

Artwork by Visual Artist Christian Mendoza

# Hacking the University

Reckoning with Racial Equity, Climate Justice, and Global Warming  
Oct. 15-17, 2020



Clement A. Price Institute  
on Ethnicity, Culture,  
& the Modern Experience

**RUTGERS**  
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK

**RUTGERS** Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

This program is organized by Jack Tchen, Director, Clement A. Price Institute, RU-Newark; Alexandra Chang, Interim Associate Director, Clement A. Price Institute, RU-Newark; Rosamond S. King, Associate Professor, Brooklyn College and Neil M. Maher, Professor, Federated History Department at NJIT and RU-Newark.

We acknowledge and honor that Rutgers University - Newark is located on the ancestral lands of the still living, still sovereign Munsee Lunaape (lu-naa-pau) peoples, communities, and nation.

We recognize, as well, the many and diverse Native American/Indigenous peoples who call this region home—past, present, and future.

And we acknowledge these same ancient alive and biodiverse lands have been the site of colonial violence and occupation—dispossessing, enslaving, and impacting the lives of all to this very day.

And it is with these thoughts in our heart and soul, we seek more Indigenous Local Knowledge (ILK). This intimate ecological understanding is key to surviving and rebalancing our common, public well-being in this age of chaotic extreme greed, driving further global warming and global disruption.

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*Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew.  
This one is no different.  
It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.*

*We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice,  
our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us.*

*Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage,  
ready to imagine another world.  
And ready to fight for it.*

Arundhati Roy, "The Pandemic is a Portal" April 3, 2020

It is T-minus 10 years and counting, if the projections of thousands of the world's best climate scientists are correct. (UN IPCC 2019 Report) New Jersey – New York City is already one of the hot zones where rising coastal waters are eroding shorelines, just like Miami and Louisiana. But you don't need a scientist or weatherman to know the score. We feel the heat, the lack of rain, the extreme downpours of extreme weather that has hit our region bad. And low income, low option communities, especially of people of color who have dealt with generations of inequality, are hit the hardest time and time once again.

Indeed, this first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is giving us a foreboding sense of the random, regular irregular disruptive impacts to come. Soon, we'll all (but a few) be at the frontlines of grappling this hydra-headed hyper-monster of dis-ease, the climate roller coaster, and economic insecurity. Will fear and chaos "dominate and control"? Will we turn to a macho strongman? Will a new President be able to make an impactful enough difference?

Time is long overdue for universities to step up to this all-encompassing global challenge.

We are not just talking environmental studies majors here, nor more specialists in this or that disciplinary field, nor zero carbon foot-print plans—all good, but not good enough, all necessary, but not sufficient. You know: "Closing the barn door after the horses run out," or "Rome burns while Nero fiddles" and we organize a leaky bucket brigade. "Too little, too late."

And we can't be just one campus but we must be many. We have to be all in, networked. And like scientists and engineers, we have to be collaborative. But most important we have to tell a story all can connect to—a public story that communicates across many cultures and many divides.

We have precious little time to get there. We have to learn by doing. How are we learning from the current crisis? Did we learn from Superstorm Sandy? Can we learn from Mother Nature? How can we shift towards Indigenous Local Knowledge? How can we hack "business as usual" within our campuses and our communities? Can we reorganize better and together?

Tentative, uncoordinated, often ill-informed responses put forth during this long pandemic moment with a tattered US public health system should prepare us to look ahead, past the looming economic catastrophe. Putting in place what can be provisionally called "crisis resilience participatory action studies" will be a smart, grounding move—indeed radically smart.

Disaster studies scholars have documented time-and-again, initial public and political responses are broad, generous, inclusive until the prevailing political culture kicks in—then the old patterns of structural racism, maximizing power, wealth, differentiation assert a new normative effect. The screwed get screwed again. Can't we learn!#?

Our challenge-~~job~~ is to connect with the enormous natural wealth and human capacity we already have but are not tapping into and not quite aligning with. This is not the time to cutback and return to how we have been operating.

- We need to shift our daily routines, start with doable changes, and focus together.
- We need to make tactical interventions, more and more.

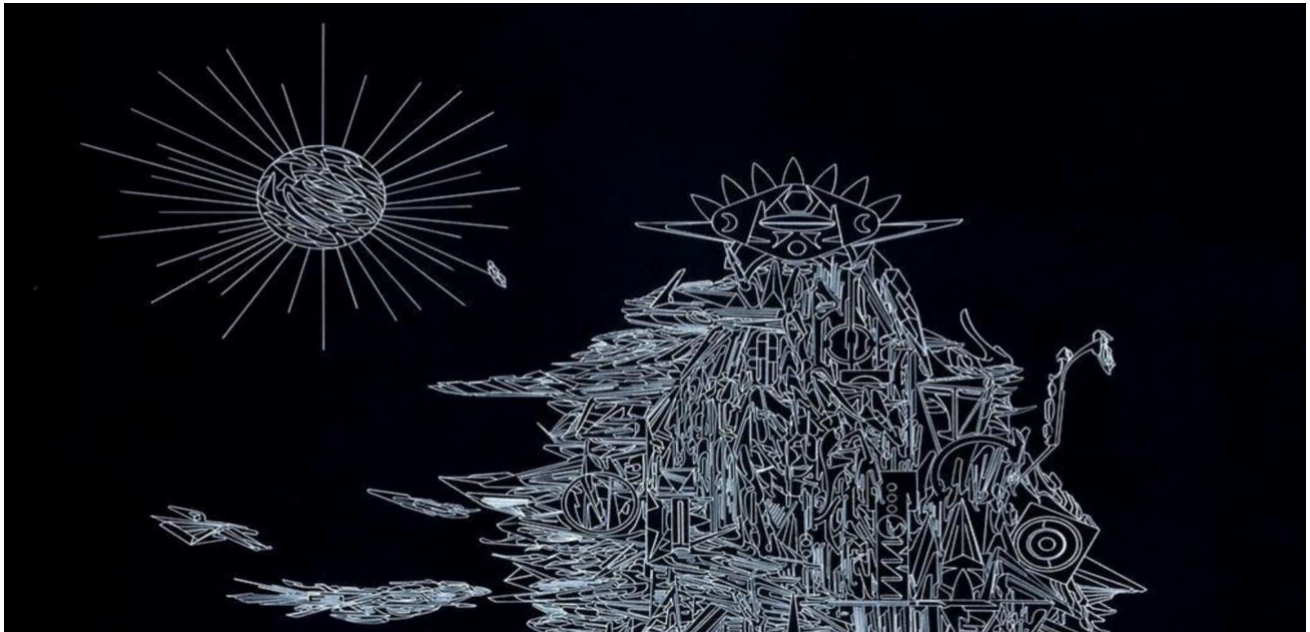
- We need to decolonize our frameworks and methodologies.
- We need system-wide, longer-term, historic reimaginings.

