ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR ETHNIC STUDIES (AES)

The Association for Ethnic Studies (AES) has a long herstory dating back to the early 1970s. Starting with a small group of scholars in the Midwest who, in 1972, saw a need for an organization which would bring together those interested in an interdisciplinary approach to the national and international dimension of ethnicity. From the work of this small group came the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans. The objectives of this early Association was to serve as a forum for promoting research, study, curriculum design, and publications of interest to members of the organization. The National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans sponsored its first conference on Ethnic and Minority Studies, in 1973 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. At the conference, university and college professors, public school teachers and students gathered to examine both content and approaches to multicultural studies.

As the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans organization began to develop, so did the disciplinary field(s) of Ethnic Studies. Ethnic Studies grew out of the civil rights movement and the concerns of minority students on college campuses throughout the United States. Campus strikes began in the 1960s driven by the demands of students of color and others in the Third World Liberation Front demanding an increase of students of color, faculty of color, a more comprehensive curriculum that spoke to the concerns and needs of marginalized communities of color. From this battle was the establishment of the School of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Department of Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University, among other early programs.

During this time of struggle for power, place, and voice of minorities, the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans, supported the student actions and worked to foster interdisciplinary discussion for scholars, activities, and community members concerned with the national and international aspects of ethnicity. In 1985, the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans officially changed its name to the National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) whose purpose was “the promotion of activities and scholarship in ethnic studies.”

In the fall of 2017, the Board of Directors voted to change our organization’s name to the Association for Ethnic Studies (AES). After thirty-two years under the moniker of the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans organization which would bring together those interested in an interdisciplinary approach to the national and international dimension of ethnicity. From the work of this small group came the National Association of Interdisciplinary Studies for Native American, Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asian Americans sponsored its first conference on Ethnic and Minority Studies, in 1973 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. At the conference, university and college professors, public school teachers and students gathered to examine both content and approaches to multicultural studies.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

In 1970, amid vigorous student protests at BGSU, a Black Studies Committee was organized, “to bring students into direct creative contact with non-white experiences…” The committee won approval for the founding of an Ethnic Studies Center and the appointment of its director, Dr. Robert Perry, making Bowling Green State University one of the first Midwestern institutions to have such a program. In 1978 and 1979, James Baldwin was a resident scholar and his legacy continues to leave its mark on the pedagogical, intellectual, and activist strengths of the department. In 1979 the program successfully petitioned the university for department status. 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the Ethnic studies program at BGSU. www.bgsu.edu/ethn

Originally planned for 2020 to mark the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the BGSU Ethnic Studies program, the conference was postponed to 2021. This is an opportunity to look back upon the history of the scholarly field of ethnic studies and the social movements that forced the academy to accommodate it. In celebrating our history, we are also mindful of assessing our contemporary moment and the challenges of struggles for justice and equality in the future. We will meet soon after either the beginning of the post-Trump era or its continuation. Either way, the moment will reveal much about the underlying dynamics of American culture and society and be long recognized as a critical turning point in the nation’s history.

This is a moment to think about and understand the changing nature of activism in the 21st century. 2020 witnessed a historic upsurge in antiracist activism. What were the long-term consequences of these movements? How do we assess the nature of civil organization and social change in a social media environment in which much organizing happens outside of public view? What are the linkages and disconnections between academic and civic activism at this juncture?

Learn more about the Department of Ethnic Studies in the BGSU School of Cultural and Critical Studies at www.bgsu.edu/ethn.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021 | 4:00-5:30PM
INVITED ARTIST TALK
VISIBLE MAN: ART AND BLACK MALE SUBJECTIVITY

The School of Art at Bowling Green State University will present the exhibition Visible Man: Art and Black Male Subjectivity during the conference. Curated by renowned art historian and School of Art alumnus, Dr. Michael Harris, this impactful and ambitious exhibition will feature work by contemporary African-American and Afro-Caribbean artists whose work addresses issues arising from the depiction of Black masculinity in contemporary art and culture.

