Welcome to the Canvas Summer Academy

Activism and nonviolent movements in post-pandemic world, future and perspectives

July 28th – August 7th 2020

We invite you to join us in our online summer academy from July 28th to August 7th 2020. The program will explore “Activism and nonviolent movements in the current world,” incorporating perspectives from various movements to help prepare you for the unpredictable, post-pandemic future.

The program involves four interactive online sessions over two weeks that will not only position you within the global context of nonviolent activism and movements during the pandemic, but also equip you with the knowledge to tackle the future. Classes will be hosted by activists and co-founders of Canvas Srdja Popovic and Slobodan Djinovic, with world-class presenters from Bolivia, Sudan, Georgia, the United States, the Philippines, Malaysia, Zimbabwe and Uganda who will share expertise gained from their vast experience.

We hope that you choose to join us this summer.

Sincerely,
The Canvas Team
SESSION I:
INTRODUCTION TO NONVIOLENT MOVEMENTS:
WHAT HAS CHANGED IN 2020?

Tuesday July 28, 2020 / 10 AM EDT, 4 PM CEST, 10PM HKT

Overview

We are witnessing the rise of global protests in a time where, according to studies, global democracy and human rights are under serious threat. What are the principles of successful nonviolent movements? What are the main reasons why they fail? What are the most interesting ‘movement hot-spots’ on the planet? Let’s analyse these questions, discussing and learning from renowned activists from three very dynamic and different conflict areas: Sudan, Bolivia and Zimbabwe.

Host:
SRDJA POPOVIC,
Executive Director, CANVAS

Guest speakers:

JHANISSE VACA-DAZA, Bolivia
Co-founder of Ríos de Pie (‘Standing Rivers’) find more here

RANIA AZIZ, Sudan - Sudanese Professional Association (SPA) find more here

KHUMBULANI MAPHOSA, Zimbabwe
Senior Advisor at Matabeleland Institute for Human Right and activist find more here

Pre-reading to optimize learning:

“Protests and Principles” by Srdja Popovic

Videos:

Bringing Down a Dictator, Steve York (2002) Entire Film

CANVAS Animated Video – Vision of Tomorrow, Unity

Dereck Sivers, TED talk, “How To Start a Movement”


‘I Have a Dream’, Martin Luther King

Additional materials:


“The ‘3.5% Rule’: How a Small Minority Can Change the World - BBC Future.”

“The Success of Nonviolent Civil Resistance | ICNC.”
SESSION II:
ACTIVISM DURING A PANDEMIC

Friday July 31st, 2020 10 AM EDT, 4 PM CEST, 10PM HKT

Overview

Every day, it seems a new brush stroke is added to the dystopian picture we call 2020. The coronavirus pandemic environment has and is disrupting civil society globally. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace’s recent report outlines how lockdowns and physical distancing measures are confining people to their homes and upending their ability to meet, organize, and advocate. Social distancing measures effectively disabled some of the most popular forms of protests (rallies, marches, etc), and wherever you speak to human rights and democracy defenders you will hear that “it is so difficult to engage people in talk and action about democracy and human rights as everybody talks only about the pandemic and economic disaster.”

But, despite depressing conditions there are growing signs that movements are increasingly adapting to new circumstances. From Hong Kong to Bolivia, from Philippines to Uganda, activists and peacebuilders are confronting the need to innovate tactically and adapt their strategies amid national lockdown orders, social distancing, and other measures intended to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

How do you adapt a movement to the ever-changing environment in which you operate? What will be the long-term impact of the pandemic on how we engage activism and protests. Meet our brave and innovative activists that have recognized that every crisis is an opportunity, and have found creative ways to build their organizations and reputation during the time of the pandemic.

Host:
SRDJA POPOVIC,
Executive Director, CANVAS

Guest speakers:
JEM GARCIA, Philippines
Scarecrow Campaign manager, find more about the case here

SYED MOHAMMAD ALSHATRY, Malaysia
find more about the case here

CECILIA LERO, Brasil
PhD Political Science, find more about the case here and here

Pre-reading to optimize learning:
United States Institute of Peace. “People Power in a Pandemic.”


Videos:
Oren Liebermann and Michael Schwartz. “Photos Show Israelis Protesting against Netanyahu, Two Meters Apart.” CNN.
SESSION III:
ANTI-RACIST PROTESTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR GLOBAL IMPACT: ACHIEVING POLICE REFORM

Tuesday August 4, 2020. 10 AM EDT, 4 PM CEST, 10PM HKT

Overview

A video of a policeman kneeling on the neck of a 42-year-old African-American man, until he stopped breathing, and then some, went viral. George Floyd, whose name will forever be ingrained in protest history, died in Minneapolis on May 26th. And then, the world went upside down. Within just a week we have seen mass protests, mostly nonviolent, shaking over 80 US cities, and many capitals worldwide in an attempt to condemn these acts, calling for an end to police brutality and racial inequality that this cruel killing inevitably symbolizes.

Host:
SLOBODAN DJINOVIC
CANVAS founder and Chairman

Guest speakers:
WILLIAM DOBSON, NED, NPR
One more activist from BLM
ANDRE HENRY
Musician, writer, activists
PASTOR EDDIE ANDRESON

Pre-reading to optimize learning:
Ransby, Barbara.
Rickford, Russell.

