A year ago, we had no idea our town would become a focal point in the battle for racial justice.

We had no idea that our campus would be the ground where young people took a stand against White Supremacists and Nazi's.

We had no idea that Charlottesville would become a hashtag.

Beyond that hashtag is a tale of two youths.

On the one hand, #Charlottesville is the powerful tale of a group of young people coming together to fight racism, bigotry, White Supremacy, and hatred on their campus. A story of young people who saw what was coming and put their physical bodies on the line in the name of social justice. There is no greater example of civic engagement than this.

On the other hand, #Charlottesville is the tale of a group of young adults so disaffected and disengaged from our civil society, that they had been influenced by extremist groups to take up a mantle of hate. One of these young people was so enraged and emboldened that he took the life of another innocent young person.

So, what do we do from here?

How do we encourage young people to take action on important issues and harness and guide their power? How can we ensure their actions are used for the public good and to advance equity and social justice? How do we connect and engage with all youth, rather than leaving some disconnected and disaffected? How do we support young people’s innate capacity for civic leadership and political engagement and build opportunities for them to enact that capacity in positive ways, ways that enhance our society?

At this event, we will engage researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and young people to talk about youth social and political action and civic engagement. We have not revised the overall agenda of this conference in light of the events of August 11-12 in Charlottesville—the topics we had planned to cover remain critical in the aftermath. However, many panelists are extending the focus of their talks as it directly relates to the events in Charlottesville.

With this, we hope you will join us for an engaging, critical discussion.

Valerie Adams-Bass, Ph.D. Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Education Assistant Professor of Education
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 - Alumni Hall, University of Virginia

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — REGISTRATION/LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. — WELCOME

Robert Pianta, Ph.D. (Dean, University Professor of Education, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia)

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. — Panel 1: OVERVIEW PANEL

This panel will serve as an introduction to the conference and provide an overview of youth political and civic engagement from both scholarly and programmatic lenses. Flanagan will begin by providing an overview of the evolution of the field and describing recent research on a youth environmental justice project as an example of how youth civic engagement is broader than simply voting behavior. Ferman will then discuss a social justice approach to youth development and civic engagement, providing examples from recent research and a picture of what community-university collaborations in this area can look like. Ly will introduce the work of Teen Empowerment, a Boston-based youth program focused on youth development and leadership through relationship-based organizing. Deutsch will discuss a youth activism that she employs in her program of research on activism in adolescents and college students. Mays and McLean-Nichols will demonstrate one activity they use in their work with the Center for Teen Empowerment in Boston to promote youth political engagement. Hope will detail one approach to understanding youth activism that she employs in her program of research on activism in adolescents and college students.

Connie Flanagan, Ph.D. (Associate Dean and Kaehne Basson Professor in Women, Family and Community, University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Heang Ly (Director of Consulting and Training, Center for Teen Empowerment)

Barbara Ferman, Ph.D. (Director, University Community Collaborative, Professor, Temple University)

• Panel Chair: Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D.

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. — BREAK

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Panel 2: THE ROLE OF CIVICS EDUCATION

Across the political spectrum, commentators have noted with alarm the increasing polarization of our country. A key symptom of this divide is the absence of robust public discourse that moves beyond rigidly opposed positions. This panel addresses how youth might be educated to engage in robust political action and discourse. Two developers of innovative civic education programs, John Hunter and Meg Heubeck, will describe their unique approaches to cultivating meaningful political engagement in young citizens, while Diana Hess will share her research on pursuing such aims with students.

Meg Heubeck, M.A.T., M.Ed. (Director of Educational Outreach, Center for Politics, University of Virginia)

Diana Hess, Ph.D. (Dean, School of Education, University of Wisconsin–Madison)

John N. Hunter, Jr. (Executive Director, World Peace Game Foundation)

• Panel Chair: Rachel Wahl, Ph.D.

