Dialoging for **Democracy**: Youth **Moral Reasoning** and **Social Justice**

**Youth-Nex 7th Conference**

#YouthAct19

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Youth-Nex research is supported by a grant from Philip Morris USA, an Altria Company. We gratefully acknowledge this important support. The work of Youth-Nex is solely determined by itself and Youth-Nex does not represent the official views of the sponsor.

We are grateful to T&N Printing for their conference support and printing services.

This event will be audio/video recorded for posting on the Youth-Nex website and covered by news media. Video will be posted on the Youth-Nex website (via YouTube) after the event. Photos may appear in Youth-Nex publications. Participation assumes acknowledgement of this.

Visit us online at: curry.virginia.edu/youth-nex
The Unite the Right White Nationalist march that took place in Charlottesville on August 11 and 12th 2017 demonstrated the resiliency and inherent violence of White supremacy. In the time since, this nation has continued to see a rise in hate crimes directed at different, often marginalized, communities within the United States. These events run parallel to larger conversations about justice and human welfare happening both in the U.S. and abroad. From immigration to global warming, people are grappling with what solutions to these problems should look like. While these issues and subsequent conversations are often viewed as “best left to the adults,” events like March for Our Lives, the Global Climate Strike, and A Day Without Immigrants demonstrate the vested interest today's youth have in these and other moral issues and the health of our overall democracy. We wholeheartedly support these efforts. Further, we believe that, rather than overlooking the concerns of youth, our educational and policy systems should center youth in the process of understanding complex problems by paying attention to how youth think about these issues and how adults can support youth’s engagement in creating solutions to them. We realize, however, that there are key questions we must consider as we seek to support and collaborate with youth.

First, how does youth’s thinking about complex moral and social issues shift as they grow and change? What does the science of child and adolescent development tell us about how to best scaffold youth’s engagement with moral issues and how do we then engage civic engagement among youth? Second, what is the role of dialogue in this process? What are best practices for engaging youth in moral issues? Finally, how do we engage youth in moral issues in our current social and political climate? In particular, how do we do this work within K-13 spaces, both formal and informal educational settings?

To begin answering these questions, this year’s conference on moral reasoning, dialogue, and democracy looks closely at the developmental processes related to how youth think about moral issues, the power (and constraints) of dialogue, and the relationship of both of these constructs to democracy.

This conference will engage researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and young people to talk about these concerns. Importantly and intentionally, we are keeping the structural issues youth face at the forefront of the conversation. There must be an understanding of macro-level forces, like systemic racism, that dictate the effectiveness and expression of individual agency. Therefore, we will discuss how implicit and explicit issues of power cannot be divorced from the types of dialogue in which youth can engage. We will unpack the developmental process related to moral reasoning, empathy, civic engagement, and perspective taking. Finally, we will provide examples of best practices of how to do this work in a range of spaces from classrooms to camps.

We are so very excited that you have chosen to join us for this two day event. We look forward to the unique perspective you will bring to the conversation and encourage you to share your thoughts and feelings over the next two days. While we may not leave this conference with all the answers, it is our hope that through our diverse panels and rich dialogue we will inspire new ideas, questions, and collaborations. We hope we will all leave the conference ready to return to our own spaces better equipped to amplify youth’s engagement with moral issues and social justice in ways that further their existing capacity as today’s change makers, and the future leaders of our democracy.

Conference Chairs,

Johari Harris, Ph.D. with Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D. 
Post-Doctoral Associate Professor, Youth-Nex Director
**Day One**

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

*Alumni Hall, University of Virginia*

Each panelist will speak for 12-15 minutes. Audience discussion will follow each panel. To participate in the conversation, please raise your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – **Registration & Light Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. – **Welcome**

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – **Panel 1**
This panel will discuss the contemporary imperative for connecting moral reasoning, dialogue, and democracy.

**Moderator:** Noelle Hurd, Ph.D. (*University of Virginia*)

Nicholas Burbules, Ph.D. (*University of Illinois*)

Gabriel Velez, Ph.D. (*Marquette University*)

Shawn Brown (*Teen Empowerment*)

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – **Youth Presentation 1**

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – **Break**

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. – **Panel 2**
This panel will discuss what is moral reasoning and how is it related to social justice.

**Moderator:** Johari Harris, Ph.D. (*University of Virginia*)

Larry Nucci, Ph.D (*University of California Berkeley*)

Aaron Metzger, Ph.D. (*West Virginia University*)

Gustavo Carlo, Ph.D. (*University of Missouri*)

Janie Ward, Ph.D. (*Simmons College*)

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. – **Panel 3**
This panel will discuss intersectionality, moral reasoning and social justice.

**Moderator:** Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D. (*University of Virginia*)

Onnie Rodgers, Ph.D. (*Northwestern University*)

Stacey Horn, Ph.D. (*University of Illinois Chicago*)

Emma Yackso (*Side by Side Youth Leadership Council*)

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – **Youth Presentation 2**

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. – **Break & Snack**
3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – PANEL 4
This panel will discuss constructive dialogue and disagreement in “value neutral” youth spaces to understand the contemporary landscape.

Moderator: Derrick Alridge, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Joyce King, Ph.D. (Georgia State University)
Steve Becton (Facing History & Ourselves)
Steve Whitaker, Ph.D. (Jack Jouett Middle School)
Uche Chima (University of Virginia)

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. – YOUTH PRESENTATION 3
In this presentation Joshua St. Hill shares ‘A King’s Story.”

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – CLOSING & CALL TO ACTION

Speaker biographies can be found online: https://curry.virginia.edu/youth-nex-conference-2019-agenda

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DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019

Alumni Hall, University of Virginia

Each panelist will speak for 12-15 minutes. Audience discussion will follow each panel. To participate in the conversation, please raise your hand and a microphone will be brought to you.

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. – REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. – WELCOME

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – PANEL 5
This panel will discuss the generative discourse in classrooms and youth organizations. How do we deal with moral issues in spaces where morality is a third rail? What does best practice look like?

Moderator: Dаниель Fairley (City of Charlottesville)
Rob Jagers, Ph.D. (CASEL)
Robyn Lineo (Mikva Challenge)
Maya Branch (Alumni from Mikva Challenge)
Zachary Bell (Camp Common Ground)

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. – YOUTH PRESENTATION 4
In this presentation the Charlottesville Alliance for Black Male Achievement will show a film screening, ‘A Different Side.’

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. – PANEL 6
This panel will discuss positive youth development for democracy, looking back while moving forward.

Moderator: Joanna Lee Williams, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Derrick Alridge, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Melody Barnes, Ph.D. (University of Virginia, and former assistant to President Obama & director of the White House Domestic Policy Council)
Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)
Patrick Tolan, Ph.D. (University of Virginia)

12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. – YOUTH ARTISTIC PRESENTATION 5
In this presentation, Josue Sarmiento, Haisell Franco, and Sofhia Pineda present ‘Nosotros,’ a film from Latinx students at Albemarle High School.

12:30 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. – CALL TO ACTION & CLOSING

SOCIAL MEDIA
Use our event hashtag: #YouthAct19

Twitter: @Youth_Nex    YouTube: @YouthNex    Facebook: @UVACurry    Instagram: @UVACurry

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