Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice

4th annual conference :: February 21-22, 2014
Norman, Oklahoma
take-root.org

hosted by:
Women’s and Gender Studies Program,
The University of Oklahoma
take root 2014
Thank you to our generous sponsors!
cypress sponsors:

Black walnut sponsors:

Ms. Foundation for Women

Pam Fleischaker
2014 Conference Schedule
Emcee: Ebony Pope Birdine and Larry Birdine

Friday, February 21st, 2014

8:30 - 9:00 am
Pre-Conference Activist Training with YP4
Scholars Room, Oklahoma Memorial Union
Registration and Check in YP4 Activist Training

9:00 - 9:30 am
Welcome

9:30 - 11:00 am
Intersectionality

11:00 - 12:30 pm
Power, Privilege, Oppression, and You
Lunch on your own

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Allyship

1:30 - 3:00 pm
Self-care and Sustainability in the Movement

3:00 - 4:00 pm
Registration and Check
Nielsen Hall 170

5:00 - 5:30 pm
Opening Plenary: Show case of Collaborative Efforts in the Movement
This large session gives participants a small preview of some of the many speakers they can see at Take Root 2014.
Panelists: Jessica Luther, Monica Rae Simpson, Whisper CK, Denicia Cadena, Coya Whitehat-Artichoker, Pamela Merritt, Gwendolyn Fields, and Sally Burns
Nielsen Hall 170

5:30 - 7:30 pm
Entertainment: Africa Sanke
Nielsen Hall 170

7:30 - 8:30 pm
Networking Reception
You asked for it, and we granted your wish! This reception is an opportunity to meet, greet, and get to know other activists, academics, and students doing RJ work around the country. Light appetizers will be provided and a cash bar is available.
University Club, Oklahoma Memorial Union

LOCATION CHANGE TO THE OKLAHOMA MEMORIAL UNION

8:30 - 10:00 pm
Networking Reception
2014 Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 22nd, 2014

8:00 - 8:30 am  Registration and Breakfast  
Nielsen Hall 170

8:30 - 8:45 am  Welcome

8:45 - 9:30 am  Keynote Address: Lynn Paltrow

9:30 - 9:45 am  Announcements

LOCATION CHANGE TO ZARROW HALL

**Visions for Our Movement/Mapping Our Vision Sessions** are part of a series of two-part roundtables. During Visions for Our Movement sessions, speakers present on their work and answer questions from participants. Mapping Our Vision Sessions allow speakers and participants to engage in facilitated brainstorming sessions.

10:15 - 11:30 am  Break Out Session One - participants may choose one of three options

**Option One: Personhood in Abortion**
We often talk about personhood in terms of abortion, but what does personhood look like in the context of drug laws, criminalization, and the prison industrial complex?
Panelists: Gwendolyn Fields, Brenda Golden, Kari Ann Rinker, Deborah Small, Kathleen Wallace
Moderator: JoAnna Wall
Session Patron: Clemencia Rodriguez
Room: Zarrow Hall 115

**Option Two: Visions for Our Movement: Service and Practical Support in Red States, Part 1**
This roundtable features service providers and practical support providers from Kentucky, California, Indiana, Texas, Kansas, and Mississippi sharing their struggles and successes.
Panelists: Laurie Bertram, Julie Burkhart, Gina Gordon, Poonam Dreyfus-Pai, K.C. Vick, Yucca Bianca Westrup
Room: Zarrow Hall 120

**Option Three: Talking About Reproductive Justice Off the Coasts**
Reproductive justice is too radical for the middle of the country? Think again! Panelists from communications, social media, faith, and grassroots organizing backgrounds share successes on talking about RJ in their communities.
Panelists: Adriann Barboa, Jessica Luther, Robin Marty, Pamela Merritt, Rev. Susan Payne
Moderator: Traci Carte
Room: Zarrow Hall Community Room
2014 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 22nd, 2014

11:45 - 1:00 pm  Break Out Session Two - participants may choose one of four options

Option One: Towards a Full Spectrum Movement: Birth in Reproductive Justice
In order to achieve real reproductive justice, we must fight for birth justice! Midwives, organizers, and advocates share their work.
Panelists: Kelly Baden, Sera Bonds, Amanda Dennis, Makeda Kamara, Shafia Monroe, Farah Diaz-Tello
Moderator: Lisa Funnell
Session Patron: Jill Irvine
Room: Zarrow Hall 105 and 110

Option Two: Mapping Our Vision: Service Provision and Practical Support in Red States, Part 2**
Speakers and participants come together in a facilitated brainstorm session to continue discussion from part one and consider the possibilities of collaboration in our movement.
Facilitators: Sujutha Jesudason, Yucca Bianca Westrup
Session Patron: Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma
Room: Zarrow Hall 120

Option Three: Queering Reproductive Justice
Queer and trans* organizers from across the country share stories from their work and how we can work toward a collaborative coast-to-coast (and everywhere in between!) movement.
Panelists: Coya Whitehat-Artichoker, Ricky Hill, Noreen Khimji, Melissa Moore
Moderator: Megan Sibbett
Room: Zarrow Hall 115