Dr. Curlee Raven Holton, will deliver a talk related to the exhibition entitled, “What’s Next?: David C. Driskell, Artist/Scholar/Activist: A Model for Future Role and Practices of African American Artists.” Dr. Curlee Raven Holton is a noted Artist and Executive Director of the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora at University of Maryland, College Park.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021 | 7:00-9:00PM
FILM SCREENING AND Q&A
JOSH CHUCK, CO-DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, CHINATOWN RISING (2021)

Josh grew up in San Francisco’s Chinatown and has worked in the community for over 16 years as a youth worker, filmmaker, and fundraiser. He has produced, shot and edited short films for the past 16 years, including producing public access TV shows while a student at UC Davis. His films mostly share the stories of individuals who symbolize the rich diversity of San Francisco, as well as organizations advocating for the needs of the underserved. He currently directs the UPS Community Internship in San Francisco, an intensive community immersion program for UPS Upper Management, which focuses on the Chinatown, Tenderloin, and Bayview neighborhoods.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021 | 12:00-1:30PM
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
BALDEMAR VELÁSQUEZ

BaldeMAR Velásquez is the president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, which he and his father founded in 1967. FLOC organized farm workers in the Midwest and by the 1980s had won agreements with half a dozen major corporations and many independent farmers raising the wages and improving the working conditions for tens of thousands of laborers in both the United States and Mexico. In 2004, after a struggle of many years, FLOC under Mr. Velásquez’s leadership formed Mount Olive Co. to sign the first farm-laborers’ contract in North Carolina covering most of the migrant farm laborers in the state.

Mr. Velásquez was born in Texas but found his way to Ohio each year as his family worked their way north, picking the ripening crops. He returned to northern Ohio to attend college and graduated from Bluffton College in 1969. Twenty years later he was named a MacArthur Fellow, and in 1994 he was awarded both the Cesar Chavez Humanitarian Award and the Hispanic Heritage Leadership by the National Council of La Raza and the Aguila Azteca Award, the highest honor the government of Mexico can bestow on a non-citizen. Bowling Green State University recognized his achievements in 1996 with a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

TIME | SCHEDULED ACTIVITY
4:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Welcome Reception
                | Opening plenary session
                | Fine Arts Center
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. | Invited Talk
                | Dr. Curlee Raven Holton, Director of the David C. Driskell Center of Baltimore
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Hors d’oeuvres and cash bar
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

TIME | SCHEDULED ACTIVITY
8:30 a.m. | Conference Registration
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions
                | BTSU 315
                | PANEL: Racism in America’s Founding
                | Thomas Jefferson and the Woman-Snatching Ape
                | Justin Mullan (Bowling Green State University)
                | Thomas Jefferson’s Covert Plan of Black Banishment from Virginia
                | Timothy Messer-Kruse (Bowling Green State University)
                | BTSU 314
                | PANEL: The Policing of Racialized Communities
                | Moderator - Dr. Amy Robinson (BGSU)
                | Safety or Surveillance: Race, Public Space, and Mobility in Detroit
                | William Daniels (Bowling Green State University)
                | Whiteness and Police Propaganda in the Make of Ferguson
                | Heath Schultz (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)
10:30 - 11:45 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions
                | BTSU 315
                | PANEL: Latin/o Activism & Pedagogy
                | Moderator - Dr. Andrew Werthamer (BGSU)
                | Jose G. Moreno (Northern Arizona University)
                | Unearning Latin/o Studies: Reflections on Teaching Afro Latinidad to Majority Latin/o/xs Classrooms at a Public, Predominantly White Pennsylvania Institution
                | Justin D. Garcia (Penn State University)
                | Considering pedagogical conceptions in exploring intergenerational, historical and chosen traumas within schooling; Problematic legacies of Americanization and Anglo-conformity
                | Jesus Jaime-Díaz (University of Arizona)
                | BTSU 314
                | PANEL: Asian and Pacific Islander American Activism
                | Moderator - Dr. Ellen Gorsenki (BGSU)
                | Coming in First: Reclaiming Representation in Filipina/o American Athletic History and Popular Culture, 1930-1963
                | Joshua G. Acosta (University of California Berkeley)
                | Can Asian Immigrants Speak? White, Asian American, and Immigrant Ties
                | Sheng-mei Ma (University of California San Diego)
                | Bella Song (University of California San Diego)
                | Concurrent Sessions
                | BTSU 315
                | Lunch
                | Welcome Remarks from Association for Ethnic Studies President Julia Jordan-Zachery
                | Concurrent Sessions

TIME SCHEDULED ACTIVITY
12:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch
1:45 - 3:00 p.m. | Concurrent Sessions

