

DEMOCRACY
MOVES



GLOBAL YOUTH ACTIVISM

AMIDST DEMOCRATIC DECAY

OCTOBER 18–20, 2021

PANELISTS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

INTRODUCTIONS

In this introductory session, you'll get to meet fellow participants in intimate breakouts, hear the goals of the conference, and get excited for the stimulating three days of conference activities.

Monday: 11AM-11:30 AM EST
(16:00 Lagos, 18:00 Nairobi, 12:00 Sao Paulo, 08:00 San Francisco, 15:00 GMT)



Scott Warren

SNF Agora Institute

Scott Warren is a visiting fellow at the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University, and a visiting fellow at the German Marshall Fund (GMF). He is currently organizing a global network of youth activists and scholars focused on promoting democracy, called Democracy Moves, working with GMF on their Fortifying Democracy initiative to investigate how cities can promote civic participation and democratic engagement, and helping Johns Hopkins University in exploring its own role as a beacon of civic engagement and democracy.



Damaris Aswa

Project Officer, Kesho Kenya

Damaris Aswa is a grassroots activist championing for community integrity building, civic participation, youth engagement and gender equality and social inclusion matters. She is currently working for Kesho Kenya organisation, a local youth led NGO in Kilifi Kenya whose mission is to advance access to quality education and employment for vulnerable young people living at the coast of Kenya.



Derrick Mpagi

Founder and Executive Director for MIGHT

Foundation (MIGHT)

Derrick Mpagi is a lawyer with 8 years of experience in the legal, policy and community development sector, specifically focusing on peace, Human Rights and sustainable development. Derrick is also a member of UNOY's (United Network Of Young Peacebuilders) Gender Working Group, and the Founder and Director of MIGHT Foundation (MIGHT), where he focuses on initiating, designing, and implementing, innovative and sustainable peace-building.



John Olla

Social Development Expert

John Oluwafemi Olla is a Social Development Expert with proven experience and vast knowledge in the areas of strategic development, NGO Management, and community engagement. He is working to raise active citizens in Nigeria and across Africa through a social and environmental impact assessment audit.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

STATE OF YOUTH ACTIVISM

This opening panel will explore the current state of youth activism around the world. Participants will discuss the importance of young people taking action in this moment, different tactics being utilized, common challenges faced, and how this moment is different for young people.

11:30-12:30 PM EDT

(16:30 Lagos, 18:30 Nairobi, 12:30 PM Sao Paulo, 08:30 San Francisco, 15:30 GMT)



Joy Zawadi

Deputy Executive Director of Akili Dada

Joy is a storyteller with a knack for strategy. She has a degree in International Business Administration from the United States International University (USIU) – Africa. Rooted in her values of growth and continuous learning, her long-term goals are to develop competencies in advocacy, knowledge management, and policy.



Olena Nikolayenko

Professor at Fordham University

Nikolayenko's research interests include comparative democratization, contentious politics, women's activism, and youth, with a regional focus on Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia. Her recent book, *Youth Movements and Elections in Eastern Europe* examines tactical interactions between nonviolent youth movements and incumbent governments.



Grace Gondwe

*Programme Manager at the Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award Office, Zambia*

Gondwe is the research lead for Academics Stand Against Poverty–ESA chapter and the research and policy analyst for the youth-led leadership development and governance organization BeRelevant. She believes in the power young people have to make meaningful change in society and is committed to creating spaces for them to do this.



Moderator:

Haadiya Ahmed

Research Assistant SNF Agora Institute:

Ahmed is a third-year student at Johns Hopkins University majoring in international studies and public health studies. She has interned with organizations across the local and federal levels. She is committed to empowering her communities and actively advances principles of justice and equity through her work.

TUESDAY OCT 19TH

SHRINKING CIVIC SPACES

Across the globe, governments are shrinking civic spaces in the name of preserving power, and as the pandemic continues to rage. Youth activists have been forced to change their behaviors and strategies, attempting to continue to demonstrate power even as they have less of an ability to do so. This panel will explore how youth activists can maintain or grow their power, even as governments target their efforts and limit their activities.

11:15–12:30 PM EDT

(16:15 Lagos, 18:15 Nairobi, 12:15 Sao Paulo, 08:15 San Francisco, 15:15 GMT)



Namatai Kwekweza

Executive Director of WELEAD Trust

Namatai Kwekweza has over 5 years of experience in community organizing, social entrepreneurship and human rights advocacy, mainly focusing on youth and women's rights. Namatai is currently studying a Bachelor of Laws Degree at The University of South Africa and aspires to be a constitutional and international human rights lawyer.