Videos:
Ted talk by Sam Sinyangwe that goes into the Campaign Zero research and their technological methods to mobilize people across the US
“VIRAL VIDEO: Thousands of Denver Protesters Face Down on Ground Chanting ‘I Can’t Breathe.’”

Additional Resources:
The 1619 Project podcast
SESSION IV:
CREATIVE ACTIVISM, DILEMMA ACTIONS, AND THE USE OF HUMOUR – HILARIOUSLY GROUNDBREAKING TACTICS

Friday August 7, 2020. 10 AM EDT, 4 PM CEST, 10PM HKT

Overview

Sophia McLennen and Srdja Popovic will be discussing the use of creative activism and dilemma actions, presenting for the first time the results of our recent research that looks at more than 45 cases of dilemma actions that nonviolent movements have used worldwide in the last century. How do dilemma actions break fear, encourage participation, increase numbers and put movements’ opponents between a rock and a hard place? Join us for a session with research leaders Sophia McLennen of Pennsylvania State University and Srdja Popovic Executive Director of CANVAS.

Guest speakers:

SOPHIA MCLENNEN, Penn State University
GIORGIE MELADZE, Georgia

Host:

SRDJA POPOVIC,
Executive Director, CANVAS

Pre-reading to optimize learning:

Srdja Popovic, TEDx
Tina Rosenberg’s lecture about her book entitled Join the Club: How Peer Pressure Can Change the World

CANVAS Animated video - Laughtivism
“The Secret of Political Jiu-Jitsu – Foreign Policy.”

Joksic, Srdja Popovic, Mladen.
“Why Dictators Don’t Like Jokes.” Foreign Policy (blog).

Popovic, Srđa.
LOGISTICS AND HOUSEKEEPING RULES

CANVAS Summer Academy will use Zoom for all four sessions.

IF JOINING FROM A MOBILE DEVICE

If you are joining from a mobile device (Android smartphone/tablet, Apple iPhone/iPad) then it will simply prompt you to download the Zoom Cloud Meetings app from the App/Play Store.

IF JOINING FROM A COMPUTER

When entering a Zoom meeting for the first time from a computer you will need to download a small application file. This process is easy to complete on all commonly used browsers.

1. Google Chrome should automatically download the file and point to it as shown above. Clicking on the Zoom_launcher.exe file will install Zoom, there will be a short pause before a blue progress bar appears indicating the installation.
2. If an ‘Application Launcher’ or ‘External Protocol Request’ box appears simply tick the ‘Remember my choice...’ option box and then click ‘OK’
3. Just before entering the meeting you will be prompted to enter a display name. This name is simply to identify you in the meeting and is not connected to your account.
4. Remember you can stay anonymous through the whole course

JOINING AUDIO VIA A COMPUTER

You will then be prompted how you wish to join your audio. If you wish to join audio via the telephone, follow the instructions further down, otherwise simply select Join Computer by Audio (TIP: by ticking the “Automatically join audio by computer...“ option box first, will mean you won’t get prompted again in the future)

How do you join?

Before each session you will be sent an email with the meeting information such as the date, time and name of the session. The same link will also be posted the day before each session on all of CANVAS’ social media platforms:

To access the session, click on the Zoom link (it will look something like this: https://otago.zoom.us/j/123456789)
JOIN VIA TELEPHONE

If you are unable to join from Zoom on a computer or mobile device, then you can join on a telephone instead.

If you would like to attend a Zoom meeting via telephone within NZ please call the NZ number (check this link for up to date numbers https://zoom.us/zoomconference).

Please note calls will be charged at standard national rates.

There are also many "local" dial-in numbers from many international locations. You can find more details on these here.

JOIN VIA COMPUTER & AUDIO VIA TELEPHONE

It is possible to use a combination of computer for video and phone for audio.

If you use this option, then enter by computer first and select the Join By Phone tab when the audio pop-up window appears (see example below). This will display the NZ dial in number for you (or you can change it to display one of the many other countries which have a "local" dial in number by clicking on the flag icon), as well as the Meeting ID to enter and your Participant ID.

Dial in as noted above, however after entering the Meeting ID, you will be prompted to enter your Participant ID. Simply enter this number followed by # and your video and audio will then be synchronized.

AUDIO AND VIDEO

When joining the class all participants will have their cameras turned off and their audio muted. This is requested from all the participants for two reasons, safety and some of the participants might have problems with bandwidth. If your mic and camera are not automatically turned off simply click on the camera icon at the bottom of the Zoom window.

RAISING YOUR HAND

As the non-speaker if you wish to ask a question or make a point during a meeting it is good protocol to use the ‘Raise Hand’ functionality.

If the tool bar is not showing at the bottom of the Zoom window, place your cursor over the Zoom window so it appears and select the ‘Participants’ icon.

A window listing other participants will appear, there is also a ‘Raise Hand’ icon, click the icon to make it known to the Host that you would like to raise your hand.

If you wish to lower your hand, click the ‘Lower hand' icon that will have replaced the ‘Raise hand’ icon.

USING CHAT

You can use the ‘Chat’ facility to send text chat to all participants or privately to specific participants.

Click on the ‘Chat’ icon in the toolbar, again hover your mouse over the Zoom window if you can’t see the toolbar.

A chat window will then open. Select ‘Everyone’ or the name of the person you wish to send a chat message to.