This is the time for bold ideas, not bureaucratic tweaks. Those at the frontlines, those essential doers and thinkers have to be at the core of changes too urgent to wait.

Jack Tchen | Price Institute | Rutgers-Newark  
[Jack.Tchen@Rutgers.edu](mailto:Jack.Tchen@Rutgers.edu)

P.S. I would appreciate hearing from conference participants about two key points to forward ideas and follow-up ideas for the conference

- What were the most salient ideas from each session for you?
- Please share your own thoughts in terms of these issues and your personal experiences and hopes to go forward?



## Readings & links

### Thursday -

K. Wayne Yang, "Decolonial Desires: Is a Third University Possible?" 5.6.2020 [podcast](#). K. Wayne Yang's *A Third University is Possible* (2017). Use code: A3UIP20 through November for 30% off \$4.95 [ebook](#).

Fred Moten and Stephano Harney's [The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study](#) (2013). Also see their [article](#) in Project Muse (2004).

Robert E. Kopp, "[Usable Earth System Science and the 21st Century Land-Grant Mission](#)," Climatic Change (submission, 8.6.2020), Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS).

### Friday & Saturday -

Winona LaDuke on the "Sitting Bull Plan" w/ [with Naomi Klein, and Chief Vincent Mann](#), Price Institute, 2019.

Robin Wall Kimmerer, "[What does the earth ask of us?](#)" Feinberg Family Lecture, U Mass - Amherst, Sept. 30, 2020

Roderick Ferguson, [ASA Presidential Address](#), Nov. 21, 2018. Also, these two books excerpts will be helpful read: [We Demand](#) and [The Reorder of Things](#)

Diana Beresford-Kroeger, "[Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees](#)" (2016), Amazon Prime or Vimeo.

### Animations & Music –

Kate Raworth's "Doughnut Economics" for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Animations – ["7 Ways to Think Like a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economist"](#)

Hip Hop Caucus, "[The Album Home](#)"

"Climate Change is your issue. No matter who you vote for, who you pray to and in what language, what nation's flag you wave, or who you love, it does not matter. We all share a home and we only have one of them." - #thealbumHOME @think100climate

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## THURSDAY OCT 15 | 5PM-6:15PM (EST)

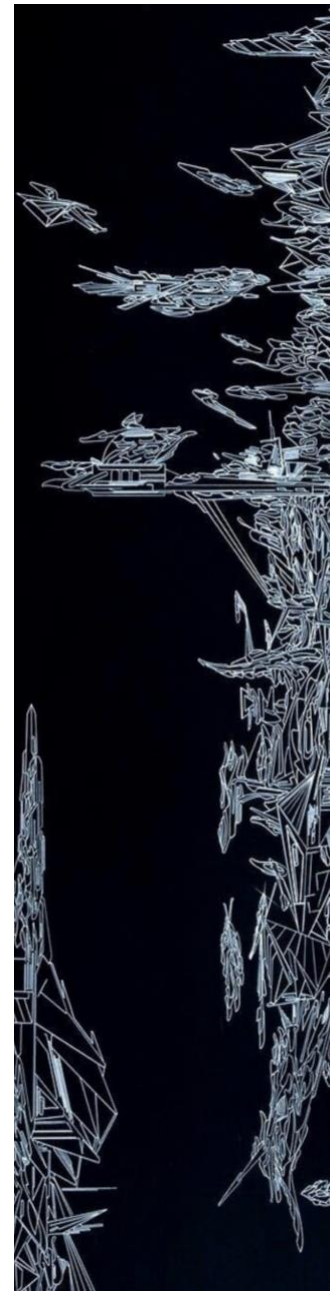
- 5:00 PM.**      **Blessing | Brent Stonefish**, Educator, Turtle Clan, Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation), ON
- Opening Remarks | Jack Tchen**, Public historian and Director, Clement A. Price Institute, Rutgers University-Newark
- 5:10 PM**      **First Hacker | K. Wayne Yang**, Educator and Provost, John Muir College, UC-San Diego
- Scyborgs Jumping Scale for Climate Solutions:  
Hacking as Pragmatic Surgery on Universities***
- 5:20 PM**      **Respondent**
- Jonathan Holloway**, Historian and President, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- 5:30 PM**      **Moderator | Jack Tchen** will moderate the conversation between President Holloway and K. Wayne Yang
- 6:00 PM**      **Comments & Sessions to Come | Jack Tchen**





