Navigating Race, Identity, and Difficult Conversations

Friday, September 18, 2020 - 9:00am to 10:30am
New Haven , CT

For many international students & scholars, understanding the role of race, identity, and privilege in the U.S. can be a challenging aspect of adapting to American culture. Confusion, uncertainty, and frustration are typical responses to entering into these conversations.

Join us for this conversation where we will hear from Ewurama Okai, a former Yale international student, and current PhD candidate at Northwestern University studying sociology of culture, collective memory, race and ethnicity. She will lead the first half of the session with a talk to clarify some foundational concepts and phrases you may encounter with colleagues and faculty while you are at Yale. We will then hear from a panel of current Yale international graduate and professional students who will share their experiences and answer questions from the audience.

This session is open to the Yale community, and we encourage you to come with your questions and an open mind.

Please register to receive the Zoom instructions.

Panelist's Bios:
Ewurama Okai, Ghana - Ewurama received her BA with distinction in political science from Yale in 2017. She then went on to be the Woodbridge fellow for Africa at Yale before starting her Masters in Education at Harvard where she received the intellectual contribution award â€“ the highest distinction available to a graduate. She is currently a JD/PhD candidate at Northwestern University where her research focuses on culture, memory, identity, and transnationalism through a postcolonial theoretical lens.

Gerardo Manrique de Lara Ruiz, Mexico - Gerardo has a bachelorâ€™s degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), in Mexico City. After graduating he worked at the Mexican National Institute of Transparency as a speechwriter for Commissioner Joel Salas, one of the leading voices advocating for open government and freedom of information in Mexico. Currently, he is a second-year Master of Arts in African Studies student.

Jeamme Chia, Malaysia - Jeamme is a 2nd year Master of Environmental Management candidate at the Yale School of the Environment (YSE). She is originally from Penang, Malaysia and moved to the United States to attend college at a small liberal arts college (Sarah Lawrence College) before returning home to work after graduation. She is interested in sustainable land use policy and restoration in tropical ecosystems. Prior to Yale, she was a management consultant and a land use analyst.

Sam Brakarsh, Zimbabwe - Sam is from Zimbabwe and is currently studying Social Psychology and Global Health at Yale University. He is the head liaison for the undergraduate International Office and works in the Centre for Teaching and Learning as an Academic Strategies Mentor focusing on equity in education. Sam is a Theatre of the Oppressed (ToO) practitioner for which he has developed training manuals and has taught across Zimbabwe, Ghana, Kenya, the US, and now Palestine. Sam has been recognized with the African Leadership Medallion as well as being awarded the Dalai Lama World Fellowship and the Davis Projects for Peace grant for his work in Zimbabwe emphasizing local knowledge production, artistic resistance, and community-driven gender equality.

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Links:
[1] https://yaleconnect.yale.edu/OISS/rsvp?id=770587