State perspectives on reproductive justice

8th annual conference :: February 23-24, 2018
Norman, Oklahoma
take-root.org

hosted by:
The Women’s & Gender Studies Program
The University of Oklahoma

take-root.org * twitter: @take_rootrj * instagram: @takerootrj
facebook.com/TakeRootRJ * #takeroot18
Take Root 2018 Schedule

Friday

11:00-11:30: Pre-Conference Registration & Check-In
11:30-1:30: Pre-Conference Workshop with Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice
12:00-3:00: Registration & Check-in
2:00-3:15: Breakout Session #1
3:30-5:30: Poster Session & Networking Reception
5:45-7:15: Opening Plenary

Saturday

8:00-8:30: Registration & Breakfast
8:30-9:45: Welcome & Keynote Address
10:00-11:15: Breakout Session #2
11:30-12:45: Breakout Session #3
12:45-2:00: Lunch
2:15-3:30: Breakout Session #4
3:45-5:00: Breakout Session #5
5:15-6:30: Closing Session
Thank you to our generous sponsors!
You make Take Root possible!
cypress sponsors:
Anonymous

National Advocates for Pregnant Women
N A P W
cottonwood sponsors:

- Irving Harris Foundation
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- OMA Fund
- Groundswell Fund

maple sponsors:

- The Overbrook Foundation
- Provide
- Kirkpatrick Family Fund

elm sponsor:

- Trust Women
redbud sponsors:

Anne and Henry Zarrow
School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma
11:00 - 11:30 am Pre-Conference Registration & Check-In

11:30 - 1:30 pm Pre-Conference Training
Facilitated by the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice
Room: B2/4

12:00 - 3:00 pm Conference Registration & Check-In
Thurman J. White Forum Building Hub

2:00 - 3:15 pm Breakout Session One: Panels
The Birth Certificate Barrier: How State Requirements for Updating Gender Markers Compromise the Bodily Autonomy and Family Planning Decisions of TGNBNC Folks
Coercive gender marker change laws, used primarily in Red States, lead to compulsory sterilization of trans, gender non-binary, and gender non-conforming individuals (TGNBNC folk). This presentation seeks to highlight the harm of such laws, and to thus engage the reproductive justice movement at large in changing and challenging these laws in order to preserve the bodily autonomy and family planning capacity of TGNBNC folk already struggling with queer antagonism and economic injustice.
Presenters: Carly Calhoun, Fajer Saeed Ebrahim, and Rebecca Wang
Room: A3/5
Client-Centered Defense for Mothers
We will examine the use of holistic defense for mothers at Still She Rises, Tulsa. We will tackle questions like “how does targeted indigent defense change outcomes?” and explore how to evaluate and respond to the needs of justice involved mothers. Using an interactive approach, we will engage participants with case studies and examples to provide background on the legal needs of mothers, as well as to elicit ideas and engagement from participants.

Presenters: Kristen Black, Patrice James, and Christine Umeh
Room: B2/4

Side by Side: Mental Health Peer Support as a Strategy for Reproductive Justice
What is peer support and does this strategy work at the intersection of reproductive justice and mental health? In this session, we will explore the connection between mental health and reproductive justice, how peer support shifts traditional medical paradigms towards self-determination and justice, and how we can broaden peer support to support reproductive justice efforts in mental health settings and other institutions in the South.

Presenters: Christina Carney, Darcy Kues, and Lisa Pous
Room: B6

Supporting Ourselves and Each Other: Full-Spectrum Care Beyond the Clinic
Everyone in the U.S. deserves pregnancy-related care that meets their needs, supports their health, and respects their dignity. For some, particularly communities of color, pregnancy-related self-care and community-based care are long-standing traditions. Non-clinical providers and individuals are reclaiming the full spectrum of reproductive care at home— including gynecological care, birthing, breastfeeding support, and abortion. How can we increase access to quality non-clinical reproductive care in red states?

Presenters: Kebé, Amelia Caron, Farah Diaz-Tello, Alison Goldsmith, and Bethany Pollock
Room: B1/3

2:00 -3:15 pm Breakout Session One: Workshops

Transforming Sexuality Education Cultural Competency Guidelines Into Reality
In the reproductive justice movement, generally, and the sexuality education space, specifically, the phrase “comprehensive sexuality education should be culturally competent” is often used. In this workshop, we will work together to create examples of what culturally competent sexuality education should include, examine model legislation, and brainstorm how culturally competent sexuality education can be implemented in schools and what resources, tools, and/or training is needed to achieve this goal.

