



2024 Annual Ohio Peace and Conflict Studies Network Conference (OPCSN)

Bridging the Divide: Prevention, Intervention and Healing

Hosted by the Wilmington College
Peace Resource Center, Wilmington, Ohio

Cost (Includes conference fees, light breakfast and lunch)

- \$35 Non-Ohio College/University Personnel
- \$25 Ohio College/Universities – faculty/staff/admin.
- \$10 Ohio college students

Conference Agenda*

**All conference sites below are located on the Wilmington College Campus. Please see campus map included at the end.*

Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Life Stories Exhibit Opening

Boyd Cultural Arts Center, Quaker Heritage Center Gallery

For those arriving to Wilmington the evening before the conference start, there will be a special exhibit Opening at the Wilmington College Quaker Heritage Center, Boyd Cultural Arts Center. The "Life Stories" exhibit features stories from women serving long and life sentences at the Ohio Reformatory, created and produced by incarcerated women of the Ohio Reformatory. "These stories are powerful and moving, and they offer a unique glimpse into the lives of women who are often disregarded. They talk about their childhoods, their families, their crimes, and their hopes for the future. They also talk about the challenges of life in prison and the importance of community." Life Stories is a project of **We Amplify Voices, Columbus, OH**

Friday, February 23rd

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration

McCoy Room, Kelly Center

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Welcome

Light Breakfast

Networking – Student Posters & College and University Display Tables

McCoy Room, Kelly Center

10:30 – 11:45 AM

Opening Panel

Bridging the Divide: The State of the State

McCoy Room, Kelly Center

Panelists:

- Stephanie Dodd, Executive Director, Ohio Campus Compact (OCC)
- Nazek Hapasha, Policy Affairs Manager, League of Women Voters Ohio (LWVO)
- Bill Froehlich, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Divided Community Project
- Sarah Freeman Woolpert, The Friends Committee on National Legislation

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

“The Top,” Pyle Center

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Working Lunch for Ohio College and Universities with Peace and Conflict Studies Programs (Ohio Peace and Conflict Studies Network Collaborative Meeting)

Friends Dining Room, “The Top,” Pyle Center

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Session A: Workshops and Panels (Select one)

Workshop 1: (3-hour workshop)

Talk to Your Neighbors (I): How to Have Constructive Conversations in our Polarized Nation

Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC) 119

PREVENTS–OH (Preventing Radicalization to Extremist Violence through Education, Network–Building, and Training in Southwest Ohio) is a project of the University of Dayton’s Human Rights Center and Women’s and Gender Studies Program. Its aim is to promote democracy, peace, and security through the prevention of radicalization and

targeted violence. The goal of this workshop is to provide you with practical tips and tools for organizing dialogues about difficult and polarizing issues, including those about immigration, race and ethnicity, gender and sexual minorities, gun violence, and other issues.

Presenters: Paul Morrow & Jamie Small, University of Dayton; Katie Brinkley, PREVENTS-OH Project Consultant; Students, University of Dayton

Workshop 2:

Deliberative Pedagogy and the Cultivation of Intrinsic Civic Identity **Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC) 121**

At The University of Akron, we have embedded deliberative discussion sessions facilitated by our funded graduate assistants into our undergraduate Intro to American Government courses. The goal of this initiative is two-fold. First, the grading rubric evaluates students' ability to enact civil, deliberative interactions while resolving a divisive political issue, which allows them to practice an important civic skill set. Second, however, research shows that deliberative pedagogy, especially when peers expect each other to engage in reason-giving and deliberation around public issues, cultivates intrinsic civic identity and leads to long-term participation in public life throughout adulthood.

Presenter: Cherie Strachan, The Bliss Institute, The University of Akron

Workshop 3:

Simmering Campus Tension | An Immersive Simulation **Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC), T. Canby Jones Meeting House**

During this session participants will participate in an immersive simulation which simulates simmering tension and unrest on a college campus. Participants will play university, student, and resident roles. During the debrief participants and facilitators will unpack lessons for bridging divides on campus.

Presenters: Ben Wilson, Anna Croyts, and Shelby Daniels, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Divided Community Project

Workshop 4:

Panel: Faith-based Dialogue, Conflict and University Responses **McCoy Room, Kelly Center**

- **Enhancing Interreligious Understanding at a Jesuit University**

Creating a neutral space for all religions under the roof of a Jesuit Catholic university is the main mission of the newly established Tuohy Center for Interreligious Understanding. I would like to present the programs and events we developed in our first semester to work towards this goal. Information about our programs can be found at www.jcu.edu/tuohycenter and www.instagram.com/tuohycenter

Presenter: Semiha Topal, Tuohy Center, John Carroll University

- **Israel, Palestine, and Me: Dialogue on Campuses**

This presentation addresses multiple campus-based dialogue projects, from one off events to year-long extended discussions, that address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and related

US intergroup tensions.

Presenter: Johanna Solomon, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State University

- **Jewish Peacemaking in a Time of War**

The Israel– Hamas war is presenting new forms of activism and discourse around Palestinian advocacy. This is presenting difficulties as commentators navigate the lines between licit targets of protest and pressure, speech tagged or taken as antisemitic, once unthinkable left advocacy of decolonial violence, and hardened lines around allyship and solidarity. Over the last months, my efforts in instigating projects and loose coalitions of interested citizens, students, and organizations has had mixed results. This presentation demonstrates some anecdotes and observations that might result in more theorizing about Jewish peacemaking in a time of war.

