

**Claiming Williams 2014**

***Breaking Ground,*  
Cultivating Change**



***Thursday, February 6th*  
Program of Events**

***<http://claiming.williams.edu>  
#ClaimWilliams***

# SCHEDULE

## 8:15 AM Breakfast in the '62 Center Lobby

Start the day off with a free breakfast, including honeybuns, donuts, yogurt, coffee & tea! Get psyched for a great day!

## 9:00 - 10:30 AM Breaking Ground, Cultivating Change

President Adam Falk, *Opening Remarks*

Art/Work: Performing Activism

MainStage, '62 CTD

## 10:45 AM - Noon Community Forums

Allies, Bystanders, and Diversity on Teams

Classism on Campus and Everywhere Else

Conversation with Zanele Muholi

Not the First: Narratives from Legacies of Color

On the Outside: A Multiplicity of Identities

The Whiteness of Belonging

Walls: Palestine, Mexico, and Beyond

Bronfman Auditorium

CenterStage, '62 CTD

WCMA

Griffin 3

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Paresky Auditorium

Dodd Living Room

## 12:15 - 1:45 PM Lunchtime Dialogues

Behind the Scenes: Williams Dining Staff

Discuss Sustainability

Creating Difficult Stories with Joshua Bennett/Strivers Row

Gay or Queer? What's the Difference, and Why Does it Matter?

Living Between Languages

On the Outside Discussion

Soul-Searching: To Be or Not to Be "Spiritual" at Williams

The Whiteness of Belonging Discussion

When Emotions Enter the Classroom: Faculty/Students Talk

Greylock Main Dining Room

Greylock A

Greylock C

Greylock Makepeace

Faculty House New Private

Paresky Quiet Room

Driscoll Lounge

Faculty House Lounge

## 2:00 - 3:30 PM Community Forums

Bursting the Purple Bubble: Socioeconomic Differences

Within and Outside of Williams

Claiming Our Bodies

Class Action Workshop: Exploring Class Identity

Failing at Williams: (Mis)conceptions of Failure

Williams Through the Ages

Dodd Living Room

Paresky Henze Lounge

Directing Studio, '62 CTD

Goodrich Hall

Griffin 3

# OF THE DAY

## 3:45 - 5:15 PM Community Forums

Class Action Workshop: Classism on Campus:

What It Looks Like, How to Address It

Discussing Divestment: Fossil Fuels and the Williams Endowment

Film: *The Graduates*

From Potential to Action with Williams *Kinetic*

Let Me Tell You A (Really Fast) Story

Directing Studio, '62 CTD

Griffin 3

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Dodd Living Room

Class of '58 Lounge, Paresky

## 5:30 - 7:30 PM Dinnertime Dialogues

Food For Thought

Sex Jam / Beyond Consent

Staff Speak Sustainable Food

*The Graduates* Discussion

Who Cares About Claiming Williams?

Williams Activists of Yore

Driscoll Lounge

Dodd Dining Room

Faculty House Lounge

Mission Dennett Lounge

Dodd Living Room

Faculty House Old Private

## 8:00 - 9:30 PM Evening Events

American Muslims and the Reform of Islam

Joshua Bennett/The Strivers Row Performance and Q&A

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Goodrich Hall

## 10:00 PM Continuing the Discussions

All-Campus Pizza Party

Baxter Hall, Paresky



## MISSION STATEMENT

Claiming Williams invites the community to acknowledge and understand the uncomfortable reality that not all students, staff, and faculty can equally “claim” Williams. By challenging the effects of the College’s history of inequality that are based on privileges of class, race, gender, sexuality and religion, we will provoke individual, institutional, and cultural change.

# Breaking Ground, Cultivating Change

9:00 - 10:30 AM

**President Adam Falk, *Opening Remarks***

**Art/Work: Performing Activism**

8:15 AM breakfast in the '62 CTD Lobby

9:00 AM in the MainStage, '62 CTD



Join an explosion of the arts! Williams musicians, dancers, visual artists, poets and actors appear together on stage to explore the impact of the arts on activism, both worldwide and at Williams College. Some disturbing content. Some celebrational moments. Some surprises. Participants include SpeakFree, Jazz Ensemble, Opus 3, Ephlats, Kusika, Zambezi, CoDa, the cast of The Vagina Monologues, and individual artists of all sorts. Special guest Josh Bennett from The Strivers Row will also make an appearance. Come early for treats in the '62 Center Lobby!

## Community Forums

10:45 AM - Noon

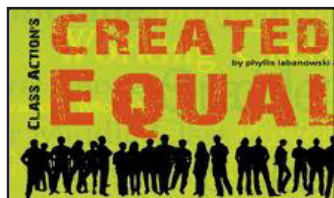


**Allies, Bystanders, and Diversity on Teams**

10:45 AM in Bronfman Auditorium

This NCAA co-sponsored event features facilitator Tracie Gilbert, founder of Gilbert Educational

Ministries, who will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss and understand the role of teammates as allies and bystanders in creating inclusive team environments. Ms. Gilbert will focus the discussion on team and community building that can be applied to athletics and beyond.