Presenters: Jennifer Driver
Room: B5
2018 Conference Schedule
Friday, February 23, 2018

3:30 - 5:30 pm  Poster Session
               and
               Networking Reception

Please join us for 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.

Hallway A & Conference Room A

5:45 - 7:15 pm  Opening Plenary

Immigration is a Reproductive Justice Issue

This large session gives participants a small preview of some of the many speakers they can see at Take Root 2018.

Presenters: Amanda Bennett, Nancy Cárdenas Peña, Shai Fenwick, Ireri Lora, Fajer Saeed Ebrahim, and Rebecca Wang
Emcee: Vivian Morris
Room: Forum Room

7:30 - 9:30 pm  Premiere of Red State Resistance: Reproductive Justice in the Red State of Oklahoma

The Reproductive Justice Campus Action Network has created a documentary that focuses on the reproductive rights of people living in Oklahoma. The goal of this documentary is to put a face to people whose bodily autonomy has been affected in Oklahoma. It will also give viewers an opportunity for people to have an open conversation about issues that are often overlooked and disregarded. This documentary gives viewers the chance to hear the experiences of people who live in the state of Oklahoma. We want to give a voice to the people who are affected by their reproductive rights being violated, or who do not know or understand what Reproductive Justice is. The RJ Campus Action Network is a Take Root collaborative housed at the University of Central Oklahoma’s Women’s Research Center and BGLTQ+ Student Center and is run entirely by students.

Presenters: Mikayla Fisher, Houston Payne, Ebone Smithers, and Mikhayla Westbrook
Room: Conference Room A
8:00 - 9:30 am  Registration & Breakfast
   Forum Hub

8:30 - 8:45 am  Welcome

8:45 - 9:30 am  Keynote Address: Rev. T. Sheri Dickerson

9:30 - 9:45 am  Announcements

10:00 - 11:15 am  Breakout Session Two: Panels

Holding the Pro-Life Movement Accountable
   No, they’re not nice people praying. The pro-life movement lies and uses harassment, terrorism, and violence. We’ll use a strategy session format to lead the group through thinking through new ways of holding opponents of reproductive justice accountable for lies they tell and harms they cause. We’ll brainstorm strategies and tactics for community actions participants might be interested in leading, supporting, or seeing. Workshop led by seasoned direct action organizers informed by opposition research.

Presenters:  Alison Dreith, Erin Matson, and Pamela Merritt
Room:    C2

Unpacking the Maternal Health Crisis: Black Women’s Reproductive Justice NOW!
   This panel will center on disparities in maternal health in the United States, with a focus on maternal mortality. The conversation will explore how structural racism, lack of access to care, lack of social supports, regional disparities, and poor nutrition impact health outcomes for pregnant women and their families, disproportionately affecting communities of color. The panel includes a diverse range of voices including perspectives from advocates, providers, and policy experts, with the discussion being centered in the lived experiences of Black women interacting with reproductive health systems in red states.

Presenters:  Dr. Joia Crear-Perry, Elizabeth Dawes Gay, Takeallah Rivera, and Kimberly Seals Allers
Room:    B5
2018 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 24, 2018

11:30 - 12:45pm Breakout Session Two: Panels Continued

Teen Access to Abortion: The Failure of Judicial Bypass
How can you help teens who are forced to get permission from a judge to have an abortion? This panel brings together experienced advocates from Missouri, Oklahoma, California, and Texas to discuss the harm of parental involvement for abortion laws, barriers to the process that surprise even experienced lawyers, and how to start a judicial bypass project to help teens navigate the courts – all while advocating for the end of parental involvement laws altogether.

Presenters: Amanda Bennett, Jessica Goldberg, Steph Kraft Sheley, Stephanie Loraine, and Blake Patton
Room: C4

Sex Workers and Reproductive Justice
Reproductive justice offers a critical paradigm shift from approaching and thinking about abortion that is also applicable to the sex trade. The dichotomy of victimhood/empowerment or legal/illegal is wholly insufficient for the complex lives of those in the sex trade, whether or not they are willing participants.

Presenters: Jade Day, Briq House, and Maggie Mayhem
Room: A3/5

10:00 - 11:15 am Breakout Session Two: Workshops

Funding the Movement: Strategies for Rapid Response and Reproductive Justice Funding for Red State Activists
If US philanthropic giving were $1, only $0.07 goes to women’s/girls’ issues. Even less goes to organizations that are grassroots, rural, and led by young people, women of color, indigenous women, and transgender or non-binary people, even though these are some communities most impacted by oppression. This workshop will provide an introduction to foundations, tips on funding and grants, and info about two rapid response funds for reproductive and gender justice activism.