**FRIDAY OCT 16 | AM SESSION 11AM-1:15PM (EST)**

- 11:00 AM**      **Welcoming Remarks | Alexandra Chang**, Curator and Art Historian; Interim Associate Director, Clement A. Price Institute, Rutgers-Newark
- 11:05 AM**      **Second Hacker | Winona LaDuke** (Anishinaabekwe), Organizer and Eco-Economist, Founder, Honor the Earth  
*The Sitting Bull Plan: What a Just Transition Looks Like*
- 11:15 AM**      **Respondents**  
**Tim Eatman**, Educator and Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community (HLLC), Rutgers University-Newark  
**Kevin Lyons**, Supply-chain Environmental Archaeologist, Rutgers Business School, Rutgers University- Newark
- 11:30 AM**      **Moderator | Alexandra Chang** will moderate the conversation between Winona LaDuke, Tim Eatman, and Kevin Lyons
- 11:50 AM**      **Breakout Discussion** | Registered participants will meet in smaller groups to collaborate and discuss the current session presentation
- 12:10 PM**      **Regroup** | Moderated by **Alexandra Chang**
- 12:30 PM**      **Performance | Reverend Lennox Yearwood, Jr.**, President and Founder, Hip Hop Caucus
- 1:00 PM**      **Comments | Alexandra Chang**



**FRIDAY OCT 16 | PM SESSION 3PM-5PM (EST)**

- 3:00 PM**      **Welcoming Remarks | Rosamond S. King**, Poet and Scholar; Director, Ethyle R. Wolfe Humanities Center, Brooklyn College, CUNY
- 3:05 PM**      **Third Hacker | Roderick Ferguson**, Historian, Race and Critical University Studies, Yale University  
*The Environment, Black Radical Traditions and Fabrice Monteiro's The Prophecy*
- 3:15 PM**      **Respondents**  
**Nancy Cantor**, Psychologist and Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark  
**Ana Baptista**, Environmental Urban Planner; Chair, Environmental Policy & Sustainability Management Grad Program, The New School for Social Research
- 3:35 PM**      **Conversation | Rosamond S. King** will moderate the conversation between Roderick Ferguson, Chancellor Nancy Cantor, and Ana Baptista
- 4:00 PM**      **Breakout Rooms |** Registered participants will meet in smaller groups to collaborate and discuss the current session presentation
- 4:25 PM**      **Regroup |** Moderated by **Rosamond S. King**
- 4:45 PM**      **Comments | Rosamond S. King**





## SATURDAY OCT 17 | 11AM-1:30PM (EST)

- 1:00 AM**      **Welcoming Remarks | Neil M. Maher**, Environmental Historian, Federated History Department at NJIT and Rutgers University-Newark
- 11:05 AM**      **Session 1 Presenter | Kristi Pullen Fedinick**, Biologist and Director, Science and Data, Natural Resources Defense Council  
*The Watering Down of Justice: Drinking Water and Disproportionate Burdens*
- 11:17 AM**      **Session 2 Presenter | Max Liboiron** (Michif/Métis), Science and Technology Studies and Co-founder, Civic Lab for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR), Memorial University at Newfoundland  
*Administrative Activism: Compromise as Ethics, Infrastructure as Futurism*
- 11:29 AM**      **Session 3 Presenter | Morgan L. Ridgway** (Nanticoke-Lenape), Historian, PhD ABD, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
*Embodied History: Poetry and Performance Art in the Study of History*
- 11:41 AM**      **Session 4 Presenter | Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear** (Cheyenne & Chicana), Sociology and American Indian Studies, University of California Los Angeles  
*Data for Indigenous Futures*
- 11:53 AM**      **Respondents**  
**Sabre Bee**, Co-founder of the Newark Water Coalition  
**Nathaly Agosto Fillion**, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Newark  
**Yvette Jordan**, High school History Teacher in Newark Public Schools, Environmental & Social Justice Activist, Founding member of Newark Education Workers Caucus  
**Brent Stonefish**, Educator, Turtle Clan, Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation), ON  
**Helena D. Lewis**, DSW, LCSW, LCADC, Theatrical Scholar-Practitioner, Reentry Specialist
- 12:15 PM**      **Commentator | Jacqueline Mattis**, Social Psychologist and Dean, SASN, Rutgers-Newark
- 12:25 PM**      **Q&A | Moderated by Neil M. Maher**
- 12:50 PM**      **Performance | Dr. Helena D. Lewis**, DSW, LCSW, LCADC, Theatrical Scholar-Practitioner, Reentry Specialist
- 1:00 PM**      **Debrief | Conference moderators: Alexandra Chang, Rosamond S. King, Neil M. Maher, Vincent Mann, and Jack Tchen**
- 1:20 PM**      **Closing Remarks | Co-sponsor: Isabel Nazario**, Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives in Diversity and Inclusion, Rutgers, The State of New Jersey; and **Jack Tchen**
- 1:25 PM**      **Closing Blessing | Vincent Mann**, Water Protector and Community Organizer, Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation



## About Our Participants



**Ana Baptista | Environmental Urban Planner; Chair, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Graduate Program, The New School for Social Research**

Ana is an Assistant Professor of Professional Practice in the Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management graduate program at the Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment. She also serves as the Associate Director of the Tishman Environment & Design Center (TEDC) at The New School. She works directly with impacted communities and coalitions to support the advancement of community led alternatives to achieve environmental justice. Ana's recent research and professional practice also focuses on efforts to advance national, state and local environmental justice and cumulative impacts policies. She released a report, "Local Policies for Environmental Justice: A National Scan" with the Natural Resources Defense Council and several environmental justice organizations in Chicago that point to land use and municipal policies advocated by EJ activists across the country. Ana helped to develop and pass a model Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts Ordinance in Newark, New Jersey and is currently working with a coalition of advocates on the passage of a landmark Environmental Justice & Cumulative Impacts bill in the New Jersey legislature. Ana also helped to develop and served as an inaugural signatory to the Equitable and Just National Climate Platform as an environmental justice representative for the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance and the Tishman Center. She was recently appointed by Mayor DeBlasio to the fourth New York City Panel on Climate Change.



