

CFP: Online communities and transformative justice

March 30, 2021 // 12:00-1:30 p.m.

What role do online communities play in fostering transformative justice? In what ways do these communities work with and against institutions in dismantling racism and white supremacy at the classroom, programmatic, and institutional levels?

The Humanities Commons network, of which MSU Commons is a part, is a free and open online community with an expanding reach. With over 25,000 members, Humanities Commons has become a visible place for members to share their scholarly work and connect with one another regardless of field, language, institutional affiliation, or form of employment. In the spirit of these values of openness, equity, and access, the Commons invites panelists to deliver short lightning talks of 5-7 minutes that meditate on the role online communities play in fostering anti-racist praxis, transformative justice, and/or ethical community engagement.

The panel discussion will be followed by a short keynote delivered by Jan Miyake. Dr. Miyake is an Associate Professor of Music Theory at Oberlin College and is one of the founding members of the Composers of Color Resource Project (<https://composersofcolor.hcommons.org/>), an expansive, collaborative project devoted to recovering and teaching the works of historically overlooked composers of color.

This event began as an idea for an Anti-Racist CORE Deposit Party, a concerted effort to highlight the anti-racist research and pedagogy of Commons members, but has grown into a chance to have a larger conversation on the potential that exists for online communities to be co-conspirators in anti-racist praxis, transformative justice, and ethical community engagement--in other words, to talk about why and how such an event can contribute to these efforts, what barriers remain, etc.

During the Q&A period, meeting attendees will be invited to deposit work of their own into CORE. Commons Open Repository Exchange, or CORE, is a library-quality, noncommercial repository that provides members with a permanent, open access storage facility for sharing, discovering, retrieving, and archiving scholarly output. CORE supports a network of scholars seeking to expose their work to a wider community, encourage peer feedback, assert authorship over unpublished or nontraditional forms of scholarly communication, including teaching materials and conference materials, and more. It is our hope that, in creating an opportunity for scholars to add materials specifically around anti-racism and transformative justice to CORE, we can leverage the capacities of the Commons to bring visibility to pedagogical, theoretical, and programmatic work in these crucial areas.

Some of the questions panelists might discuss include:

- How can we use digital spaces as mechanisms for catalyzing grassroots transformative justice efforts?

- What challenges arise in online spaces where members seek to engage issues of transformative justice within their communities? How do issues of access and sustainability play a role?
- What role can and do online communities play in dismantling anti-Black racism and white supremacy that persist in visible and covert ways within institutions?
- In what ways can online communities better or differently represent community needs than the institution?

Please submit abstracts of no more than 200 words by March 8th to this Google form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSet6nv-SaOAMvzCgFaPwrVNWTuSKv53VUjik-JAIKmgz_oUNg/viewform?usp=sf_link

You will be notified of the status of your abstract no later than March 12th.