Presenters: Zabrina Collazo, Naa Hammond, and Joy Messinger
Room: Conference Room A
Sisterhood and Motherhood Without Borders: Decolonizing Our Understanding of Sex and Dating, and Creating a Sense of Belonging Based on Our Lived Experiences

Whether dating individuals across or within cultures, borders, and/or races, womxn of color advocate to be loved and seen with dignity and respect free from violence and stigma. This workshop will be used to discuss how womxn of color organize authentic and organic spaces among each other in conservative “red” states to nourish our identities and explore decolonized ways of talking about sex and dating.

Presenters: Corrine Galvan Gutierrez, Kiman Kaur, and Liz Owens
Room: B1/3

Educate! Faith and Reproductive Justice: An Overview to Educating Clergy & Lay Leaders in Southern Christian Centers

The objectives of this session are to: 1.) provide the foundational meaning of reproductive justice, 2.) provide participants with an awareness of the relationships between RJ principles and practices, faith principles and practices, and historical examples, and 3.) with the use of scripture, history, & current events, help individuals craft conversations around RJ issues.

Presenters: Cherisse Scott
Room: B2/4

Fallout from Inaccessibility to Sex Education in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Population

With almost nonexistent research, the current challenge is lack of access to comprehensive sex education in Deaf/mainstreamed schools by American Sign Language, complicated with distrust between the Hearing world and the Deaf community. Developing an essential internationalist-based groundwork of accessible and comprehensive sex education can ensure Deaf community’s right to reproductive health on their terms.

Presenters: LeeAnn Valentine
Room: B6

11:30 - 12:45pm Breakout Session Three: Panels

Community Responses to Trauma: Alternatives to Engaging the Police

In July of 2017, President Donald Trump received applause as he endorsed police brutality while delivering a speech to law enforcement officers in Long Island, New York. With a constant increase of police presence and brutality, and many politicians pledging their allegiance to doubling down on crime, we must find creative and holistic solutions to addressing community needs of safety. We know that engaging police is antithetical to harm reduction and increases incidents of violence.

Presenters: Lakeesha Harris, Amanda Emily Smith, and Nia Weeks
Room: C4
Living Up to Our Values to Build a Healthier, More Sustainable Movement
The work to achieve reproductive justice is hampered by the way in which organizations, funders, and the movement as a whole do not live up to our values in the way that they perpetuate racism and other systems of oppression. From the lack of a living wage to the treatment of staff and volunteers, we must do more to ensure self-care, support and respect for individuals in order to cultivate a healthier, more sustainable movement.

Presenters: Amber Garcia, Lill Hewko, Morgan Meneses-Sheets, Anduwyn Williams, and Ash Williams
Room: B6

Birth Justice is Reproductive Justice
This panel will focus on birth justice, addressing interrelated issues of maternal mortality, the right to parent, and mass incarceration. Panelists will use a birth justice framework to discuss holistic care approaches for pregnant and birthing people, maternal mortality in the U.S., the civil child welfare system and more, highlighting the interconnectedness of issues that we tend to separate.

Presenters: Dr. Nikia Grayson, Kwajelyn Jackson, Jennie Joseph, Amber Khan, and Pamela Merritt
Room: Conference Room A

Reproductive Healthcare in the Prison System
If/When/How at TU Law and the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice have partnered to develop a body of legal and anecdotal research on reproductive healthcare in Oklahoma’s prison and jail system. As partners, they will present their findings and discuss the benefits and challenges of blending movement lawyering with grassroots activism in red states. The panel is ideal for anyone interested in the rights of incarcerated people and building coalitions between often siloed activist movements.

Presenters: Justice Andrews, Priya Desai, Kate Forest, D’Marria Monday, and Violet Rush
Room: B5

We Are Not Guaranteed Safety Here: How Immigration Status Impacts Sexual & Reproductive Health Decisions
Reproductive health and immigration are often discussed as mutually exclusive, though U.S. immigration policies overwhelmingly impact immigrant women and children and immigration status impacts every aspect of a person’s life, including their ability to obtain an abortion, access health care, and safely parent their child. This panel, featuring immigrant women, sheds light on how immigration is a reproductive justice issue.