**Sabre Bee | Co-founder, Newark Water Coalition**

Sabre Bee is a co-founder of the Newark Water Coalition, an organization that has been on the front lines for water justice for over a year. The Coalition provides resources and education to Newark's most vulnerable residents. Sabre is a Newark Native and lives in an impacted area. She is a vegan nutritionist and health advocate, a part of various civic organizations and works on campaigns that promote wellness and community action.



**Nancy Cantor | Psychologist and Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark**

Nancy Cantor is Chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark, a diverse, urban, public research university. A distinguished leader in higher education, Cantor is recognized nationally and internationally as an advocate for leveraging diversity in all its dimensions, re-emphasizing the public mission of colleges and universities as engines of discovery, innovation, and social mobility, and achieving the fulsome potential of universities as anchor institutions that collaborate with partners from sectors to help their communities thrive. At Rutgers University–Newark, she leads and promulgates efforts to leverage the university's many strengths, particularly its exceptional diversity, tradition of high-impact research, and role as an anchor institution in Newark, New Jersey, through strategic investments in five broad areas in which the university's strengths align with those of cross-sector partners: educational pathways from pre-K through college; equitable growth through urban entrepreneurship and economic development; cultivating creative expression through the arts and culture; strong, healthy and safe neighborhoods; and science in the urban environment.



**Alexandra Chang | Curator and Art Historian, Interim Associate Director, Clement A. Price Institute, Rutgers University-Newark**

Alexandra Chang is Interim Associate Director of the Clement A. Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience at Rutgers University-Newark, where she helps to organize the Eco Working Group and the EcoArt Salon at Paul Robeson Galleries. She is also Associate Professor of Practice with the Art History program at the Department of Arts, Culture and Media and Associate Director for the American Studies Program at Rutgers University-Newark teaching EcoArt and Global Asia/Pacific Art and Visual Cultures. Chang also established the Climate Working Group bridging Science, Humanities, and the Arts in 2017

first sponsored by NYU's A/P/A Institute and then as an independent network. She directs the Global Asia/Pacific Art Exchange (GAX) and Virtual Asian American Art Museum with A/P/A Institute at NYU and is Co-Founding Editor of Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas (ADVA) (Brill, Leiden). Recent exhibitions she has curated include CYJO/Mixed (2019, co-curator with artist, NYU Kimmel Windows); Ming Fay: Beyond Nature (2019 Sapar Contemporary).



**Tim Eatman | Educator and Dean, Honors Living-Learning Community (HLLC), Rutgers University-Newark**

Timothy K. Eatman is the inaugural dean of the Honors Living Learning Community (HLLC) and Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Education at Rutgers University - Newark. He is an educational sociologist and publicly engaged scholar. He is a speaker, workshop facilitator, and collaborator who has earned wide recognition for his leadership in advancing understandings about the multi-faceted impact of publicly engaged scholarship in the university of the 21st century. Prior to joining Rutgers – Newark, he served as Director of Research (2004 – 2012) and Faculty Co-Director (2012 to 2017) for Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life (IA). Tim's national association leadership continues as one of three national co-chairs of the Urban

Research Action Network (URBAN) and as board vice chair (chair elect) of the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) which awarded him the 2010 Early Career Research Award. He has published in such venues as the *Journal of Educational Finance*, *Readings on Equal Education*, *Diversity and Democracy*, and *The Huffington Post*. Tim received his Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



**Kristi Pullen Fedinick | Biologist and Director, Science and Data, Natural Resources Defense Council**

Kristi Pullen Fedinick brings over 20 years of multidisciplinary research experience to her projects at NRDC and has worked for more than a decade at the intersection of science and public policy to advance data-driven, health-protective, community-oriented solutions. Pullen Fedinick's work at NRDC assesses, integrates, and leverages health and environmental data to advance protections for people and communities that are disproportionately impacted by drinking water contamination and exposures to harmful chemicals. She has authored multiple policy reports, peer-reviewed articles, and policy comments, and served on numerous influential committees of the National Academies of Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency. Pullen Fedinick received her B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and her Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology with a concentration in

structural biology and biophysics from the University of California, Berkeley. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholar at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She is based in NRDC's Washington, D.C., office.



**Roderick Ferguson | Race, Sexuality and Critical University Studies, Yale University**

Roderick A. Ferguson is professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. He received his B.A. from Howard University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. He is the recipient of the Modern Language Association's "Crompton-Noll Award" in 2000, which awards the "best essay in lesbian, gay, and queer studies in the modern languages," for his article, "The Parvenu Baldwin and the Other Side of Redemption." He served as associate editor of [American Quarterly: The Journal of the American Studies Association](#) from 2007 to 2010 and filled the position of Department Chair in American Studies at the University of Minnesota from 2009-2012. Ferguson served as 2018 President of the [American Studies Association](#). Ferguson taught at the University

of Illinois, Chicago in the Department of Black Studies and the Program in Women's and Gender Studies from 2014 to 2019. An interdisciplinary scholar, his work traverses such fields as American Studies, gender studies, queer studies, cultural studies, African American Studies, sociology, literature, and education. In addition to numerous articles and essays, he is the author of *One-Dimensional Queer* (Polity, 2019), *We Demand: The University and Student Protests* (University of California, 2017), *The Reorder of Things: The University and Its Pedagogies of Minority Difference* (University of Minnesota, 2012). He is currently working on two monographs—*In View of the Tradition: Art and Black Radicalism* and *The Bookshop of Black Queer Diaspora*. Ferguson's teaching interests include the politics of culture, women of color feminism, the study of race, critical university studies, queer social movements, and social theory.