Ashley Lee

*Research Fellow in the Digital Civil Society Lab
at Stanford University*

Dr. Ashley Lee engages with issues of surveillance and other forms of repression across democratic and authoritarian countries. Her current book project examines technology, youth activism, and social movements in comparative perspective. Previously, she has worked on issues at the intersection of computer science, technology, and society and human rights.



Abideen Olasupo

Nigerian Social Entrepreneur

Abideen Olasupo conducts socio-economic, business, political and communication research with the adoption of quantitative and qualitative designs. He develops strategies that communicate unique propositions to the relevant stakeholders. Abideen is one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans. His recent COVID-19 innovation won several grants.



Moderator:

Lubna Azmi

Johns Hopkins University Student

Azmi is a junior at Johns Hopkins studying International studies and sociology with a minor in Islamic studies. She is involved with community organizing work, specifically around mutual aid, civic engagement, and youth incarceration.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20TH

DEMOCRACY BEYOND ELECTIONS

Elections are incredibly important events in bringing about change, but are also insufficient in renewing democracy. This panel will explore the different ways that young people are and can take action to promote democracy and change beyond elections, including protest, art and activism, social media, and civics education. The panel will specifically focus on the balance between formal and informal forms of activism and political engagement, and how young people can balance working inside versus outside of the system.

11:15–12:30 PM EDT

(16:15 Lagos, 18:15 Nairobi, 12:15 Tokyo, 12:15 PM Sao Paulo, 08:15 San Francisco, 15:15 GMT)



Krystal Strong

*Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania's
Graduate School of Education*

As a scholar and organizer, Strong's research, teaching, and political work focuses on student and community activism, youth, and the role of schools as sites of political struggle in Africa. Other projects investigate school protest and youth leadership, and community-led organizing work around education and the displacement of Black communities.



Anne Rose

Executive Director of Uzalendo Afrika

Anne Rose is a trained journalist, feminist and a human right defender. She has 9 years' experience in youth and women inclusion in policy and governance related issues including social accountability and gender responsive budgeting. She leads a pan-African organization that molds transformational leaders through constructive engagement on key African values.



Gabriel Marmementini

Executive Director at Politize!

Gabriel Marmementini is a PhD candidate and MSc in Administration and earned his bachelors in Public Administration. Marmementini is affiliated with the Institute of Civic Education Fellow of the Facebook Community Leadership Program, Red Bull Amaphiko, Social Good Brasil Lab, Warriors Without Weapons, and Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative.



Katya Petrikevich

Co-founder and International Director of Participation Factory

Petrikevich leads international activities on mainstreaming best practices in the field of public participation for international and domestic projects. She brings extensive knowledge of political science and human rights into the field of participation and civic engagement focusing on issues of gender parity and inclusion of marginalized groups.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
ACTIVIST WORKSHOP #1

FUNDRAISING FOR YOUTH DEMOCRATIC ACTIVISM

In this interactive workshop with Anika Manzoor, an accomplished fundraiser of youth activism, you'll learn how to bring money in for your organization and activism- from engaging international foundations to putting together crisp foundation proposals.

13:15 EST-14:15 EST
(18:15 Lagos, 20:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 10:15 San Francisco, 17:15 GMT)



Anika Manzoor

Co-Founder of the Youth Activism Project

Anika Manzoor's experiences have propelled a lifelong determination to invest in other youth unaware of their capacity as change-makers or prevented from exercising it. Manzoor has empowered underserved teens through education and civic engagement in international context. She holds a BA from Grinnell College and an MPP from Harvard Kennedy School.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 19TH
ACTIVIST WORKSHOP #2

COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Activists will learn about ways to amplify their own work and activism in creative ways, including through traditional media, and through social media, and ensuring that these communication methods lead to real and sustainable change.

13:15 EST-14:15 EST
(18:15 Lagos, 20:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 10:15 San Francisco, 17:15 GMT)



Shomy Hasan Chowdhury

Co-founder Awareness 360

Chowdhury is co-founder of the global youth-led organization Awareness 360, Global Changemakers Fellow, U.S. Department of State alumna, Global Citizen Youth Advocate, Asia representative of the Commonwealth Students' Association, Royal Commonwealth Society Fellow, TEDx speaker, Schwarzman Scholar, and international election observer.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20TH
ACTIVIST WORKSHOP #3

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

Activists will learn ways to include participatory ways of running their own organization, and how to push for participatory practices within their own activism, like participatory budgeting.

