

**First Interdisciplinary Inequality & Social Justice Conference**  
**Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York**  
Friday, October 7 – Saturday, October 8, 2016

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

No nation celebrates the ideals of equal protection of individual rights and freedom more than the United States. Our Constitution begins with a Bill of Rights that promises to secure the liberty of and protect citizens against arbitrary government power. Yet, significantly increasing income inequality and wealth disparities have become normalized, in addition to the deeply problematic use of the criminal justice system as an attempt to solve what are essentially social problems. The “land of the free” imprisons a greater percentage of its population per capita than any other country in the world. How can we understand and/or justify this paradox? Why does a nation so enamored with “liberty” seem equally attracted to social exclusion? What economic, social and political forces are involved here; what ideas, values and interests? What is the role of conflict, power, and neoliberal penal policies in reinforcing social inequality in the United States? What is the meaning of liberty to various U.S. citizen groups?

**Suggested Themes**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal Justice / Social Injustice</li><li>• Economic Exclusion of Racial and Ethnic Groups</li><li>• Institutional Violence</li><li>• Labor and the Feminization of Poverty</li><li>• Issues of Intersectionality</li><li>• Housing Rezoning &amp; Homelessness</li><li>• Immigration / Migration Enforcement</li><li>• Environmental Justice</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Urban Displacement</li><li>• Neoliberalism and the Working Class</li><li>• Social Activism &amp; Social Movements</li><li>• Discrimination of LGBTQI &amp; Gender Non-Conformists</li><li>• Corporate and White Collar Crime</li><li>• Unequal Education</li><li>• Religious Discrimination</li><li>• Human Rights</li></ul> |
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**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**



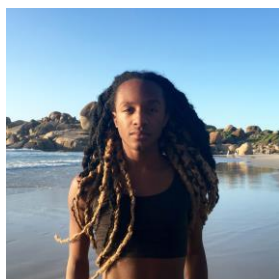
**Baz Dreisinger, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of English & Founder/Director: Prison-to-College Pipeline, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. She is the author of *Near Black: White-to-Black Passing in American Culture* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2008), and *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons around the World* (Other Press, 2016). Together with Oscar-nominated filmmaker Peter Spirer, Professor Dreisinger produced and wrote the documentaries *Black & Blue: Legends of the Hip-Hop Cop*, which investigates the New York Police Department’s monitoring of the hip-hop industry, and *Rhyme & Punishment*, about hip-hop and the prison industrial complex. She is also a reporter for the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and *NPR*.



**Daniel McGowan**

Daniel spent the last five and a half years in federal prison (much of it in a CMU) after being convicted of arson and conspiracy charges related to events that occurred at the turn of the century. He was the subject of the Oscar-nominated documentary film *If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*. Currently, He works at a non profit working on prison reform and is enjoying life back in his hometown with friends and family.



**Joshua Allen**

Joshua Allen is a black trans-feminine organizer and abolitionist whose work revolves around issues of race, gender and policing. Their work of coordinating direct actions, movement building and analyzing the intersections of race and gender have been featured in major news outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, BBC, and ABC. Joshua has been invited to workshop, keynote and organize at universities, conferences and within movements in countries across the world.

We welcome academic, practitioner, and student paper submissions and thematic panels.

**Submit your 250-300 word abstract and 100 word personal bio by March 15, 2016 at 5 PM**

**Undergraduate students: Submit poster or paper presentation proposals (250-300 word abstract and 100 word personal bio) by May 1 at 5 PM**

[SocialJusticeFIG2016Conference@gmail.com](mailto:SocialJusticeFIG2016Conference@gmail.com).

**For any further questions, contact the conference Co-Chairs: Benjamin Haas, PhD, at [bhaas@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:bhaas@bmcc.cuny.edu), OR Michelle Ronda, PhD, at [mronda@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:mronda@bmcc.cuny.edu).**