Presenters: Ileri Lora, Alejandra Pablos Espriu, Layidua Salazar, and Tina Vasquez
Room: C2
Real Local Strategies for Red & Rural Areas
How do we build power in areas often ignored? How can we creatively recruit new people to the reproductive freedom movement? How do we talk about abortion unapologetically in a red state? This panel explores strategies employed in Alabama, Kansas, Ohio, and Texas to organize young leaders on issues like abortion access, sex education, and immigrant justice. We will also explore Local Reproductive Freedom Index, a resource and call to action for local leaders.

Presenters: Andi Duncan, Taylor Harrison, Danielle Hurd, Alainna Marincic, and Jenny Dodson Mistry
Room: C5

Breakout Session Three: Workshops

Break the Silence - End Sexual Violence: A Campaign for Community Advocacy and Safe Spaces for Immediate Response
With this campaign, we are breaking social norms by getting Native people to engage in dialogue around sex, rape, and trafficking. Hosting talking circles for Native women to share their stories led us to create a full campaign to break the silence and create safe zones for people to seek help. As one woman stated, “We know who the perpetrators are in our community. We need to let them know we are watching and helping.”

Presenters: Charon Asetoyer, Pam Kingfisher, and Maya Torralba
Room: A3/5

Queer/Trans Organizing for a New Generation
In this session, we will bring into thought the importance of intersectionality and working in collaboration with other communities with a critical lens on different styles of organizing.

Presenters: Ezra Morales
Room: B1/3

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community and Reproductive Justice: Access to Abortion
The Deaf community is often invisible in conversations about access to reproductive care, especially abortion. Factors include: distrust of professionals, limited information about reproductive healthcare, and provider’s ignorance of liabilities under ACA/ADA. Lack of research on language barriers is an issue, but abundant anecdotal evidence shows real disparities. Autonomy and equity is essential for a Deaf person pursuing aspects of reproductive justice. We will address Deaf eugenics, medical/cultural views, and language accessibility/barriers.

Presenters: Julie Dalbom, Dawn Moore, and Meg Sasse Stern
Room: B2/4
Lunch will be available in Hallway A, Hallway B, and Hallway C. All lunch stations will have the same food selection. You are welcome to take your food to unreserved session rooms, the Forum room, or outside. We are also offering a number of lunch caucuses so you can engage in even more RJ dialogue!

Conference Room A - Oklahoma Budget Crisis & RJ
Facilitated by Erin Taylor, Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council

Room A3/5 - Labor & RJ Caucus
Facilitated by Pamela Merritt, Reproaction

Room B1/3 - Gun Control & RJ Caucus
Facilitated by Moms Demand Gun Action

Room B2/4 - Closed Session with We Testify
This session is only open to those who have experienced an abortion. As people who have had abortions, we often experience shame and stigma from our communities, society, and even ourselves. In this closed session, we will be able to hold space with one another, learn about abortion stigma and how it impacts our experiences, and share our stories. This workshop seeks to create a space where we can explore how similar and different our experiences are, speak openly, and discuss other oppressions we face within our communities.

Breakout Session Four: Panels
Advancing a Proactive Vision That Centers Reproductive Justice Within the Progressive Movement in Red States
In 2017, the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice worked with state legislators to introduce legislation that would advance both reproductive and economic justice. Proactive agendas that center reproductive justice can help change the conversation and advance the movement even if the legislation does not pass. This panel will use Oklahoma as an example of how Red State advocates can control the conversation by pushing a proactive policy agenda that includes reproductive and economic justice.

Presenters: Priya Desai, Kelli Garcia, and Angela Steinle
Room: C2
Chain-Breaking: Creating Bipartisan Coalition Against Perinatal Shackling

Perinatal shackling is prevalent within corrections facilities across America, despite widespread condemnation. This panel will share prisoner experiences, and offer perspectives from medical and corrections groups opposed to this cruel practice. We will also explore ways to reach a conservative base to garner bi-partisan support for the recently proposed “Dignity Act,” which seeks to end the practice, as well as explore grassroots solutions for bringing oversight and accountability to prisons that violate anti-shackling laws.

Presenters: Rebecca Berry, Fajer Saeed Ebrahim, and Mica Williams
Room: C4

Advocacy Work for Abortion & Reproductive Health Providers

This presentation will explore the importance of having abortion and reproductive health providers at the advocacy coalition table. Providers contribute unique insight into the ways that proposed and existing legislation will impact services and clients, and can elevate the voices of those most impacted. Presenters will also explore ways to get involved, such as legislative advocacy and tracking, providing testimony for hearings, and stigma busting efforts.