Option Four: Immigration and Reproductive Justice
The fight to respect the autonomy and safety of undocumented people and their families has involved many struggles, victories, and close calls in the past few years. In this panel, immigration organizers and advocates connect issues around immigration, family, and bodily autonomy to reproductive justice and how we can all incorporate a reproductive justice lens that honors undocumented people in our work.
Panelists: Marisol Franco, Karina Garcia, Judith Huerta
Moderator: Jill Irvine and Clemencia Rodriguez
Room: Zarrow Hall Community Room

1:00 - 2:30 pm  Lunch at Couch Restaurants

2:30 - 3:45 pm  Break Out Session Three - participants may choose one of four options

Option One: "Flyover" No More: Visions for Our Reproductive Justice Movement, Part 1**
A roundtable of reproductive justice organizers from Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia, and Minnesota, talking about their visions for a cross-country reproductive justice movement.
Panelists: Coya Whitehat-Artichoker, Shailey Gupta-Brietzke, Sandra Criswell, Noreen Khimji, Monica Rae Simpson
Room: Zarrow Hall 120
Saturday, February 22nd, 2014

2:30 - 3:45 pm
Option Two: Cross-movement Collaborations: Environmental and Reproductive Justice
Movements are often strengthened by learning from each other’s successes, failures, and frameworks. Where is the intersection of Environmental Justice and Reproductive Justice and how can we grow together?
Panelists: Casey Camp-Horinek, Yudith Nieto, Yucca Bianca Westrup
Moderator: Karen Antell
Room: Zarrow Hall 115

4:00 - 5:15 pm
Option Three: HIV, Self-determination, and Cultural Safety
Organizers and advocates from Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Mississippi discuss HIV advocacy, self-determination, and going beyond cultural competency to cultural safety.
Panelists: Devona Bradford, Shaquita Borden, Tommy Chesbro, Whisper CK, Cherraye Oats
Moderator: Laura Bolf Beliveau
Room: Zarrow Hall 105 and 110

Option Four: Visions for Our Movement: Policy Change in Reproductive Health, Rights, & Justice, Part 1**
As more state legislators rapidly pass laws that threaten and undermine access to reproductive health, rights, and justice, organizers from across the country have fought back hard in creative ways. What are lessons learned from Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas?
Panelists: Denicia Cadena, Nancy Cardenas, Tamya Cox, Andrea Grimes, Martha Skeeters
Room: Zarrow Hall Community Room

Break Out Session Four - participants may choose one of four options

4:00 - 5:15 pm
Option One: Mapping Our Vision: Building a “Flyover” Reproductive Justice Movement, Part 1**
Speakers and participants come together in a facilitated brainstorm session to continue discussion from part one and consider the possibilities of collaboration in our movement.
Facilitators: Sandra Criswell, Sujatha Jesudason,
Session Patron: Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma
Room: Zarrow Hall 120

Option Two: We’re Here! We’re Queer! We’re Sober!: Assessing Ourselves and Our Environment
This interactive workshop assists queer folks who want to talk about how alcohol, drugs, addiction, and sobriety can function in our various spaces and relationships. Participants will be given tools to frame these conversations in unique and tailored ways for their communities and personal use.
Facilitators: Jack Cox
Room: Zarrow Hall 105 and 110
2014 Conference Schedule

Saturday, February 22nd, 2014

4:00 - 5:15 pm  Option Three: Fighting Violence in Our Communities
                A hybrid informational and brainstorming session about surviving interpersonal violence and ways to contribute to your communities.
                Panelists: Valarie Lambert, Kathy Moxley, Kristy Stewart
                Moderator: Melanie Adams, Lupe Davidson, Mallory Gladstein, Kathy Moxley
                Session Patron: JoAnna Wall
                Room: Zarrow Hall 115

5:30 - 5:50 pm

5:50 - 6:30 pm  Option Four: Mapping Our Vision: Policy Change in Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice, Part 2**
                Speakers and participants come together in a facilitated brainstorm session to continue discussion from part one and consider the possibilities of collaboration in our movement.
                Facilitators: Wyndi Anderson, Ginger Hintz, Robin Marty
                Room: Zarrow Hall Community Room

LOCATION CHANGE TO NIELSEN HALL, Room 170

5:30 - 5:50 pm  Awards presented by Misha Klein
                The Carol Mason Student Activism Award
                The Staying Rooted Award
                The Spreading Your Roots Award

5:50 - 6:30 pm  Closing: Mapping Our Vision Report Back, Deon Hayward

A special thank you goes to the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work for hosting Take Root 2014 in their facilities!
What is a safer space? A safer space allows for members of the group to feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of harassment or ridicule. That being said, a safer space is not necessarily a free-for-all. No space can be 100% safe, but we can promote an environment of accommodation, respect, and accountability.

It is important to use language that is respectful and inclusive. Words to avoid include (but are not limited to): racist, sexist, cissexist, homophobic, classist, and ableist ("lame," "crazy," and "retarded") language.

Refraining from making assumptions about gender or pronouns is part of creating a safer space. **We invite everyone to list their pronouns on their nametags!**

As advocates for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence, it is important that we not make jokes that are triggering to survivors. This includes (but once again is not limited to) rape jokes, using rape as a synonym for something that is not rape (I “raped” that test, that video game “raped” me), and “I ran into the door” and other jokes that make light of the danger that people in IPV situations face. To avoid triggering survivors, we should strive to steer clear of violent rhetoric whenever possible. Preparing people before discussing triggering content is an incredibly helpful way to accommodate survivors.