**Nathaly Agosto Filión | Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Newark**

Nathaly Agosto Filión is deeply honored to serve under the leadership of Mayor Ras J. Baraka as Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Newark. In this role, Agosto Filión is the city's leading sustainability strategist, convening interdepartmental teams to make Newark a cleaner, greener, healthier, better prepared, and more engaged city. She also serves as a bridge linking a diverse network of community, nonprofit, academic, institutional, philanthropic and governmental partners advancing a variety of sustainability, greening, environmental health, and quality of life initiatives across Newark. Prior to staffing Newark's Office of Sustainability, Agosto Filión worked as a Resiliency Manager

with Sustainable Jersey, connecting post-Sandy communities with recovery and resiliency resources.



**Jonathan Holloway | Historian and President, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Jonathan Holloway, a U.S. historian, took office as the 21st president of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, on July 1, 2020. He also serves as a University Professor and Distinguished Professor. President Holloway's scholarly work specializes in post-emancipation U.S. history with a focus on social and intellectual history. He is the author of *Confronting the Veil: Abram Harris Jr., E. Franklin Frazier, and Ralph Bunche, 1919-1941* (2002) and *Jim Crow Wisdom: Memory and Identity in Black America Since 1940* (2013), both published by the University of North Carolina Press. He serves on boards of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Academic Leadership Institute. He previously served on the Executive Committee of the Organization of American Historians and the boards of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois Humanities, the National Humanities Alliance, and

the Society for United States Intellectual History. In April 2020, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy appointed him to the Governor's Restart and Recovery Commission, and in May 2020, New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin appointed him to his Economic Advisory Council.





**Yvette Jordan | Educator, Newark Public Schools; Founding member, Newark Education Workers Caucus**

Yvette Jordan is a high school History teacher in Newark Public Schools and an Activist for environmental and social justice. She is a sought-after public speaker on the effects of environmental justice on urban centers and has a keen interest in educating her community on the importance of advocating for safe water. Jordan was born and raised in New York City and worked in local government for over 20 years as well as the NYC Mayor's Office for Children and Families as Policy Analyst; her area of expertise was youth services for the Dinkins Administration. Her activism in Newark began as a founding member of Newark Education Workers Caucus (NEW Caucus), a group of educators committed to fighting for social justice issues within education for all educators, students and their families. Since the lead

water crisis in Newark, she has been a fierce advocate for environmental justice.



**Rosamond S. King | Poet & Scholar; Director, Ethyle R. Wolfe Humanities Center, Brooklyn College, CUNY**

Rosamond S. King is a critical and creative writer whose scholarly work focuses on sexuality, performance, and literature in the Caribbean and Africa. Her book *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* received the Caribbean Studies Association best book award. King's work has been published in *Meridians*, *Callaloo*, and other journals, as well as *The Progressive*, the *Ms.* blog, and *LitHub*, and has been supported by the Fulbright and Ford, Mellon, and Woodrow Wilson Foundations. Her poetry includes the Lambda Award-winning *Rock|Salt|Stone*, the forthcoming collection *All the Rage*, and poems in more than three dozen journals, blogs, and anthologies. King is Associate Professor of English

and Director of the Institute for the Humanities at Brooklyn College, part of the City University of New York. She is also Co-Chair of the Caribbean International Resource Network, and Creative Editor of *sx salon*.



**Winona LaDuke | (Anishinaabekwe) Organizer and eco-economist, Founder, Honor the Earth**

Winona LaDuke is an internationally renowned activist working on issues of sustainable development renewable energy and food systems. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota and is a two-time vice-presidential candidate with Ralph Nader for the Green Party. As Program Director of the Honor the Earth, she works nationally and internationally on the issues of climate change, renewable energy, and environmental justice with Indigenous communities. And in her own community, she is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, one of the largest reservation based nonprofit organizations in the country, and a leader in the issues of culturally based sustainable development strategies, renewable

energy and food systems. In this work, she also continues national and international work to protect Indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering. In 2007, LaDuke was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. In 1994, LaDuke was nominated by Time magazine as one of America's fifty most promising leaders under forty years of age. She has been awarded the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, Ms. Woman of the Year (with the Indigo Girls in 1997), and the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which in part she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project. The White Earth Land Recovery Project has won many awards- including the prestigious 2003 International Slow Food Award for Biodiversity, recognizing the organization's work to protect wild rice from patenting and genetic engineering.





**Helena D. Lewis | DSW, LCSW, LCADC, Theatrical Scholar-Practitioner, Reentry Specialist**

Dr. Helena D. Lewis, DSW, LCSW, LCADC, is a theatrical scholar-practitioner who uses qualitative research and social work theories to illuminate the nuances of social justice issues that impact marginalized and incarcerated voices. After obtaining her BA in Biology from Rutgers University, Helena developed, implemented and supervised a drop-in center for sex workers with substance use disorders (SUD) for the Community At Risk Reduction (CARR) Program in Newark, New Jersey and helped develop a vocational rehabilitation component for a Department of Corrections (DOC) Residential Community Release Program (RCRP) for women. Helena spent three years working on a CDC/HRSA

Correctional Demonstration Project providing prevention case management to HIV positive male inmates. She is the former program manager of three transitional housing programs for formerly incarcerated men and women and is currently the SUD Treatment Director for a residential facility for women inmates. She obtained her Doctor in Social Work (DSW) from the Rutgers School of Social Work. Helena's research interests include topics related to incarcerated women focusing on grief and loss and the intersectionality of autoethnography and theater.