Presenters: Courtney Chambers, Dr. Nikia Grayson, and Haley Kottler
Room: B6

SB 4 & Texas: Immigration is Reproductive Justice

Texas recently passed SB 4, a law that encourages police officers to act as de facto immigration agents and racially profile communities of color across the state. Join the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health as we discuss what SB 4 does to latinx communities, stories from the ground, the threat SB 4 imposes to people seeking reproductive healthcare, and how immigration IS Reproductive Justice. As we like to say, a migra, la policia, la misma porqueria!

Presenters: Nancy Cárdenas Peña, Samantha Herrera, and Paula Saldana
Room: Conference Room A

Don’t forget to share what you’re learning on social media with #takeroot18!
2018 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 24, 2018

2:15 - 3:30 pm  Breakout Session Four: Workshops

Sovereign Bodies: The Spiritual March of Environmental and Food Resource Justice
The discussion will focus on breaking down the barriers of repression through an appreciation of our natural environments and nutritional caretakers. We will specifically discuss the growth of the Pawnee Seed Preservation Project in the Lens of Community Development. The dialogue will encourage participants to explore their own family histories and patterns developed to illustrate where we stand in regards to access to healthy foods and opportunities for cultural engagement dialogue. How do we draw in decision-makers to a place of mutual understanding to create a culture of health? Inherent in this work is introspection on our relationship to our land and the strengths and struggles of our ancestors. Vital to this work is you!

Presenters:  Deb Echo-Hawk and Electa Hare-Redcorn
Room:  A3/5

Speaking Race to Vision
We must be rooted in vision in order to meet the political moment. When we center creativity and our vision for love, sex, family, and community, we resist white supremacy. Our session will help participants learn new practices for unleashing creativity and vision. Participants will discover new tools and find co-conspirators with whom they can build expansive and proactive visions for the future.

Presenters:  Issachar Curbeon, Layidua Salazar, and Nik Zaleski
Room:  B1/3

Queering Reproductive Justice
Bodily autonomy and sexual freedom are central tenets in both LGBTQ and reproductive justice movements. So why do these movements so often operate outside of each other? Candace Bond-Theirault from the National LGBTQ Task Force will discuss ways to “queer RJ” to make a more inclusive and effective movement.

Presenters:  Candace Bond-Theirault
Room:  B2/4

Engaging Youth & Young Adults in RJ Advocacy
Youth and young adults are often affected in more ways than one in all Reproductive Justice issues. These voices are often silenced or overlooked when it comes to advocacy and should be very involved. These voices hold lived experience and just as much power. This presentation will help foster a positive and inclusive advocacy strategy.

Presenters:  Jakiera Stewart
Room:  B5
3:45 - 5:00 pm  Breakout Session Five: Panels

**Increasing Racial Literacy in the Community**
A community-based volunteer attempt to resist the bizarre effects of a cultural master narrative that speaks out of both sides of its mouth, saying “liberty and justice for all” on one side and simultaneously saying “it’s better to be white” on the other. This is confusing, distressing and destructive. This racial literacy group attempts to counter that contradictory narrative and increase an accurate comprehension of U.S. history and cultural workings. Good luck to us.

Presenters: Kami Day, Jessica Givens, and Glenn Lane
Room: C2

**Bold New Ways Rural State Leaders Are Expanding Contraception Access**
Access to birth control allows people to have more control over their bodies and decisions about when and if to have children. But too many barriers including cost and the need for a doctor’s prescription make it hard for many to obtain birth control when they want it. Rural state leaders are pushing forward innovative policies and service delivery models that break down barriers, expand contraceptive options, and ensure freedom from coercion.

Presenters: Charon Asetoyer, Mary Durden, Naomie Germain, and Keioshiah Peter
Room: B5

**Birth Justice for Trans Folx**
Three local professionals come together to discuss the inadequacies of mainstream reproductive services in supporting transgender folx through the journeys of conception, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and lactation. Together participants will explore the disparities that exist and how to begin tackling transphobia in birthing communities.

Presenters: Michelle Gilley, Jes La Bleu, and Liz Langthorn
Room: A3/5

**Punishment Is Not The Answer: Using Numerous Strategies Across Multiple Movements to Protect & Advance Human Rights and Dignity**
When we think of punishment, we almost always focus on criminalization. This panel will address criminalization as a mechanism of punishment of pregnant people, but will also discuss other punitive approaches that get less attention, including the misuse of the civil child welfare and medical systems. This panel will discuss intersectional issues that we tend to separate (ex: punishment because of pregnancy, HIV status or drug possession), and positive strategies to counter punitive approaches.