**Classism on Campus and Everywhere Else**

10:45 AM in the CenterStage, '62 CTD

What is Classism? Learn about the growing economic inequality in the United States and explore and debunk stereotypes associated with each socioeconomic class group

in this lecture, developed by *Class Action*. ***This talk is a pre-requisite for the afternoon Class Action workshops.***



## Conversation with Zanele Muholi

10:45 AM at the Williams College Museum of Art

This solo museum exhibition provides a rare opportunity to see works from South African photographer and visual activist Zanele Muholi's three series: *Being* (2007), *Beulahs* (2007), and *Faces and Phases* (2006-present). Zanele Muholi, Harry Gilbert '14, and others will discuss local and transnational issues relating to homosexuality, using the photographs as a means of exploring the stigmatization that still exists today.



## Not the First: Narratives from Legacies of Color

10:45 AM in Griffin 3

*Not the First* touches on the experiences of legacies from underrepresented groups at Williams and how each individual navigates the cross-sections of race and class. John Malcolm, Vice President of College Relations, and Rosanna Reyes, Dean of First Generation Initiatives, will moderate the panel discussion.



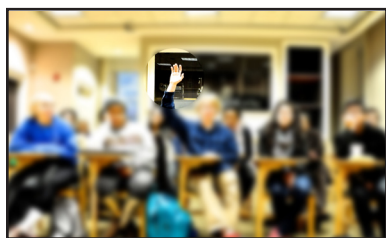
## On the Outside: A Multiplicity of Identities

10:45 AM in Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

12:15 PM: Lunch at the Faculty House, New Private

*On the Outside* brings together the mission and purpose of Converging Worlds (a campus club that facilitates pen-pal exchanges between Williams students and prison inmates) and The Williams Law Society. Keynote speaker Ron Muhammad Dunn knows full well the intricacies of the American prison system, and will speak about his experiences with the criminal

justice system and how his personal identity was influenced by his experiences. Mr. Dunn will host a Q&A session in the Faculty House Lounge during lunchtime dialogues.



## The Whiteness of Belonging

10:45 AM in Paresky Auditorium

12:15 Lunch in Driscoll Lounge

Ever have a really insightful conversation with a professor, and leave office hours seeing the world a little differently? *The Whiteness of Belonging* aims to help participants view the purple valley through a new lens. Professors and students will expand conversations on diversity beyond a minority issue to one that intimately affects everyone at Williams. The first half of this two-part event will be a screening of Tim Wise's *White Like Me*. A lunch discussion with professors will follow the film.



## **Walls: Palestine, Mexico, and Beyond**

10:45 AM in Dodd Living Room

How do walls and barriers manifest themselves physically and ideologically in our lives? How are literal borders - which divide territories and affect the movements of people in Israel and the U.S. - connected to ones that affect our

social relations to each other, including here on campus? Join Gabriel Schivone, journalist for *The Nation* and *The Huffington Post*, for a talk followed by an open discussion of these questions.

## **Lunchtime Dialogues**

12:15 - 1:45 PM

### **Behind the Scenes: Williams Dining Staff Discuss Sustainability**

12:15 PM in Greylock Main Dining Room

Six Williams Dining employees discuss their perspectives on departmental sustainability from behind the hot line, in the kitchen, per consumer waste reduction Lean Path, net nutrition, and in the office. Gayle Donohue, Unit Manager at Mission Park Dining Hall, will guide a conversation that reveals what it takes to feed the campus while minimizing environmental impacts.

### **Creating Difficult Stories with Joshua Bennett from *The Strivers Row***

12:15 PM in Greylock A

Join Joshua Bennett and some of SpeakFree's poets for a provocative discussion about storytelling during lunchtime! Chat with them about how experiences become poems, what stories they decide to tell, and how they know what to speak up (or keep quiet) about!

### **Gay or Queer? What's the Difference, and Why Does it Matter?**

12:15 PM in Greylock C

How do the terms we use affect our ability to form coalitions across generations? Join a conversation with justin adkins, Assistant Director of the Davis Center.

### **Living Between Languages**

12:15 PM in Greylock Makepeace

What is it like to move between languages - as an international student, as a child of non-English speaking parents, as a student studying abroad, as a participant in a language class or as a member of a multilingual society? What happens to your sense of your own identity, your sense of how you are perceived, and your way of relating to others when you move across language communities? Join language faculty and students for a discussion.



## **On the Outside: A Multiplicity of Identities**

12:15 PM in the Faculty House, New Private Dining Room

Continue the discussion from the 10:45 AM event with the keynote speakers.

## **Soul-Searching: To Be or Not to Be “Spiritual” at Williams**

12:15 PM in the Paresky Quiet Room

What’s it like to be “religious” at Williams? Or not to be? Is your way of being “spiritual” a bond with others - or an obstacle? What does this community need to do better, as far as embracing religious or spiritual diversity is concerned? Join an open lunchtime forum on these and other questions, facilitated by a group of students who studied and practiced interfaith dialogue in the context of community service during Winter Study.