VISITORS TO THE FINE ARTS CENTER DOROTHY UBER BRYAN GALLERY
4:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Featured Exhibition: Visible Man: Art and Black Male Subjectivity
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Invited Talk
        | Dr. Curlee Raven Holton, Director of the David C. Driskell Center of Baltimore
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. | Invited Talk
        | Dr. Curlee Raven Holton, Director of the David C. Driskell Center of Baltimore
10:30 - 11:45 a.m. | Concurrent Sessions
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        | PANEL: Asian and Pacific Islander American Activism
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        | BTSU 315
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        | Welcome Remarks from Association for Ethnic Studies President Julia Jordan-Zachery
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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

TIME | SCHEDULED ACTIVITY
4:00 - 9:00 p.m. | Welcome Reception
                | Opening plenary session
                | Fine Arts Center
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. | Invited Talk
                | Dr. Curlee Raven Holton, Director of the David C. Driskell Center of Baltimore
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Hors d’oeuvres and cash bar
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

TIME

SCHEDULED ACTIVITY

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

PANEL: African American Musical Traditions
Moderator: Robert Elswit (BGSU)

“He Plays Poorly of the Fiddle”: 18th Century Enslaved Musicians Flaming and Performing, Steven Stendeback (Bowling Green State University)

“Go’s a man have some principle tar’s on” or “Renaissing Calls of Self-Fashioning in African American Folk Songs, Ellie Amon-Azuoli (Newcastle University - UK)

TeTok Hip-Hop: Polycultural Possibilities, Isabella Zou (Yale University)

BTSU 314

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

PANEL: Bringing Ethnic Studies to Ohio High Schools
Moderator: Dr. Vibha Bhalla (BGSU)

Why bring Ethnic Studies to the high school classroom and what importance will it have for our students? Ariana Sanders (Princeton, OH)

Developing an Ethnic Studies framework and modules to help teachers embed important content into their curriculum, Lucas George (Franklin, OH)

Looking to get feedback and create connections with those who are willing to advise and consult with this framework.

BTSU 314

Luncheon: Featuring Baldemar Velasquez
Keywords: Address with Farm Labor Organizing Committee Founder, Baldemar Velasquez

Concurrent Sessions

PANEL: Native Cultures and History
Moderator: Dr. Michelle Stokely (BGSU)

South East Woodland American Indian Design and Body Decoration, Jamie K. Odexede (University of Arizona)

The Rohingya Persecution: Dynamics of Ethnoreligious Conflict in Myanmar, Nicholas Idris Emrah and Victor Gjakorka (North West University, Malilberg South Africa)

BTSU 315

3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

PANEL: Feminist Discourses
Moderator: Dr. Kim Coates (BGSU)

White Witches and White Feminism: Race and Gender in Spiritual Feminist Discourse Past and Present, Stevie Scheurich (Bowling Green State University)

Feminist Mosaic Checkpoint: Her Voice-Her Story, Shenee L. Simon & Coda Rayo-Garza (University of Texas)

Paving the Way: A Critical Race Approach to Access and Opportunity, Dominick N. Guinney (Albion College)

Developing Ethnic Studies Programs, Tom Morgan (University of Dayton)

Why bring Ethnic Studies to the high school classroom and what importance will it have for our students? Ariana Sanders (Princeton, OH)

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BTSU 314

Luncheon: Featuring Baldemar Velasquez
Keywords: Address with Farm Labor Organizing Committee Founder, Baldemar Velasquez

Concurrent Sessions

PANEL: Critical Approaches to Civil Rights and Equity
Moderator: Dr. Opumone Zongo (BGSU)

Speaking the Language of the Unheard: James Baldwin at Home and Abroad, Nilgün Andıralı-Obur (Temple University)

Mississippi’s Closed Society and the New Masive Resistance, Marlena Graves (Bowling Green State University)

“Let our Voices Be Heard: Black Middle Class Abstention and Political Mansroage in Philadelphia,” Matthew Simmons (Temple University)

BTSU 314

PANEL: Ethnic Studies Pedagogies
Moderator: Dr. Timothy Messer-Kruse (BGSU)

“Paving the Way”: A Critical Race Approach to Access and Opportunity, Dominick N. Guinney (Albion College)

Developing Ethnic Studies Programs, Tom Morgan (University of Dayton)

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BTSU 314

Concurrent Sessions

PANEL: Developing Ethnic Studies Programs
Moderator: Dr. Tim Messer-Kruse (BGSU)

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