**Max Liboiron | (Michif/Métis), Science and technology studies and Co-founder, Civic Lab for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR), Memorial University at Newfoundland**

Dr. Max Liboiron (Michif-settler, she/her) is an Assistant Professor in Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where she directs the Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR). CLEAR develops feminist and anti-colonial methodologies in the natural sciences that foreground land relations to study marine plastic pollution. Dr. Liboiron has played leading roles in the establishment of the field of Discard Studies (the social study of waste and wasting), the Global Open Science Hardware Movement (GOSH), and is a figure in feminist science studies, Indigenous science and technology studies, and justice-oriented science methods.



**Isabel Nazario | Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives in the Arts and Humanities, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Isabel Nazario is Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives in the Arts and Humanities responsible for cultivating and planning Universitywide annual academic research conference(s), community engagement programs in the arts and humanities; and manages the faculty diversity leadership awards and diversity project grants. Nazario also administers and co-chairs the Committee to Advance Our Common Purposes, a universitywide faculty and staff committee established in 1987 to advocate for inclusion and champion diversity values. Units currently reporting to Isabel Nazario include the *Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities* and *Images/Imágenes*, an Emmy Award-winning educational, cultural, and health media program featuring Latino community narratives. The program is a

partnership with Rutgers-iTV Studio and airs on NJTV. Prior to joining the Office of Academic Affairs, Isabel Nazario served for twelve years as founding director of the Rutgers Center for Latino Arts and Culture. Under her leadership, the center received grants and merit awards from among others, the *State of NJ Division of Civil Rights*; *the New Jersey State Arts Council*; *the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation*; and *the Rockefeller Foundation*. Prior to Rutgers, Nazario was a museum exhibitions curator and education curator in New York City. Nazario holds an M.F.A. and a B.A., both from Queens College, CUNY, having graduated magna cum laude with a focus in art history and the fine arts. Nazario has taught art history and studio courses at Rutgers and CUNY. As a visual artist, she has had several exhibitions including a 2020 show of her work in Kingston NY. She is a Board member of the Museo del Barrio in NYC and is a member of the Advisory Board at the Dorsky Museum in New Paltz, New York.



**Desi Lonebear-Rodriguez | (Cheyenne & Chicana), Sociology and American Indian Studies, University of California Los Angeles**

A proud rez girl from Lame Deer, Montana, Desi is a citizen of the Northern Cheyenne Nation and Chicana. Desi is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and American Indian Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She has partnered with Indigenous communities in the U.S. and internationally as a researcher and data advocate for more than ten years. Desi's research examines the intersection of race, indigeneity, data, and inequality. With a focus on Indigenous futures, her current research explores the racialization of Indigenous identity and group boundary making, Indigenous population statistics, and data for health and economic justice on Indian Reservations. Desi directs the Data Warriors

Lab, an Indigenous social science laboratory. She is the Co-Founder of the U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network, which helps ensure that data for and about Indigenous nations and peoples in the U.S. (American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians) are utilized to advance Indigenous aspirations for collective and individual wellbeing. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Database.



**Kevin Lyons | Supply-chain environmental archaeologist, Rutgers Business School**

His research includes the integration of sustainable development and diversity criteria into local and global Supply Chain Management and manufacturing systems, processes and operations. Dr. Lyons developed the Supply Chain Environmental Archeology research program/lab, which involves the archeological study of climate change and environmental impacts via the supply chain, big data analytics, risk assessment, decision analysis as well as product end-of-life and new product innovation research. He is the principal investigator for several purchasing disparity and supply chain social determinants of health studies, the development of sustainable and equitable food supply chain systems and the US State Department Mandela Washington Fellows Program. Previously, Dr. Lyons was the Chief

Procurement Officer at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and he is an U.S. Air Force Veteran. Dr. Lyons is also the Associate Director of the Rutgers Energy Institute, Associate Director of the Rutgers EcoComplex, faculty member of the Global Health Institute and co-Chair of the University Climate Neutrality and Resilience Task Force.



**Neil M. Maher | Environmental Historian, Federated History Department at NJIT and Rutgers University Newark**

Neil M. Maher is a Professor of History in the Federated History Department at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and Rutgers University at Newark, where he teaches American environmental, political history, and the history of environmental justice. His most recent book, *Apollo in the Age of Aquarius*, which was published by Harvard University Press in 2017, examines the relationship between the space race and the grassroots political and social struggles of the 1960s era. It was recently named a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, a *Bloomberg View* Must Read Book, a *Smithsonian* Best Book, and recently received the Eugene M. Emme best book award from the American Astronautical Society (2017). His first book,

*Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2008), received the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Book Award for the best monograph in conservation history. Maher's writing has appeared in academic journals including *Modern American History*, *Social History*, and *Environmental History*, as well as in more popular news outlets including the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.



**Vincent Mann | Water Protector and Community Organizer, Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation**

The Ramapough Lenape Nation encompasses Passaic County NJ, as well as Warwick and surrounding areas in NY. Chief Mann received the Russ Berrie Foundation’s highest award for being an unsung hero for his efforts, together with his community, to fight back after the Ford toxic dumping. Working with the NYU Institute of Environmental Medicine, he helped create a community health survey, and he has been at the forefront of protecting the drinking water used by four million people, as well as working in the area surrounding the Ringwood Mines Superfund site, formerly as a member of the Citizen Advisory Group. He also serves on the Legacy Council of the Highlands Coalition. Chief Mann is also working to rebuild a church founded by Samuel Defreese, a Ramapough, and now listed on the National Historic Registry as a Historic Native American Church —

one of the two churches the Ramapough communities attend. He has been a guest speaker at Ramapo College in the Environmental Masters Program on pipelines and environmental justice and the University of Dayton in Ohio on the effects of toxic dumping on his people. As an advocate for cultural and environmental issues, he continues to this day to offer up prayers for humanity and for our natural environment.



