect upon and discuss your experiences. Reflective session participants will be divided into groups, where an effective conversation, led by student and faculty facilitators, will ensue. You will find that within your group, a variety of diverse populations are represented, and thus, you will leave these sessions with a better understanding of the opinions and experiences of those different from you.

7 p.m. | Film Screening—*Precious Knowledge: A Documentary Film Examining Arizona’s Battle Over Ethnic Studies*

Auditorium, Olin Center for Educational Technology