Part of a safer space is recognizing that people can and should be held accountable for their words and actions. Remaining conscious of social location and privilege is vital in spaces where many folks have been excluded or dismissed in conversation about abortion politics. Often, that means many of us will need to prioritize listening. If we are challenged about the limitations of our perspective because of social location and privilege, checking defensiveness and trusting that the correction or challenge is made in an effort to maintain a safer and productive space would be helpful.

We recognize the need for every person to have access to facilities that are safe for personal needs. There is a family restroom available for any person to use in Zarrow Hall. We have facilities available for participants nearby in Robertson Hall for use while we are in the large meeting space in Nielsen Hall. If you need directions to the nearest restroom, please ask one of the volunteers for help locating it.

The conference organizers have taken several steps to ensure the security of everyone attending our conference. There is a chance that a disruptive presence might gather around the conference site. While we respect the need for folks to react to this sort of thing in their own way, we propose a collective front of refusal to engage any protestors of this conference. It can be argued that reserving our energy for the conference so that we may listen, share, and plan attentively is the most strategic plan. Please reach out to a conference organizer if you feel unsafe or want to bring up concerns at any time.
Aboubacar Camara is a master drummer with family roots in Dakar, Senegal and Conakry, Guinea in West Africa. He trained for seven years as a professional dancer and drummer with the Troupe D’Enfants of the Republique of Guinea (Children’s Troupe of the Republic of Guinea). From 1997-2002 he was the leader of the professional performance group Bougarabou located in Dakar, Senegal. Under his leadership they toured and performed in Japan, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Australia and Switzerland. From 2004-2006 Aboubacar worked at Walt Disney’s Universal Studios as the leader of his own group Africa Sanke (Root of Africa). Since living in the United States he has led and participated in numerous performances. He regularly teaches West African drum and dance classes, and has also taught in elementary schools, for community organizations, as well as privately. He speaks fluent French and English as well as several West African languages. His repertoire includes a wide variety of percussion rhythms including Koukou, Sinté, Sonsoniné, the accompanying dances and many more. He can also teach the songs and storytelling that is part of the culture and relates to the various rhythms.
Meet Our Speakers

Melanie Adams is the Programming Coordinator for the Women’s Outreach Center at OU and where she oversees a group of peer educators for the Step In, Speak Out and D8ME programs. In addition, Melanie supervises the Women’s Outreach Center’s Interpersonal Violence intern who is responsible for Rape, Stalking, and Domestic Violence awareness, the Red Flag Campaign and the White Ribbon Campaign, among other things.

Wyndi Marie Anderson is a nationally recognized feminist and social justice advocate who, for over 15 years, has been working to secure human rights and access to health care for some of the most marginalized women in the world. Through years of work with National Advocates for Pregnant Women, her work focused primarily on securing legal rights and access to appropriate health care for drug-addicted pregnant and parenting women, as well as ensuring that all women have access to a full range of reproductive and drug treatment health care services. As Senior Director of Programs at Provide, Wyndi is responsible for providing leadership, strategic vision and support to the field team, as well as overseeing multiple projects.

Kelly Baden is the Policy and Advocacy Advisor for the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she works to build capacity of state partners, expand access to reproductive health care, and protect reproductive rights across the states. Prior to joining the Center, Kelly was at the National Institute for Reproductive Health and NARAL Pro-Choice New York, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of New Jersey, EMILY’s List, the American Political Science Association, and the Close Up Foundation. Kelly currently serves as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Abortion Access Fund; find her on Twitter @KellyBaden.

Adriann Barboa is a Chicana, Native New Mexican born and raised in Albuquerque, where she is a single mother of two who joined Forward Together in March of 2012, as Field Director for Strong Families New Mexico, the state based action site. Adriann’s strengths include her ability to build connections across issue areas, geography and difference to advance the work and capacity that is happening in New Mexico and in connection to the Strong Families national movement work led by Forward Together. Adriann brings 12 plus years experience in the social justice sector, working primarily on issues of gender, reproductive, justice, education and youth justice in communities of color.

Sera Bonds is a social justice, grassroots activist committed to working towards balancing the scales of access, equity, and availability in women's reproductive health care. Her community organizing background ranges from reproductive rights to violence against women, to welfare and poverty issues to anti-war campaigns, including work on women's health issues with teenage and minority mothers in rural areas of the Western U.S.; with refugee communities in Boston, Massachusetts; and with midwives in Northern India, Guatemala, Tibet, Palestine, tsunami-affected Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Jordan, Haiti, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Israel; with commercial sex workers on issues of HIV/AIDS in Vietnam; with female evacuees from hurricanes Rita and Katrina in Louisiana; with survivors of natural disasters in Oklahoma; and with the social service and health care provider community in Central Texas to stop human trafficking. She founded Circle of Health International, as U.S.-based humanitarian organization, with the hope of giving voice to conflict, crisis, and disaster-affected women's reproductive health needs on an international scale.

