

Doing the Work of Anti-Racism

All Clinics Class

August 28, 2020, 5:00 – 6:30pm

Location: Zoom

We developed this cross-clinics class with two goals in mind. First, we want to start the semester by acknowledging the role that race has played in the circumstances faced by our clients and consider what the term antiracist means in relation to the work you will be doing this semester and beyond. The protests and civic action that have occurred since the death of George Floyd underscore the need for this and further discussions about race as we approach the work we do. Secondly, we want to use this as a time for you to have a shared experience at the beginning of our year and, through discussions in break out rooms have a chance to connect with colleagues in other clinics. So, with these goals in mind, below is an outline of the class and the assignment, including questions to consider in anticipation of your discussions in the breakout rooms.

Class Outline

Welcome and Introduction *by* Jayesh Rathod (15 minutes)

Guest speaker: Dorcas Gilmore, Moderated by Margaret Barry (40 minutes)

(principal in Gilmore Khandahar, LLC, a solidarity economies law firm – in the past also taught the community economic development clinics at University of Maryland Carey School of Law, George Washington University Law School, and American University Washington College of Law).

Discussions in Breakout Rooms, facilitated *by* clinic faculty (*10-12 students per room; 17 rooms*) (20 minutes)

Transition and Explanation of Next Steps *by* Susan Bennett (15 minutes)

Assignment to be completed before class:

Read, watch, listen to the following:

Ibram X. Kendi, NPR -August, 2019, listen and/or read: <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/13/750709263/ibram-x-kendis-latest-book-how-to-be-an-antiracist>

Nikole Hannah-Jones, “What Is Owed,” (NYT Magazine, June 30, 2020): <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/24/magazine/reparations-slavery.html>

Amanpour & Company, *Interview with Bryan Stevenson, There's a Direct Line from Lynching to George Floyd*, June 2, 2020 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=00xYsIfC84I&app=desktop>

Questions we will explore in breakout rooms:

These are the questions we will explore in breakout rooms during the class. Please consider ahead of time how you might answer the questions based on the assignment given:

- What did you learn through the assignment and dialogue with Ms. Gilmore that was new – that you were not aware of before?
- What in the assignment or dialogue builds on your idea of what antiracism means with regard to what you are going to do in the clinic?
- What actions might you take as a result of the assignment and our dialogue with Ms. Gilmore?

Breakout Room Discussion Guidelines

- **Be Respectful:** - treat one another as colleagues with whom you are beginning lifelong professional relationships.
- **Seek Understanding and Connection** - try not to jump to the worst conclusion about another if you disagree with the views expressed; instead, engage in information gathering to further understand other perspectives
- **Lean into Discomfort:** Important conversations and those conversations that lead to deep learning are rarely comfortable - either as a participant or an observer. That is okay. Discomfort means that we are moving forward.
- **Head's Up/Cameras On:** Keep cameras on unless there are extenuating circumstances.