13:15 EST-14:15 EST
(18:15 Lagos, 20:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 10:15, San Francisco, 17:15 GMT)



Madison Rock

*SENIOR CIVIC HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR, CENTER
FOR THE FUTURE OF ARIZONA*

Rock is passionate about guiding young people through self-empowerment, innovative problem solving, and developing strong, resilient communities. At the Center for the Future of Arizona, she supports strategies to improve civic health, including participatory budgeting, where students make decisions over a portion of the district's budget.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
SCHOLAR WORKSHOP #1

SCHOLAR NETWORK INTRODUCTION

Join scholars of international youth activism in a network-building conversation. Meet colleagues, discuss interests, and explore ways that this Network can strengthen your work and the role of research in supporting youth activism for democracy and human rights. All are welcome!

Moderator: Scott Warren

13:15 EST-14:15 EST
(18:15 Lagos, 20:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 10:15 San Francisco, 17:15 GMT)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 19TH
SCHOLAR WORKSHOP #2

SCHOLAR NETWORK ISSUE DEEP DIVE

Scholars will engage in a deep-dive on their work, presenting the research they are doing, highlighting some high-level trends, and opening up for feedback. The presented research will focus on youth political protest and social movements, and the intersection of youth and labor movements.

13:15 EST-14:15 EST
(18:15 Lagos, 20:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 10:15 San Francisco, 17:15 GMT)



Alcinda Honwana

*Centennial Professor And Strategic Director,
Firoz Lalji Centre For Africa, London School Of Economics
and Political Science*

Honwana's is one of the most influential scholars in the fields of youth and conflict, youth socio-economic transitions, and youth political protest and social movements. Her widely cited work on youth in "waithood" has greatly contributed to shaping current youth studies in Africa and the global South.



Nadine Abdalla

*Assistant professor of Sociology at
The American University*

Nadine Abdalla is a Visiting Assistant Professor at The American University in Cairo (AUC), department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology (SEA), Sociology Unit. In 2015/2016, she was a EUME Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics at the Freie Universität of Berlin. Currently, she is working on her book manuscript based on her PhD thesis named : Labor against the State- Workers Mobilizations under Egypt's Mubarak (2004-2011).



Moderator:

Jennifer Earl

Professor of Sociology, University of Arizona

Jennifer Earl is a Professor of Sociology and (by courtesy) Government and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. She taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) before joining Arizona. Her research focuses on social movements and the sociology of law, with research emphases on the Internet and social movements, social movement repression, and legal change.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20TH
SCHOLAR WORKSHOP #3

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH AND DECOLONIZATION

Join us in a conversation about critical participatory action research and its connections to decolonization in varied sociopolitical contexts. We will discuss past and current PAR projects and explore their promise and complexities. Audience participation welcomed!

18:00 EST-19:00 EST
(23:00 Lagos, 0:100 Nairobi, 15:00 San Francisco, 22:00 GMT)



Moderator:

Ben Kirshner

Professor of Education at the University of Colorado Boulder

In his work with the Research Hub for Youth Organizing, Kirshner co-designs educational tools and research studies with youth organizing groups building young people's capacity and power. He co-develops research-practice partnerships with the Critical Civic Inquiry that increase the capacity of public schools to support transformative student voice and action civics.



Michelle Fine

Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center, CUNY

As a scholar, expert witness in litigation, a teacher and an educational activist, Michelle Fine's work centers on questions of justice and dignity, privilege and oppression, and how solidarities emerge. With a rich international network of collaborators and activist colleagues, she has spent time teaching and researching at institutions globally.



Adreanne Ormond

Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington

Dr. Adreanne Ormond is Indigenous Māori from the Nation of Rongomaiwāhine where she was raised on ancestral land. She teaches, supervises, and researches across the politics of indigeneity exploring Māori knowledge systems, issues of culture and race, and methodologies of decolonization and transformation, aiming to enhance the autonomy of Māori.

MONDAY BREAKOUTS AND REFLECTION

Reflect on the first day of panels and workshops in structured breakout groups, and get to know other activists and scholars around the world focused on youth activism.

14:15 EST-15:00 EST

(19:15 Lagos, 21:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 11:15 San Francisco, 18:15 GMT)

TUESDAY BREAKOUTS AND REFLECTION

Learn more about the Democracy Moves network and discuss ways to get involved in the movement after the conference is over while meeting other activists and scholars from around the world.

14:15 EST-15:00 EST

(19:15 Lagos, 21:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 11:15 San Francisco, 18:15 GMT)

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS AND REFLECTION

Reflect on the entirety of the conference, discuss lessons learned, and make commitments for how you will continue to participate in the movement for a youth-led democracy around the world.

14:15 EST-15:00 EST

(19:15 Lagos, 21:15 Nairobi, 14:15 Sao Paulo, 11:15 San Francisco, 18:15 GMT)