**Jacqueline Mattis | Social Psychologist and Dean, SASN, Rutgers University-Newark**

Jacqueline S. Mattis earned her B.A. in psychology from New York University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan. Prior to assuming the role of Dean of SASN, she served as Professor of Psychology and Associate Department Chair for Diversity Initiatives in the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan. She also co-directed the Center for the Study of Black Youth in Context. She previously served as Chairperson of the Department of Applied Psychology at New York University’s Steinhardt School of Culture Education and Human Development. Her research focuses on the role of religion and spirituality in the lives of African American and Afri-Caribbean youth and adults, and on the factors that are associated with positive psychological and psychosocial development of urban-residing African Americans and Afri-

Caribbeans. In particular she uses quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the factors that contribute to volunteerism, civic engagement, altruism, compassion, empathy, forgiveness, optimism, and positive parenting among urban-residing African American and Afri-diasporic people. She has co-authored numerous articles and has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals. She co-authored (with collaborator Fulya Kurter) two books on counseling in the Turkish cultural context, including a handbook entitled “*Culturally sensitive counseling from the perspective of Turkish practitioners*” (Bahcesehir University Press). This handbook explores the topic of culture, cultural diversity and intercultural dynamics within Turkey as these issues apply to the practice of counseling.



**Christian Mendoza | Visual Artist**

Chris Mendoza is a New York City based artist from Nicaragua whose work draws from the experiences of his native country and the influences of New York City and Miami. Mendoza’s style bridges the modern, primitive, and organic. He draws strongly on the nature and folklore of his homeland, while interpreting the density and chaos of daily urban life. At a young age, he learned drafting and about architecture from his father. This inspiration brought Mendoza to the study of Mayan, Central and Native American Cultures, hieroglyphs, petroglyphs, calligraphies, and alphabets from both ancient and modern cultures, which also inform his work. His paintings are grounded with descriptive line work that creates a sense of movement and energy. A visual manifestation of the sonic combinations found in early Hip-Hop mix tapes and performances emanate from his surfaces.

Interchangeability between the sense of visual and audio is an artistic subject that has been pursued universally and historically, and Mendoza’s practice can also be positioned in that context. It is something that goes beyond an ordinary world that an individual perceives through the five senses, instead, it enables an individual to access the supernatural / mythological world through so-called collective unconsciousness. Science-fictional elements that can often be seen in Mendoza’s works function as motives to emerge such a



mythological world from the mixture of ancient culture and urban life experience that are his resources of inspiration.



**Morgan L. Ridgway | (Nanticoke-Lenape) Historian, PhD ABD, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

Morgan Ridgway is a Black/Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape scholar, writer, and artist from West Philadelphia, PA. He is currently a PhD candidate in History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is additionally affiliated with the departments of American Indian Studies and Gender and Women's Studies.

Morgan's work focuses on Philadelphia's Indigenous community in the late 20th century and the ways multiculturalism functions as a technology of settler colonialism, white supremacy, and antiblackness. He investigates the creative forms of community making Indigenous people engaged in and examines how multi-tribal organizing moves alongside the recognition of Lenape territory. In doing so, Morgan looks toward Indigenous futures that create more ethical and responsible relationships with one another. Within and beyond his academic work, Morgan explores history through short story, poetry, and dance. These genres of storytelling reflect his commitment to asking questions about care, history, love, and the future.



**Brent Stonefish | Educator, Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation), Ontario**

Brent Stonefish, Turtle Clan, is Lunaapeew and a member of Eelūnaapèewi Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation) in Ontario Canada. Brent is married to Robin King Stonefish, Eagle Clan, and is the father of two children, Hannah and Xander. Brent holds a BA in Native Studies from Trent University and a MES from York University and is on leave from his doctoral studies at OISE/UT. Brent has worked extensively in western educational institutions, urban Indigenous communities and for various First Nations communities. Brent actively uses the skills and knowledge acquired

through his mother, valued Elders, ceremony and western education in all aspects of his personal and professional life. Brent has been an education administrator, educator, lecturer, drummer/singer, counsellor, elected First Nations councilor, ceremonialist, policy analyst, manager, an author and is an all-around good guy.



**Jack Tchen | Public Historian and Director, Clement A. Price Institute, Rutgers University-Newark**

Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen is the Inaugural Clement A Price Chair of Public History & Humanities at Rutgers University – Newark and Director of the Clement Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture & the Modern Experience. He is a historian, curator, and writer devoted to anti-racist, anti-colonialist democratic participatory storytelling, scholarship, and opening up archives, museums, organizations, and classroom spaces to the stories and realities of those excluded and deemed "unfit" in master narratives. At Rutgers University - Newark his priority is reimagining what a 21<sup>st</sup> century public research university can be. Most recently, he is engaged with the global warming crisis and the deep history of the region, founding New York Newark Public History Project (NYN PHP). The PHP is reframing the history of the

estuarial region starting with the triple foundational histories of dispossession, extractivism, and enslavement. His *Below the Grid* Project explores creative historical storytelling with smart, location-sensitive wearable tech. He was the senior historian for a New-York Historical Society exhibition on the impact of Chinese Exclusion Laws on the formation of the US and also senior advisor for the "American Experience" PBS documentary on the "Chinese Exclusion Act." His most recent book, *Yellow Peril: An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear* (2014), is a critical archival study of images, excerpts and essays on the history and contemporary impact of paranoia and xenophobia. In 1996, he founded the A/P/A (Asian/Pacific /American) Studies Program and Institute, and research collections at New York University. In 1980, he co-founded the Museum of Chinese in America.



