



2025 Annual Ohio Peace and Conflict Studies Network Conference (OPCSN)

Bridging the Divide: Prevention and Intervention

Friday, April 11, 2025

Dayton, Ohio

(Registration will open the week of March 10th – **Deadline, April 4**).

**Hosted by: Sinclair Community College’s Dept. of Sociology, Geography & Social Work
444 West 3rd St., Dayton, Ohio [Exact details will be sent to registered participants]**

Cost (Includes conference fees, light breakfast and lunch)

- \$35 Non-Ohio College/University Personnel
- \$25 Ohio College/Universities - faculty/staff/admin.
- \$10 Ohio college students

This conference showcases the work of Ohio Higher Education Peace and Conflict Studies Programs in bridging divides in the state of Ohio, including peacebuilding and conflict resolution that builds bridges for understanding and civility in support of a healthy democracy through: dialogue across difference; media literacy; and enhanced understanding of diverse perspectives. The event includes an opening panel, lunch and five intensive workshop options.

Special thanks to our partners: The Facing Project, Kent State University (Political Science Department), Community Campus Coalition, Ohio University (Center for International Studies), The Ohio State University (Divided Communities Project), The University of Akron (Bliss Institute), the University of Dayton, and Wilmington College (Peace Resource Center).

Friday, April 11, 2025 Conference Agenda

8:30 AM -9:30 AM

Registration

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Welcome

Light Breakfast

Networking - Student Posters & College and University Display Tables

10:30 - 11:45 AM

Opening Panel

Bridging the Divide: The State of the State

Panelists:

- Carl Smallwood, Director, The Divided Community Project, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University [Confirmed]
- Representative, City of Dayton Human Relations Council [Confirmed]
- J.R. Jamison, Co-founder and President, The Facing Project [Confirmed]
- Steve David, Senior Research Specialist, Bridging Divides Initiative (BDI), Princeton University

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**Lunch +****Working Lunch for Ohio College and Universities with Peace and Conflict Studies Programs (Ohio Peace and Conflict Studies Network Collaborative Meeting)****Intensive Workshops (Select *one* of five options)****1:15 PM – 4:30 PM (with 15 minute break)****(3 hour workshops with 15 minute break – select ONE)****Workshop 1*****Simmering Campus Tensions & Identity-Based Conflict Simulation + Tools for Mutual Support and Connection***

During this session participants will participate in an immersive simulation which simulates simmering tension and unrest on a college campus. Participants will play university, student, and resident roles. During the debrief participants and facilitators will unpack lessons for bridging divides on campus. The second half, OSU's Divided Community Project will share ideas for students to extend support to one another during divisive events (see <https://go.osu.edu/dcpexs>). DCP will share additional tools and resources for students and faculty to use during, and following divisive, identify based conflicts.

Presenters: Ben Wilson, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Divided Community Project; Bill Froehlich, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Divided Community Project + OSU students

Workshop 2***Facing Our Stories Through Empathy Exchanges and Writing***

J.R. Jamison will share lessons learned on the power of stories, and the impact that can be made when voices come together to create one collective narrative. This interactive workshop will explore authentic listening and empathy building, and participants will go through story sharing exercises and learn the art of writing (and telling) powerful first lines.

Presenter: J.R. Jamison, Co-founder and President, The Facing Project

Workshop 3***Deliberative Pedagogy - How to Host a Deliberative Discussion Session***

At The University of Akron, we have embedded deliberative discussion sessions facilitated by our funded graduate assistants into our undergraduate Intro to American Government courses. The goal of this initiative is two-fold. First, the grading rubric evaluates students' ability to enact civil, deliberative interactions while resolving a divisive political issue, which allows them to practice an important civic skill set. Second, however, research shows that deliberative pedagogy, especially when peers expect each other to engage in reasoning and deliberation around public issues, cultivates intrinsic civic identity and leads to long term participation in public life throughout adulthood.

Presenters: Cherie Strachan, Director, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics; Krista Nisly & Grace Edwards, Graduate Students, The University of Akron

Workshop 4

Making a Difference: An Interactive Guide to Effective Altruism

This interactive workshop introduces practical tools from the effective altruism movement to help you make a positive impact. We'll work collaboratively and in small groups to explore the SNS framework (Scale, Neglectedness, Solvability) for prioritizing your time and resources, learn strategies for navigating uncertainty in ethical decision-making, and apply the SDAC framework (lifeStyle, Donations, Advocacy, Career) to evaluate diverse and synergistic avenues for positive change. Through dynamic presentations, hands-on group exercises, and collaborative discussions, you'll develop the skills to identify high-impact opportunities and make informed decisions about your efforts to make a difference.

Presenter: Jacob Bauer, Philosophy Lecturer, University of Dayton, Author, [Effective Altruism: An Introduction](#)

Workshop 5

Asset Based Community Development & Paulo Friere: Beloved Community is Possible

There comes a time when we need the courage to walk in vision, and utilize our shared power to continue building the spaces that nourish us. This session will be a co-creation and exploration of how our relationships across difference, rooted in love for others, can be the basis of developing the systems that support our collective hope. We will explore and practice using Asset Based Community Development frameworks to build our own systems. The theories of Paulo Freire will also be considered. We have the power to choose how we want to relate to each other. We heighten the contradiction by showing another tangible image of social organization is possible by our example. Peace will draw humanity out of the old social order and into what resonates deep within our hearts.

Presenter: Amaha Sellassie, Director, Center for Applied Social Issues, Associate Professor of Sociology, Sinclair Community College

(Please note the partners on the next page)

Partners



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Moritz College of Law



The University of Akron

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences



**University
of Dayton**



**OHIO
UNIVERSITY**