Shaquita Borden was born and raised in New Orleans and was prompted, after volunteering with WWAV, to change careers and has been there for six years. She completed her MPH in 2010 after attending the LSU School of Public Health, and is working towards her PhD in Health Education and Health Promotion. She is passionate about working to improve the health of New Orleans’ citizens using a participatory approach to understand the structural drivers of women’s health disparities.

Devona Bradford is the co-founder of INSPIRE HIV Prevention: Initiative of Native Sisters Preventing Infectious Risks through Empowerment. She is originally from Zuni Pueblo, a wife and mother of three, a committed advocate of sexual health and reproductive justice, a strong proponent of indigenous language and culture revitalization, and is currently pursuing her a medical degree with intentions of serving her people as a doctor.
Shailey Gupta-Brietzke started to become involved in the feminist movement, when she obtained an abortion in college. Since graduating law school, Shailey started volunteering for the Lilith Fund in 2007, joined the board, and in 2011, Shailey took on the role of President of the Board of the Lilith Fund. Post-law school, Shailey received a three year fellowship to work with domestic violence survivors in 2007, and she is now a practicing family law attorney at a county agency.

Julie Burkhart, a native of Oklahoma, worked side by side with Dr. George Tiller for seven years, first as the Chair of the Wichita Choice Alliance, and then as the spokesperson for his clinic, as well as the director of ProKanDo, a PAC created by Dr. Tiller which engaged in legislative and political work on behalf of physicians and women’s rights constituents. Ms. Burkhart now continues Dr. Tiller’s vision of reproductive rights as the Founder and Executive Director of Trust Women Foundation, which opened South Wind Women’s Center in Dr. Tiller’s former facility, and which also aims to increase access to reproductive health care in other parts of the Midwest and South. Before working for Dr. Tiller, Ms. Burkhart was at ground zero during the infamous Summer of Mercy in 1991 when anti-choice extremists groups laid siege to Wichita clinics; she also managed a number of political campaigns, as well as worked for the Washington State Democratic Party and the Washington Senate Democratic Campaign Committee.

Sally (Sarah E.) Burns is Faculty Director of the Carr Center for Reproductive Justice at NYU School of Law where she teaches a Reproductive Justice Clinic, among other courses. Born and raised in Ponca City, Oklahoma, Sally earned her BA and MA (human relations) from the University of Oklahoma.

Denicia Cadena is a queer Chicana born and raised in Mesilla, New Mexico, and now serves as YWU’s Communications and Cultural Strategy Director. Wearing many hats, Denicia engages our communities’ embodied knowledge and brings out community experience in creative ways as a cultural organizer; as a welder and sculptor, Denicia knows that some ways of knowing and understanding can only be expressed through art. She has several years of experience working on issues of racial justice, gender justice, and queer justice.

Nancy Cardenas is an activist, public servant, volunteer and an outspoken Latina on feminism, immigration, and poverty in Texas. Nancy is the daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, and is extremely proud of her hard working parents vowing to work just as hard being among the first in her family to graduate from college. Nancy is dedicated to reproductive rights, equality for low income minority women, and the inclusion of RGV women within the circles of political activism by focusing on removing the language barrier to include the voices of not just some, but all residents through digital media activism.

Tommy Chesbro, MHR, CSE is the owner of Chesbro Consulting, LLC. He serves as an Advisor on HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis prevention and treatment for the Centers for Disease Control and the Health Resources Services Administration. Tommy also serves on the Racial and Ethnic Populations Advisory Committee for the Office of AIDS Research in the National Institutes of Health. He is a long time board member of the National Minority AIDS Council and has been living with HIV for 28 years.

Whisper CK is the co-founder of INSPIRE HIV Prevention: Initiative of Native Sisters Preventing Infectious Risks through Empowerment. Originally from the Four Corners region of the Southwest, she is a sexual health, reproductive and environmental justice advocate, a spoken word poet and singer. In graduate school, she specialized in sexual violence against Native women and girls and is now currently pursuing her midwifery certification, with which she intends to provide culturally safe and meaningful births for Native mothers and families.

Jack Cox is an educator and waiter living in Austin, Texas. They give talks on sexual assault and consent, linguistic microaggressions, and intentional sobriety.
Tamya Cox is currently the staff attorney and lobbyist for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. Cox graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Broadcast & Journalism and Oklahoma City University School of Law. Committed to civil rights and civil liberties, Cox has traveled across the state speaking to communities regarding issues that directly impact their lives.

Sandra Criswell is a Filipina mestiza reproductive justice organizer based in Oklahoma City, OK, where she serves as an editor and board member for Oklahomans for Reproductive Justice and an organizer for Take Root. She is a Generative Fellow at CoreAlign, focused on professional development and movement building for red state grassroots organizers; in addition, she is the CoreAlign Regional Organizer for Oklahoma and North Texas. Sandra's newest role is board member at Backline and she couldn’t be more excited to work with such wonderful reproductive justice folks from across the country.

Dr. Maria del Guadalupe Davidson is Assistant Professor of Business Communication in the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma and co-directs the Center for Social Justice. A rhetorician by training, Dr. Davidson researches in the area of black feminism, rhetorical theory and criticism, and Africana philosophical thought. Her most recent publication is the co-edited volume Exploring Race in Predominately White Classrooms: Scholars of Color Reflect (Routledge, 2014), and her new book Black Women, Agency, and the New Black Feminism is currently under contract.