**K. Wayne Yang | Educator and Provost, John Muir College, UC-San Diego**

Author of *A Third University is Possible* (2017) and Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies at UC San Diego, Wayne Yang's work transgresses the line between scholarship and community, as evidenced by his involvement in urban education and community organizing. He was the co-founder of the Avenues Project, a non-profit youth development organization, and also the co-founder of East Oakland Community High School. He also worked in school system reform as part of Oakland Unified School District's Office of School Reform. An accomplished educator, Dr. Yang has taught high school in Oakland, California for over 15 years and is a recipient of the Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Yang writes about decolonization and everyday epic organizing, particularly from underneath ghetto colonialism, often with his frequent collaborator, Eve Tuck.

Currently, they are convening The Land Relationships Super Collective, editing the book series, *Indigenous and Decolonizing Studies in Education*, and editing the journal, *Critical Ethnic Studies*. He is interested in the complex role of cities in global affairs: cities as sites of settler colonialism, as stages for empire, as places of resettlement and gentrification, and as always-already on Indigenous lands.



**Reverend Lennox Yearwood Jr. | President & Founder, Hip Hop Caucus**

Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr. is the President & Founder of Hip Hop Caucus, a minister, community activist and U.S. Air Force veteran. The goal of Hip Hop Caucus is to build a powerful and sustainable organization for the culture's role in the civic process and empowerment of communities impacted first and worst by injustice. As a non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue organization, Hip Hop Caucus focuses on addressing core issues impacting underserved and vulnerable communities, with programs and campaigns that support solution-driven community organizing led by today's young leaders. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Rev.

Yearwood established the award-winning Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign where he led a coalition of national and grassroots organizations to advocate for the rights of Katrina survivors. As a national leader and pacemaker within the Green Movement, Rev Yearwood has been successfully bridging the gap between communities of color and environmental issue advocacy. With a diverse set of celebrity allies, he has raised awareness and action in communities that are often overlooked by traditional environmental campaigns and elected officials. He has received numerous awards for his work, including being dubbed as a New Green Hero by Rolling Stone and recognized by the Obama White House as a Champion of Change. In 2018, he helped launch Think 100%, Hip Hop Caucus' award-winning climate communications and activism platform. comprised of podcast, film, music, and activism opportunities, the platform challenges environmental injustices and shares just solutions to the climate crisis, including a transition to 100% renewable energy for all.



## ***Very Special Thanks for their Instrumental Work in Organizing and Facilitating this Event...***

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**Jack Tchen**, Director; Clement A. Price Institute, Rutgers University-Newark

**Mi Hyun Yoon**, PhD Candidate in American Studies, Rutgers University-Newark

## ***Breakout Room Leaders***

**Christelle Jasmin**, Fellowship Director, Beyond Identity, Politics of Sexual Violence Initiative, Colin Powell School, City College of NY; MA Student, American Studies, Rutgers University-Newark

**Rosanna Dent**, Scholar of science and medicine, modern Latin America, feminist science studies, Federated History Department at NJIT and Rutgers University-Newark

**Doris Brossard**, PhD Candidate, Department of History, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

**Mi Hyun Yoon**, PhD Candidate, Departments of American Studies, Rutgers University-Newark

**Omanjana Goswami**, PhD Candidate, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Rutgers University-Newark

**Jorge Marcone**, Graduate Director, Comparative Literature Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

**Genese Soldikoff**, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Departments of Global Urban Studies/Urban Systems Ph.D., Division of Global Affairs, and Sociology and Anthropology, Rutgers University-Newark

**Mary Rizzo**, Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Public and Digital Humanities Initiatives; Departments of Global Urban Studies/Urban Systems Ph.D., American Studies, and History, Rutgers University - Newark

**Liz Sevcenko**, Founding Director, Humanities Action Lab, Rutgers University-Newark

**Tugba Altin**, PhD Candidate, Departments of Global Urban Studies, Rutgers University-Newark

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Imagining America

Changing Frequencies

The Public History Project

Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program, University of Michigan

## Artwork by Visual Artist Christian A. Mendoza

*Radio City*, 30x25 inches. Carving on white clay and black ink on Masonite.

### Artist Statement



Christian A Mendoza's work *Radio City* depicts a sustainable floating city and is a part of a larger series of work that is influenced by the artists' interest in the many petroglyphs found on the Island of Ometepe in Nicaragua, the country where Mendoza lived before coming to the U.S with his family. The island is a sacred place full of energy and myths, and where archeological clay models were found on opposite sides of the island, which when connected, give an aerial view of the entire land. The artist is also inspired by other sites and cultures in South and Central America, and the Caribbean and Native American cultures.

Having lived between Miami, Florida and New York City, Mendoza is extremely aware of the impacts that the climate crisis has had on these interconnected communities. He notes: "New York City and Miami, Florida are the primary cities I have lived in back and forth for the last three-and-a-half decades. Both areas have suffered from climate-related phenomena, such as hurricanes, storms, air pollution, and now pandemic.

As Miami and New York are both by the water in terms of sea level rise, the populations of both

cities need to be aware. They need to recycle more than ever. The coral reefs and the quality of food from the ocean is in danger and the winds can become dangerous for cities near the coast."

The symbols he uses within his floating city become a universal language, both ancient and modern, to envision a world where there are expanded and better ways of communication between cultures and our communities, where organic agriculture and creating from recycled materials becomes the norm, where the sun and wind provides the energy, where imported and exported materials are good for the population rather than toxic, and we rethink possibilities for transportation.

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*This program is organized by Jack Tchen, Director, Clement A. Price Institute, RU-Newark; Alexandra Chang, Interim Associate Director, Clement A. Price Institute, RU-Newark; Rosamond King, Associate Professor, Brooklyn College and Neil Maher, Professor, Federated History Department at NJIT and RU-Newark.*

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