Presenter: Elliot Ratzman, Religion/Jewish Studies, Earlham College

Workshop 5:

Cincinnati EquaSion & Braver Angels: Models for Peaceful Coexistence in a Divided World

Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC) 210

- **EquaSion:** The presentation will examine the human relations work of EquaSion, Greater Cincinnati's most inclusive interfaith organization. People of faith increasingly employ interfaith dialogue in a variety of forms to promote interfaith understanding and religious freedom and peacefully address some of the most consequential social and political issues of the day. EquaSion is a nongovernmental organization that serves as a model for interfaith dialogue and community building at a time when Americans are experiencing tremendous division.

Presenters: Marlaina Leppert–Wahl, Wilmington College & EquaSion and Maraya Wahl, EquaSion

- **Braver Angels:** This presentation will provide an overview of the bridging the divide work of Braver Angels. Braver Angels is leading the nation's largest cross-partisan, citizen-led social movement. Through community gatherings, national & local debates, Braver Politics, Braver Network, and grassroots volunteers all working together, we offer America ways to overcome the bitterness of our partisan divide. Polarization has been growing in our country for over 40+ years and is at a point not seen since the 1850s. It takes each of us working together to bridge this divide. Braver Angels is active in all 50 States and is led on the grassroots level through active, working Alliances. There are over 100 active Alliances in the US. Our organization also hosts an annual convention that brings in delegates from throughout the US.

Presenter: Beverly Horstman, Braver Angels Ohio Initiatives Lead

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Session B: Workshops and Panels (Select one)

Workshop 5 (3 hour workshop)

Talk to your Neighbors (II): Addressing the Problem of Mis- and Disinformation
Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC) 119

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Presenters: Paul Morrow & Jamie Small, University of Dayton; Katie Brinkley, PREVENTS-OH Project Consultant; Students, University of Dayton

Workshop 6:

Identity-Based Conflict | Tools for Mutual Support and Connection
Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC), T. Canby Jones Meeting House

This session will focus on issues emerging from the war in the Middle East. Already OSU's Divided Community Project has developed ideas for students to extend support to one another during divisive events (see <https://go.osu.edu/dcpexs>). DCP will share additional tools and resources for students and faculty to use during, and following divisive, identify-based conflicts.

Presenter: Bill Froehlich, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Divided Community Project

Workshop 7:

Rights and the Unhoused in Dayton, Ohio
Boyd Cultural Arts Center (BCAC) 121

This session will look at human rights through the lens of those facing homelessness. This session will look at the importance of the CIVIL right to counsel and ways to combat the criminalization of homelessness. Presenter will share national, state, and local approaches to ensuring those without housing are able to fully participate in democracy.

Presenter: Katherine Rowell, Sinclair Community College

Workshop 8:

Partnering with Palestinians
McCoy Room, Kelly Center

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center at Bluffton University will share how they organized

and set up a virtual exchange between Bluffton students and University students in Gaza during COVID as an alternative to traditional in-person cross-cultural experiences. The session will include reflections from participants in the exchange from Gaza and the US. **Presenters:** Paul Neufeld Weaver & Tareq Abuhailima, Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center at Bluffton University

Partner



Moritz College of Law



Wilmington College | Campus Map

- 1 Peace Resource Center
- 2 Kelly House (Public Relations)
- 3 Galvin Alumni House (Advancement)
- 4 The Campus Rock
- 5 College Hall (Admission/Administration)
- 6 Watson Library
- 7 Kelly Center/McCoy Room ★
- 8 T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse
- 9 Quaker Heritage Center & Harcum Art Gallery
- 10 Boyd Cultural Arts Center ★
- 11 Hugh G. Heiland Theatre
- 12 Center for Service & Civic Engagement/Campus Safety
- 13 Center for the Sciences & Agriculture
- 14 Robinson Communication Center
- 15 College Commons
- 16 Beckett Track
- 17 Williams Stadium/Townsend Field
- 18 Softball Field
- 19 Delaney-Tewksbury Baseball Field
- 20 Gilhart Field
- 21 Hermann Court/Natorium/Raizk Arena
- 22 Quaker Recreation Center
- 23 Center for Sport Sciences
- 24 Student Health Center
- 25 Hazard Arboretum
- 26 Firbank Fell (President's Home)
- 27 Campus Village
- 28 Pickett Hall
- 29 Austin Hall
- 30 Marble Hall
- 31 Physical Plant
- 32 Diversity & Service Leadership House
- 33 Community Gardens
- 34 Grow Food Grow Hope Pavilion
- 35 Heiland House
- 36 Pyle Student Center ★
- 37 Friends Hall
- 38 Bailey Hall
- 39 Denver Hall
- 40 Goodman Carillon
- 41 "Who Sends Thee?" Statue
- 42 Sand Volleyball Court & Outdoor Basketball Court
- 43 Disc Golf Course Start (baskets numbered in gray)