Amanda Dennis is an Associate at Ibis Reproductive Health. She has led several studies evaluating how US health care policies, such as abortion restrictions and health care reform, impact women and health care providers. Amanda’s choice of research topics and passion for patient-centered health care are informed by her work on the board of the Abortion Action Network and her prior experiences working in an ambulatory surgery center specializing in second-trimester abortion care and a domestic violence shelter.

Gwendolyn Fields is currently the Executive Director of The Advocacy Council. She is also Activist-in-Residence at the OU WGS Center for Social Justice. Ms. Fields is passionate about educating the public about, and securing the needs of, the disenfranchised in Oklahoma.

Marisol Franco is California Latinas for Reproductive Justice’s (CLRJ) Director of Policy and Advocacy and also one of its founding members where Marisol works to connect Latin@ communities across California to policy efforts and decision-makers in order to promote Latinas’ reproductive justice. As a first generation Mexican woman raised in a Los Angeles working class immigrant neighborhood, Marisol passionately believes all people have the right to a living wage, healthy community, health care, education, and affordable housing. Marisol has significant experience in community mobilization and empowerment, conducting policy analysis, coordinating advocacy efforts and campaigns on statewide, national and regional issues.

Karina Garcia is the National Field Coordinator at the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. At NLIRH, Karina is in charge of supporting, fostering and cultivating the development of Latina Advocacy Networks (LAN) located in different states around the nation. She also identifies, builds, and develops a diverse group of Latina leaders and activists to organize around Reproductive Justice issues at a local, state, and national level.

Mallory Gladstein is the Program Coordinator at The University of Oklahoma Women’s and Gender Studies Program Center for Social Justice. After earning a Master of Science in Developmental Disorders from Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, she returned to Norman, Oklahoma to pursue a second Masters, this one in Education. At The Center for Social Justice Mallory works to develop and implement the seven programs offered by the Center, and is responsible for the majority of emails you received about Take Root.

Brenda Golden is a Native American activist, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, a mother and grandmother. She has a Juris Doctor, a Masters in Business Administration and a Bachelors in Business Administration. Ms. Golden is hostess of Red Town Radio and is an outspoken advocate for justice, civil and human rights.
Meet Our Speakers

Andrea Grimes is a senior political reporter at RH Reality Check, covering reproductive justice issues in Texas and across the South. A native Texan and avid Twitterer, she lives in Austin with her husband and three cats.

Gina Gordon is a doctoral student in school psychology at Indiana University and an enthusiastic volunteer at Backline, a hotline concerned with pregnancy, parenting, abortion, and adoption.

Deon Haywood is the Executive Director of Women With A Vision, Inc., a New Orleans-based community organization founded in 1991 to improve the lives of marginalized women, their families, and communities by addressing the social conditions that hinder their health and well-being. In 2009, Deon oversaw the launch of WWAV’s NO Justice Project, a campaign to combat the sentencing of women and trans* people arrested for street-based sex work under Louisiana’s 203-yr-old “crime against nature” felony-level law, which resulted in a federal judicial ruling and the removal of more than 700 women from the sex offender registry. Currently, Deon sits on the board of BreakOUT!, a youth-led organization fighting the criminalization of LGBTQ youth in New Orleans.

Ricky Hill is a researcher, activist, and community member working on issues related to LGBTQ health equity and justice. Ricky is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of New Mexico, where they have taught multiple courses in the Department of Communication and Journalism, and served as the University’s first Transgender Inclusion and Equity Specialist. Ricky also works as a researcher at the Behavioral Health Research Center of the Southwest on a pilot peer advocacy intervention for LGBTQ people with substance use and mental health issues in rural areas of New Mexico, and volunteers as the facilitator for the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico’s youth support group.

Ginger Hintz is the Program Manager at the Women Donors Network (WDN), hails from the prairies of South Dakota. She has lived in slightly less rural OH, a few months in OR, lived four days in Wichita, KS, returned to OH, moved out west to Seattle, WA, and is currently settling in Oakland, CA. Ginger credits her move to Cleveland, OH, where she was a pro-choice escort through rain, snow and shine, as the place where she cut her first reproductive justice tooth.

Casey Camp-Horinek is a member of the Ponca Nation of Oklahoma. A life long political and environmental activist, Casey has founded the Coyote Creek Center for Environmental Justice to educate and empower Native American Communities facing gross injustice through environmental pollution and the ensuing socio economic impacts. In the 1980’s Casey worked directly with Cary Dickerson and Grace Thorpe to halt the infamous “Black Fox” power plant. In addition, Casey has marched with Caesar Chavez, worked actively with the American Indian Movement, and helped stop a hazardous waste facility from being built on the site of the historic Chilocco Indian School in North Central Oklahoma.

Judith Huerta is an undocumented immigrant who has lived in the US since she was two-years old. She grew up in South Central Los Angeles for 12 years and has lived in Oklahoma almost nine years. Judith graduated from Putnam City High School in 2008 and Oklahoma City University in 2012 with a double major in Photography and Español. She is the co-founder and co-affiliate of the Oklahoma City chapter of DREAM Act Oklahoma who advocates for immigrants rights.