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. — LUNCH / VIDEO PRESENTATION

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Panel 3: YOUTH POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT & ACTIVISM

The distance between valuing social justice and effecting change for social justice continues to be a challenge for practitioners, researchers, and youth. As a result, the greater dissemination of methods that gauge, promote, and scaffold youth political engagement and activism is helpful. The purpose of this cross-disciplinary panel is to highlight methods used in research and practice. Mays and McLean-Nichols will demonstrate one activity they use in their work with the Center for Teen Empowerment in Boston to promote youth political engagement. Hope will detail one approach to understanding youth activism that she employs in her program of research on activism in adolescents and college students. Watts and Tivaz will draw from recent work they have done on youth social organizing in the U.S., Ireland, and South Africa, highlighting links between youth organizing and youth outcomes, the practices of youth community organizers, and differences in those between the countries they studied. Azelton and youth participants from National Democratic Institute’s international youth programs will talk about youth community organizing in countries that are moving towards democracy.

Judith Torney-Purta, Ph.D. (Professor Emerita, Human Development, University of Maryland)

Roderick J. Watts, Ph.D. (Professor Emeritus, Graduate Center, Action Research Associates)

Zin Min Thu (Program Officer, The National Democratic Institute, Myanmar’s Nay Pyi Taw Branch Office)

• Panel Chair: Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D.

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. — BREAK

3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. — Panel 4: INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

This panel will feature researchers, practitioners, and youth talking about youth civic engagement internationally. Torney-Purta will begin by providing an overview of youth civic activity based on a large international survey study, which will be discussed in relation to the current political climate and populist movements around the globe. Watts and Tivaz will draw from recent work they have done on youth social organizing in the U.S., Ireland, and South Africa, highlighting links between youth organizing and youth outcomes, the practices of youth community organizers, and differences in those between the countries they studied. Azelton and youth participants from National Democratic Institute’s international youth programs will talk about youth community organizing in countries that are moving towards democracy.

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TAFAZWA TAPHY TIVAZ (City University of New York)

AARON AZELTON (Director of Citizen Participation Programs, The National Democratic Institute)

GASPER GHELUCI (Senior Program Officer, The National Democratic Institute, Albania)

ZIN MIN THU (Program Officer, The National Democratic Institute, Myanmar’s Nay Pyi Taw Branch Office)

• Panel Chair: Nancy Deutsch, Ph.D.

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. — CALL-TO-ACTION

• Moderator: Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.

Day Two Continued Below
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017**
Alumni Hall, University of Virginia

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — LIGHT BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. — WELCOME BACK

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — Panel 5: APPROACHES TO INTEGRATING YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Jennifer Danifo (Senior Program Officer, Pennsylvania Humanities Council)
Erin Hoopes (Free Library of Philadelphia, City Institute Branch)
India Fenner (Youth, Temple University Community Collaborative)
Stormy Kelsey (Youth, Temple University Community Collaborative)
Sharif El-Mekki (Principal / Founder, Mastery Charter Shoemaker Campus)

Panel Chair: Valerie Adams-Bass, Ph.D.

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. — BREAK

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Panel 6: POLICY APPROACHES TO YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Nina Ahmad, Ph.D. (Deputy Mayor for Public Engagement, City of Philadelphia)
Lisa B. Diaz, Ph.D. (Director, University of Illinois Extension 4-H Youth Development)
Aidyn Mills, Ph.D. (Donor Relations Manager, Charlottesville Youth Advisory Board)

Panel Chair: Valerie Adams-Bass, Ph.D.

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. — CALL-TO-ACTION

Moderator: Chauncey Smith, Ph.D.

*1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. — WORKSHOP: What Now? A Critical Conversation about Community Healing, Black Youth Engagement, Sociopolitical Context, and Policy

**Registration required for this workshop. If interested, please sign up on the online conference registration form link: http://bit.ly/YN17Reg**

**FACILITATORS:** Association of Black Psychologists - Student Circle (ABPSISC).
Mark A. Bolden, Ph.D., Nkemka Anyiwo, and Charlayne Hayling-Williams, Ph.D.

The workshop will offer a healing space for all, yet will focus on the importance of an afrocentric approach, amplifying voices of Black students. So while also thinking about allies and collaboration (Jewish, LGBTQ, among others) we will also focus on the roles of Black college students in activism on their campus and in their communities. We will also discuss strategies to engage in activism on campus, strategies to balance academic demands with social engagement, and we will emphasize the importance of engaging in self-care. We will provide a healing space centered on undoing the residual psychological effects of white terrorism and internalized oppression in Black communities; and provide recommendations to turn the feelings, thoughts, and insights into policy and action steps.