Presenters: Casey Shehi Browning, Alexandra Chambers, Kenliissia Jones, Samantha Master, Lynn Paltrow, and Nia Weeks
Room: Conference Room A
2018 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 24, 2018

3:45 - 5:00 pm  Breakout Session Five: Panels Continued

The WHAT Slipped Off?!: The Truth About Reproductive Coercion
Reproductive coercion is something that women are experiencing younger than ever, and it's something that we rarely talk about at all. In this workshop, we will address what reproductive coercion is, ways to prevent it from occurring within our communities, and arm individuals with the tools necessary to have open, authentic, and necessary conversations around a woman's right to bodily autonomy and her reproductive choices.

Presenters:  Karo Chowning, Maria Mancebo, Mackenzie Masilon, Vanessa Morrison, and Kylie Shelley
Room:  C5

3:45 - 5:00 pm  Breakout Session Five: Workshops

Supporting Abortion Storytellers Through Love & Ethical Storytelling
Abortion story sharing is increasingly dominating the media as a tool for connection, culture shift, policy change, and fighting abortion stigma. In this workshop, participants will hear from abortion storytellers in the National Network of Abortion Funds’ abortion storyteller leadership program, We Testify. Presenters will share their experiences with inserting race, economic status, gender and intersectional analysis into stories, and gain an understanding in how they can support storytellers to have an ethical, safe, empowered sharing experience.

Presenters:  Aimee Arrambide, Kelsea McLain, and Zoraima Pelaez
Room:  C4

Doing Reproductive Justice Work with Muslim Communities
A workshop focused on the need and ways to conduct reproductive justice work with Muslim communities. We’ll address questions like How to engage Muslim communities if I’m not Muslim myself? How to engage Muslim communities if my organization has not historically done so? Is it possible to do reproductive justice work with Muslims (e.g. what if folks oppose abortion)? How do we do reproductive justice work with Muslim communities in a responsible and culturally sensitive way?

Presenters:  Carly Calhoun, Fajer Saeed Ebrahim, and Rebecca Wang
Room:  B2/4
2018 Conference Schedule
Saturday, February 24, 2018

Radical Leisure As Feminist Resistance
Have you experienced burn out? Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed? It’s time to detox and recharge. This workshop will increase your level of understanding as it relates to self-maintenance and remind you that you are the most important tool in this body of work. So come and participate in the workshop so that we can see what’s in your toolbox that is essential to self-care, and what impedes it.
Presenters:  Candace Bond-Theirault
Room:  B1/3

Walking With Our Ancestors: Intersections of Reproductive Justice in Native American Communities
Centuries of Indian Policies have dominated our way of life as Native Americans. These policies have transformed our lands and our homes. This presentation will examine the intersections of settler colonialism, health policies, gender, sexism, and the impacts they have had on Native American’s reproductive choices and options.
Presenters:  Nicolle Gonzalez and Apollonia Peña
Room:  B6

5:15 - 6:30 pm  Closing:  Ezra Morales

Awards:
Carol Mason Award: Rosann Mariappuram
Staying Rooted Award: Senator Connie Johnson
Spreading Your Roots Award: Sandra Criswell

Room:  Forum Room

#takeroot18
Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room is a quiet place for conference participants to go if they need to take a break from the conference activities. The room will have snacks and art supplies. The Hospitality Room is in Room A1.

Bathrooms & Elevators

We recognize the need for every person to have access to facilities that are safe for personal needs. All of the bathrooms in the Thurman J. White Building, either with or without urinals, will be designated as gender neutral all day Friday and Saturday. Additionally, there are two single-stall family restrooms available for any person to use in McCarter Hall. There will also be restrooms with and without urinals designated as gender neutral in the CCE Administrative Building after 5:00pm on Friday. Directions to these restrooms are shown on the last page of your program, and we encourage you to ask one of the volunteers or conference organizers for any help you may need locating them.

There is one elevator on the east side of the Thurman J. White Forum Building near the main entrances. This elevator will take participants to the second floor of the Forum, where the opening plenary, keynote, and closing session will take place. We will maintain clear pathways for those who use wheelchairs and other access devices, and we will have designated accessible seating in conference spaces.
conference activities

What Keeps You Rooted?

We take root in reproductive justice issues

#blacklivesmatter #reprojustice #metoo

We stay rooted as the years go by

#speakyourtruth #blackmamasmatter #dreamers

We spread roots to share our passions with our communities

#translivesmatter #shoutyourabortion #feminist

What keeps you rooted?