Sujutha Jesdason, Ph.D. is the director of CoreAlign and a researcher at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health. Before this, she was the founder of Generations Ahead, a social justice advocacy organization working on reproductive and genetic technologies. A leading voice on women’s rights, racial justice, movement building and the ethics of human genetics, Sujatha holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Makeda Kamara is a visionary healer, midwife, womanist hails from Panamá. Her grassroots activists work started in her people’s fight against apartheid and imperialism of the Afro-Antillanos of the Panamá Canal Zone. Ms Kamara continues her struggle for social justice with her midwifery work in the US, Africa and the Caribbean.
Meet Our Speakers

Noreen Khimji is a brown queer disabled reproductive justice organizer living in Texas. Their other interests include anti-racist and anti-authoritarian community building and exploring the intersections of dis/ability and race/class/gender.

Valarie Lambert is a single working mother in her last semester as an undergrad WGS student at the University of Oklahoma. Between being a mother, a student, a bartender, and working for OU’s Center for Social Justice, Valarie lives a very busy life that she loves. She is passionate about domestic violence advocacy, single mothers going getting an education, and teaching her daughter it is never to late to finish what you started and to make your dreams come true.

Jessica Luther is a writer and activist living in Austin, Texas. She was one of the organizers who used social media this past summer to facilitate the protests at the Texas capitol. Her writing has been published at the Guardian, the Atlantic, RH Reality Check, Sports On Earth, and Sports Illustrated.

Robin Marty is a writer, activist and speaker from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Robin is the author of Crow After Roe, a book that tracks the right’s attempt to end access to abortion and birth control one state at a time, and writes at Ms. Magazine, Rolling Stone, Think Progress and Talking Points Memo. Robin tracks state based legislation restricting abortion and birth control access, and is currently studying anti-abortion activists and action groups operating in the midwest, western and southern states.

Pamela Merritt blogs as Shark-Fu at AngryBlackBitch.com, and works as an Online Organizer and New Media Specialist in Missouri, a proud mentor through Big Sisters, and teaches at several shelters in St. Louis. Pamela Merritt is a member of the Women’s Health Leadership Network at the Center for American Progress and is a founding member of the Trust Black Women Partnership. She is a staff writer for RH RealityCheck, a contributor to Feministing.com and Shakespeare’s Sister, and a featured contributor on National Public Radio’s (NPR) “Tell Me More” with Michel Martin. Merritt’s writing has been published in the Chicago Sun-Times, The Guardian UK, and Salon. In 2008 AngryBlackBitch.com was named one of the world’s 50 most powerful blogs by The Guardian UK.

Shafia M. Monroe is a die-hard midwife veteran, a Master of Public Health, an ICTC doula trainer, and a community activist. She founded the International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC) a renowned international non-profit that increases the number of midwives, doula’s and healers of color to empower families to reduce infant and maternal mortality and build capacity in their community. Driven by the high infant mortality rate in the Black community, she advocates, trains and speaks for this health inequity to be addressed as a Human Rights issue. Her work created the Oregon legislation for Medicaid reimbursement for doula’s to help vulnerable populations in 2014 and in her spares time she cooks for family friends and new mothers.

Melissa Moore currently serves as Executive Director for We Are Family and is the South Carolina State Coordinator for Provide. We Are Family’s mission is to provide support services and leadership development opportunities for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex (GLBTQQI), and straight ally youth while Provide aims to expand access to abortion services in South Carolina. Her past positions include Field Director and Interim Executive Director for South Carolina Equality (SCE) and Executive Assistant for the Alliance For Full Acceptance.

Kathy Fahl Moxley is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and since 2007, has served as the Director of the University of Oklahoma’s Women’s Outreach Center and Coordinator of the University’s Sexual Assault Response Team. Kathy also co-chairs the Cleveland County Sexual Assault Response Team. In 2011 she was appointed by the University of Oklahoma President to chair the committee on sexual misconduct policies and provided recommendations to improve campus prevention and response to sexual assault.

Yudith Nieto was born in Mexico and grew up in the fence-line refinery community of Manchester in Houston, TX. Which helped in inspiring Yudith to become involved in the environmental justice movement. Yudith has worked with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, was involved in organizing with the Tar Sands Blockade to organize direct actions, and currently works with other youth in Houston to teach people about environmental issues that affect their communities through culture, art, music and poetry.
Cherraye Oats is the Executive Director of the Fannie Lou Hamer Center for Change, and the niece of the late civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. Ms. Oats worked fiercely against the personhood amendment in Mississippi.

Poonam Dreyfus-Pai is co-director of the Bay Area Doula Project, which is committed to increasing access to nonjudgmental, compassionate and empowering doula care to individuals having abortions. Poonam is currently in her final year of the concurrent Masters in Public Health/Masters in Social Welfare program at the University of California, Berkeley; her graduate internships have included research of abortion stigma at ANSIRH, as well as program development and evaluation at Backline and at Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases (WORLD). She is also a member of CoreAlign’s Generative Fellows Summer 2013 Cohort. Poonam is committed to building collaborative networks that work to support all sexual and reproductive experiences.

