

Event starts at 10am Central, 11am eastern, 5pm european time



STRIKE FOR BLACK LIVES

We are here today to acknowledge the passing of
**George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery.
Michael Brown. Eric Garner. Tamir Rice.
Renisha McBride. Trayvon Martin.**

We're here to say their names, and acknowledge that their lives, and those of so many other unarmed black men and women, were cut short by policemen or vigilantes who felt like they could act with impunity.

We're here to acknowledge that their deaths can't be understood without confronting this nation's history of systemic racism.

Our Black colleagues, friends and their families have undoubtedly been bearing the emotional, financial, and social stress of this moment, which is compounded by increased demands for activism, advocacy, and solidarity in their personal and professional communities.

But this hurt is also ours as well. We have to communicate that Black Lives Matter to us too. We're here to be clear that we will not stand on the sidelines of this moment, we won't be bystanders.

Racism is our problem, a problem that each of us must solve as it manifests itself on campus. It blights our common humanity, holding back some children and limiting their potential, and in doing so creates an obstacle to achieving the advancements we're all seeking.

Beyond the academy, we must confront discrimination, and police brutality and challenge unjust governmental policies. We should voice solidarity with those fighting for justice beyond our campus.

The Strike for Black Lives

Our colleagues who initiated “The Strike for Black Lives” have asked us “to hit pause, to give Black academics a break” and for others to use this opportunity “to reflect on their own complicity in anti-Black racism in academia and their local and global communities.”

As scholars, educators, and researchers, we have to acknowledge our privilege and the responsibility that comes with the spaces we occupy. As academics we have the obligation to reflect, acknowledge, and confront the systemic bias which exists for Black colleagues within our own academic community and also as part of the broader community.

Program for today's reflection

- **History of Racism in America**
 - Bradley Graupner (Linguistic Anthropologist)
- **Addressing Structural Racism Underlying Protests**
 - Laura Pitter (deputy director, Human Rights Watch US Program).
- **A Conversation on Awareness and Change - "How can we do better?"**
 - Moderators: Anadi Canepa, Savanna Starko
 - Speakers: Bo Jayatilaka, Indara Suarez, Kevin Black, Salvatore Rappoccio, Sarah Eno, Sarah Demers, Wren Vetens

Please join us in becoming part of the solution.



We also want to express our concern for all of our colleagues and friends.

At some point the news cycles will stop, but we pledge to continue and end the day with a semicolon;