Visit the center hub by Hallway A to share what keeps you rooted.

Exhibit Tables

Conference sponsors and other organizations have exhibit tables in Rooms A2/4/6. Make sure to stop by in between sessions and during meals!

Women Under Siege: It’s Happening Right Here is a collection of artist responses to stories of women having their physical autonomy taken from them, and of a criminal justice system that does not take into account the realities of domestic abuse and its impact over time. Many stories are of women forced to undergo unwanted and unwarranted medical procedures, confined against their will to hospitals, or imprisoned for having miscarriages or using substances while pregnant. These injustices are perpetrated under the guise of fetal protection. Both across the country and right here at home, women are being punished for the outcomes of their pregnancies, and survivors of domestic abuse are being punished for protecting (or being unable to protect) their families. This system suggests the life of the fetus is more important than the life and well-being of the mother.

These artists, through visual means, tell the stories of these women so we as the audience can bear witness to the injustices as we attempt to take a step forward in the struggle for gender equity and for fair treatment under the law.

Check out this exhibit in Hallway B!
Rev. T. Sheri Dickerson is a Native of Oklahoma. She is the tree trunk advocate to her two amazing branches, Epiphany & Isaiah Dickerson, but they just refer to her as “Mama.” Rev. Dickerson is the founder and Executive Director of Black Lives Matter Oklahoma and President of the OKC BLM chapter. She serves on the board of directors for several civic and community advocacy organizations, including the OKC MLK Coalition, OKC PRIDE, The Diversity Center of OK, the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice, and the OKC chapter of NOW. She’s a certified holistic Doula and midwife, and part of the collaborative, Birth Workers for Women of Color. She’s a published poet, and has traveled abroad performing her original works and afro-latina narratives. Sheri is an extension of her village of powerful Women mentors and activist Icons. She sat under the direct tutelage of the late Dr. Maya Angelou and the legendary Clara Luper. She serves on the Social Justice committee at Church of the Open Arms. Her passions include activism against all forms of injustice, mentoring and learning from her bonus children of activism, community organizing, spending time learning and listening to her favorite Queens: Granny & Meemaw, and all things Purple. LOVE is Sheri’s foundational core, and daily mission.

Ezra Morales is a queer, trans, gender non-conforming youth activist hailing from the great state of Texas. His work in activism started his freshmen year in high school through his work with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and has since expanded on both the national and local level by working with organizations such as TSER, Take My Hand Texas and Out Youth. Ezra is completing eir senior year of high school and ey hope to become a professor of gender and sexuality studies post-graduation. Ezra also has a great deal of experience in public speaking, workshop facilitation, and PR through working with his school’s newspaper and participating in both local and national conferences such as SXSWedu and Creating Change.

For a complete list of speaker bios, visit our website at Take-Root.org.
meet our award winners

The Carol Mason Student Activism Award

Every year we recognize a student activist who is vital to the reproductive justice movement, a student who contributes to their community, provides leadership, and inspires others through their work in reproductive justice. The Carol Mason Student Activism Award recognizes individuals that lead by example and inspire us with their ingenuity.

The Take Root Steering Committee is proud to present the 2017 Carol Mason Student Activism Award to Rosann Mariappuram. Rosann is deeply committed to intersectional reproductive justice work. Currently in her third year of law school, Rosann has demonstrated her dedication to serving the populations most affected by reproductive oppression through her work with Lilith Fund, Jane’s Due Process, an immigration law clinic, the INCLUDE Clinic for differently abled people, the Civil Rights Clinic, NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, and Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

The Spreading Roots Award

When you are an activist working for social, gender, and/or reproductive justice, you may find that some places are more hospitable than others. Many activists leave their home states for other pastures, or for opportunity—there are an endless host of reasons. Nevertheless, the struggle for things like access to reproductive, social, and gender justice continues no matter where you are. The Spreading Roots Award recognizes a red state activist who, though residing outside of their home state, has remained rooted in the community from which they came through their continued work for social, gender, and reproductive justice.

The Take Root Steering Committee is proud to present the 2017 Spreading Roots Award to Sandra Criswell. A recipient of the URGE Generations Leadership Award, Sandra’s past reproductive health, rights and justice work includes communications, organizing, facilitation, and leadership development for Oklahomans for Reproductive Justice (OK4RJ), Provide, Trust Women and Take Root, as well as currently serving on the board of directors for All-Options. Based in Oklahoma for 15 years, Sandra has recently returned to her childhood home of California, where she lives and works in Oakland, cooking and serving dreamy outdoor dinners to her loved ones, and training to be a pilipinx matriarch.