Lynn M. Paltrow, J.D., is the Founder and Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women (“NAPW”). Ms. Paltrow is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School of Law. She has worked on numerous cases challenging restrictions on the right to choose abortion as well cases opposing the prosecution and punishment of pregnant women seeking to continue their pregnancies to term, and conceived of and filed the first affirmative federal civil rights challenge to a hospital policy of searching pregnant women for evidence of drug use and turning that information over to the police.

Rev. Susan Swafford Payne is a volunteer clergy counselor for Faith Aloud, seeking to reassure women that God’s love and strength are with them, even as they confront difficult reproductive choices. Rev. Payne is an ordained minister, serving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She and her husband Chris have three daughters, and two grandchildren.

Kari Ann Rinker is a former State Coordinator and Lobbyist for Kansas NOW and a contributor at RH Reality Check.com. She has testified in numerous legislative hearings on issues ranging from the state ERA, domestic violence, voter ID and abortion. She has a B.S. in Organizational Management and Leadership from Friends University and a Masters of Public Administration and a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Wichita State University.

Laurie Bertram Roberts is a grassroots feminist activist, writer, and full spectrum doula in Jackson, MS. She works on finding ways to remove barriers for women accessing reproductive healthcare and education before, during and after pregnancy regardless of pregnancy outcome.

Monica Rae Simpson is the Executive Director of SisterSong, the National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. Monica organized extensively against human rights violations, the prison industrial complex, racism and intolerance, and the systematic physical and emotional violence inflicted upon the minds, bodies and spirits of African Americans with an emphasis on African American women and the African American LGBT community in the South.

Deborah Peterson Small has been at the forefront of the national movement seeking to change our nation’s failed drug policies and she helped bring public attention and legal support to the victims of the Tulia drug sting and prosecutions; she worked tirelessly to promote reform of New York’s infamous Rockefeller Drug Laws and helped organize community support for ballot initiatives requiring treatment instead of incarceration for non-violent drug offenders. Ms. Small is a nationally recognized leader in the drug policy reform movement and has been a major catalyst in engaging communities of color and their leaders to address the negative impacts of the war on drugs. More than a decade ago she founded Break the Chains: Communities of Color and the War on Drugs, a public policy research and advocacy organization committed to addressing the disproportionate impact of punitive drug policies on poor communities of color.
Meet Our Speakers

Martha Skeeters was born and raised in East Texas and has lived in Oklahoma for over 30 years. Her commitment to reproductive justice stems from her observations and experiences growing up in a poor white family in the racially segregated South, being loved by the folks at her local Southern Baptist Church and being taught to worship her star athlete brother and others like him. She came of age and was mightily influenced by the second wave of the women’s movement, the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement. She earned two degrees from the University of North Texas and holds a Ph.D. in history from The University of Texas.

Meg Stern is a queer cis-woman from Louisville KY who wears many hats. Her focuses include LGBTQIA rights, anti racism, and health justice in many forms. Meg has been supporting clients as an abortion clinic escort in Louisville for the last 14 years, and recently helped create and launch the Kentucky Support Network which provides transportation, interpretation, and financial resources via a volunteer run phone hotline to people facing barriers to abortion in and around Kentucky.

Kristy Stewart, CDSVRP, Interim Director, has been with the Women’s Resource Center for 29 years and in that time she has had the opportunity to work in the Shelter for victims of domestic violence for approximately 19 years working as an intake worker, court advocate, children’s advocate, women’s advocate and shelter manager. Kristy has spent the last 11 years working at the Rape Crisis Center with victims of sexual violence. She is a member of the Cleveland County Coordinated Response Team, Cleveland County Sexual Assault Response Team, voting delegate to Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Chair of the OCADVSA Legislative Committee.

Farah Diaz-Tello, Staff Attorney at National Advocates for Pregnant Women, is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law, where she was a Haywood Burns Fellow in Civil and Human Rights. Her work at NAPW has focused on the rights to medical decision-making and birthing with dignity, and on using the international human rights framework to protect the humanity of pregnant women regardless of their circumstances. A proud Texan, she is an alumna of the University of Texas at Austin.

K.C. Vick calls Alabama home, but she currently resides in the lovely town of Bloomington, Indiana. She is working on an M.P.H. at Indiana University with the dream of one day returning to the southeast to live as a community health worker. K.C. comes to the conference as a representative of Backline, through which she serves as a Talkline Advocate on their national phone line.

Kathleen Wallace is a graduate of Oklahoma City University School of Law. Prior to attending law school, Kathleen worked as a clinician at the University of Rochester (New York) Medical Center. She currently spends her time aligning agendas across the medical, public health and criminal justice communities to leverage and connect local organizing and activism with national advocacy and policy work.

Yucca Bianca Westrup is a queer Chicanx from the borderlands of South Tejas. They are currently organizing with the Cicada Collective and is a Generative Fellow with CoreAlign - focusing on bridging the gaps between reproductive and environmental justice. Yucca is a full-spectrum doula in training, birth nerd at heart, and finds magic in everyday life. They are interested in staying in Texas to witness the growth, strength, and healing of their communities.

Coya Whitehat-Artichoker was born and raised on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota; she is a proud enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She has been doing activist work in various communities and movements since the age of 15, and is a founding member of the First Nations Two Spirit Collective, which is also a member of the ROOTS Coalition, a coalition of 14 queer people of color leading organizations throughout the country. Coya is currently an advisory committee member for the Host Home Program, working to provide safe homes for homeless queer youth and is also a board member for SisterSong, a reproductive justice organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. She currently chairs the grant review committee for Pfund Foundation.
The Women’s and Gender Studies Program at OU is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to enhance students’ knowledge of gender roles and gender relations across cultures and history. Women’s and Genders Studies courses investigate the intersection of gender and such diverse phenomena as politics, religion, society, economics, war, communication, music, art, family life, and popular culture. Our 68 faculty members come from numerous departments across the university.

Women’s and Gender Studies students learn a variety of marketable skills including critical thinking, writing, public speaking, organization, conflict resolution, diversity training and project design. The interdisciplinary and global perspective students gain in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program will enable them to achieve their highest potential in their chosen field of study and as citizens of the global community. Women’s and Gender studies majors will be well-prepared and sought after for work in for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, social help agencies, human rights advocacy, victim’s advocacy as well as graduate study in law, medicine, human relations, education, business, information science, communication, fine arts, public health or academic research.

The Center for Social Justice is an initiative of the Women’s Studies Program to promote gender justice, equality, tolerance, and human rights through local and global engagement. As a discipline, Women and Gender Studies critically examines how institutions and social organizations seem natural are often structured to hide and perpetuate gender, class, and racial inequality. The Center adopts a feminist perspective, recognizing that while questions of social justice concern all human beings, women and children are harmed disproportionately when it comes to the allocation of political power and economic resources.

Our programs include the Social Justice Minor, Activist-in-Residence Program, Engaged Research, Internships, Service Learning, Social Justice Awards, Social Justice Events, and Activism.

OU Women’s and Gender Studies
731 Elm, Robertson 101
Norman, OK 73019
Phone: 405.325.3481
Fax: 405.325.3573
Email:WGS@OU.EDU | Web: WGS.OU.EDU

The Center for Social Justice
OU Women’s and Gender Studies Program
731 Elm, Robertson 103
Norman, OK 73019
Phone: 405.325.5787
Fax: 405.325.3573
Email: Center.for.Social.Justice@ou.edu | Web: CSJ.ou.edu
We believe that **everyone** who cares for women **has a role** in ensuring accessible abortion...

---

Ask us about yours.

---

**provide**

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE

www.provideaccess.org

Proud Sponsor of Take Root
Congratulations to the University of Oklahoma’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program and the Center for Social Justice.

With respect, admiration, and appreciation.

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

N A P W
Kansas
has more mandatory waiting periods, counseling restrictions, and abortion restrictions than any other state.

Oklahoma
has 18,712 women to every 1 OBGYN in the state. Also 1 in 5 women are uninsured.

Missouri
has one of the largest wage gaps. Women earn 71¢ to every dollar a man earns.

Arkansas
top ten for highest infant & maternal mortality rates.

Mississippi
more than 1 in 4 women and girls live in poverty.

These states don’t trust women! Together we are changing that!

Ibis Reproductive Health
Ibis Reproductive Health is an international nonprofit organization with a mission to improve women’s reproductive autonomy, choices, and health worldwide. Our core activity is clinical and social science research, focused on issues receiving inadequate attention in other research settings and where gaps in the evidence exist. Our agenda is driven by women’s needs and prioritizes increasing access to safe abortion, expanding contraceptive access and choices, and integrating HIV and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services. We partner with advocates and other stakeholders who use our research to improve policies and delivery of services in countries around the world.

Rigorous research. Bold ideas. Improving women’s lives.
The Overbrook Foundation congratulates Take Root on its Fourth Annual Conference! We thank the committed organizers, activists and participants who have contributed to the conference and worked to expand reproductive justice for all people in the South, Southwest and Midwest.
OUR VISION: THE 3RS
Advocates for Youth envisions a society that views sexuality as normal and healthy and treats young people as a valuable resource. The core values of Rights, Respect, Responsibility.® (3Rs) animate this vision.

Advocates for Youth champions efforts that help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believes it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health. Advocates focuses its work on young people ages 14-25 in the U.S. and around the globe.

Congrats on another great Take Root conference!
Organizing in a red state isn’t always easy, but Choice USA gives me the tools & support to fight for reproductive justice in Texas!

- Alyssah, U. of Texas - El Paso

We care for women - mind, body, and heart.

Choice USA
www.ChoiceUSA.org

OCRJ.org
Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice

OCRJ empowers, educates, and advocates for reproductive justice.

P.O. Box 722394
Norman, OK 73070

@OCRJpinkwave | #pinkwave

National Institute for Reproductive Health

is a proud sponsor of the 2014 Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice conference!

The National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) works at the state and local level in New York and across the United States to promote reproductive rights and expand access to reproductive health care through bold advocacy, creative education campaigns, and high-impact partnerships.

Follow us @NIRHealth
Find us online NIRHealth.org
Notes
taking pictures?
tweeting about panels?
instagramming the awesome?

Use our hashtag!

#takeroot14
@Take_RootRJ

Not on social media? Email pictures to:
info@take-root.org