The Staying Rooted Award

For activists working in red states, the battles can be fierce, the attacks on individual rights are constant, and at times our victories are few and far between. Yet, we push on because we love the people and we believe that our activism makes a difference. The Staying Rooted Award recognizes a red state activist who has remained in their community and continues to fight for social, gender, and reproductive justice.

The Take Root Steering Committee is proud to present the 2017 Staying Rooted Award to Senator Connie Johnson. Senator Johnson recently retired after serving thirty-three years in the State Senate, representing Oklahoma City’s predominantly African American “Eastside,” where her focus on health, mental health and human services issues that disproportionately affect the economic and social well-being of the poor, minorities, women, children, and people with disabilities was game-changing. Johnson made Oklahoma history as the first woman and African American to win the US Senate nomination of any major political party. Her legislative efforts and reproductive health rights advocacy helped lead to the defeat of Oklahoma’s “Personhood” Bill in 2012.
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. 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. Please avoid using racist, sexist, cissexist, homophobic, classist, ableist (“lame,” “crazy,” and “ret*ded”), and other offensive 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 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 other jokes that make light of the danger that people in IPV situations face (“I ran into a door”). 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 reproductive justice. Often, that means many of us will need to prioritize listening.

Additionally we encourage participants to welcome those who are new to RJ spaces and are trying to learn. **It is important to make room for mistakes and accountability, and “calling people in” is a more compassionate way of holding folks accountable.** This is first and foremost a learning environment, and we want all of our participants to feel like they can contribute and be a part of that.

Everyone should be aware conference photographers will be taking pictures throughout the weekend. Photographers will have identifying nametags. If you do not want your photo used in Take Root promotional materials, please check in at the Registration desk.

**Live-streaming or filming sessions is not allowed unless explicitly agreed to by all session presenters.** Members of the press are required to check in at the registration desk and request a press pass. Press passes should be displayed at all times. Members of the press should ask permission before interviewing or recording any participants. Participants should note that they are not required to speak to members of the press.

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 these events 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.
The Center for Social Justice is an initiative of the Women’s Studies Department 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 that 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 Activist-in-Residence Program, Graduate Student Research Fellows, the annual Take Root Conference, and other social justice events.

OU Center for Social Justice
731 Elm, Robertson 101
Norman, OK 73019
Phone: 405.325.5787
Email: Center.for.Social.Justice@ou.edu | Web: csj.ou.edu
Congratulations to the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at The University of Oklahoma on the occasion of the 8th annual Take Root: Red State Perspectives on Reproductive Justice Conference

Come to NAPW’s sessions!

Saturday, Feb 24, 11:30am - 12:45pm
Panel: Birth Justice is Reproductive Justice

Saturday, Feb 24, 3:45 - 5:00pm
Panel: Punishment Is Not The Answer: Using Numerous Strategies Across Multiple Movements to Protect and Advance Human Rights and Dignity

National Advocates for Pregnant Women
a proud supporter of Take Root since 2011

875 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1807 | New York, New York 10001 | 212-255-9252
Follow us on: Facebook @NationalAdvocatesforPregnantWomen & Twitter @NAPW
www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org
Health and social service providers serve as a critical link to helping women obtain quality, compassionate care for a range of needs, including reproductive healthcare.

Provide is a nonprofit that works in partnership with health and social service providers to build a health system that cares for the whole person, meets needs with dignity and respect, and where workers have the tools and support to offer the best care to their clients. We offer professional development training, including free CEUs, on non-directive pregnancy options counseling and how to give accurate, informed, and non-judgmental referrals for unintended pregnancy and abortion care.

We'll equip you with the tools necessary to better and more quickly navigate these complex discussions, resulting in the provision of higher quality client-centered care.

Learn more at www.ProvideCare.org.

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!

Free the Pill

Your source for the latest information on making a birth control pill available over the counter

www.freethepill.org

The National Institute is proud to support our partners in red states.

@nirhealth www.nirhealth.org

Free the Pill is operated by Boi Reproductive Health, a private nonprofit organization.
Notes
whether you tweet, facebook, blog, 'gram, snap or post pictures
Use our #hashtag!

#takeroot18

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

Tell us about your Take Root 2018 experience. Complete our online survey at:
tinyurl.com/TakeRoot2018