## **The Whiteness of Belonging**

12:15 PM in Driscoll Lounge

Continue the discussion with faculty members: Leslie Brown, Charles Dew, Gretchen Long, Scott Wong-History; James McAllister, Danilo Contreras, Joy James, Cathy Johnson, Nicole Mellow, Candis Smith-Political Science; Chip Chandler-Leadership Studies; Sara LaLumia-Economics; Kevin Escudero-Latina/o Studies Program.

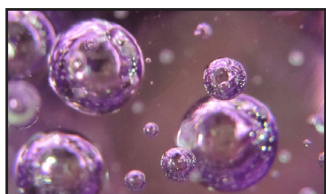
## **When Emotions Enter the Classroom: Faculty and Students Talk**

12:15 PM in the Faculty House Lounge

Classrooms are places for intellectual inquiry. But what happens when emotions - fury, panic, shame, outrage, performance anxiety - affect what goes on in unexamined or hidden ways? Faculty and students are invited to reflect and to share strategies for transforming ugly feelings into productive exchange. Helping to facilitate will be Betsy Burris, a psychotherapist whose research focuses on emotion in the classroom.

# **Community Forums**

**2:00 - 3:30 PM**



## **Bursting the Purple Bubble: Socioeconomic Differences Within and Outside of Williams**

2:00 PM in Dodd House Living Room

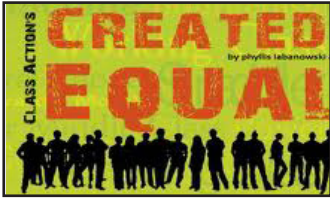
*Bursting the Purple Bubble* explores the world of homelessness and reflects on the experiences of those who have been homeless, and those who help the homeless. Speakers include Valerie Schwarz, Berkshire Food Project; Peter Kahrman, motivational speaker, writer and human rights advocate; and several other Williams and Williamstown community members who have first hand knowledge of what it’s like to be homeless. A Q&A and group discussion will follow the presentation.



## Claiming Our Bodies

2:00 PM in the Paresky Henze Lounge

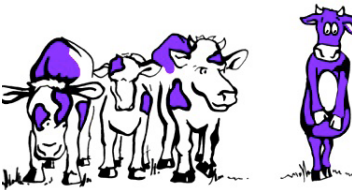
Examine issues of body consciousness at Williams. The first part of this event is a photo exhibit of anonymous Williams students sharing both their diverse bodies as well as their thoughts (in written word) about body image and their own bodies. Part two is a panel discussion with Williams' students/faculty/staff about body image, followed by small group discussion.



## Class Action Workshop: Exploring Class Identity

2:00 PM in the Directing Studio, '62 Center for Theatre and Dance

This workshop will break out into discussion groups to focus on exploring class identity. Participants will identify class upbringing and discuss the privileges and disadvantages of each class group. *Please note:* Classism on Campus and Everywhere Else (10:45 AM, CenterStage) is a prerequisite for this workshop.



## Failing at Williams: (Mis)conceptions of Failure

2:00 PM in Goodrich Hall

It is not uncommon for Williams students to feel ashamed to ask for help when they deal with personal adversity or failure. The sad reality is that failure is ignored on our high-achieving campus far more than it is addressed and dealt with. This event aims to spark conversations on all kinds of failure and inspire students to speak candidly with one another about their own struggles.



## Williams Through the Ages

2:00 PM in Griffin 3

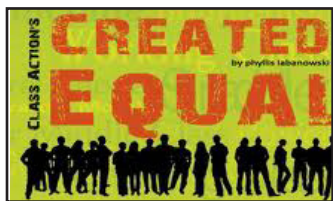
5:30 PM Dinner Dialogue in the Faculty House, Old Private

Class of 1958. Hopkins Takeover. Women Pioneers. Hunger Strike. Recent College Council Co-President. These are five amazing Williams' alumni that were either here during critical moments of change, or who themselves were catalysts for transforming the campus. Come hear these alumni stories and reflect on how far Williams has come in the last sixty years. Truly an Epholution!



# Community Forums

3:45 - 5:15 PM



## ***Class Action Workshop:***

**Classism on Campus: What It Looks Like, How to Address It, 3:45 PM in the Directing Studio, '62 Center for Theatre and Dance**

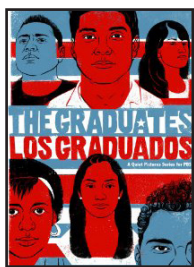
How should we address classist comments on campus? How do we make things better on campus for all people? Explore answers to these questions and more in small discussion groups. *Please note:* Classism on Campus and Everywhere Else (10:45 AM, CenterStage) is a prerequisite for this workshop.



## **Discussing Divestment: Fossil Fuels and the Williams Endowment**

3:45 PM in Griffin 3

Williams College has only begun to address the issues of investing its endowment in the oil, coal, and gas industries. Despite a stated commitment to environmental preservation, a significant portion of the endowment remains tied up in fossil fuel-related securities. Through a panel discussion and smaller breakout groups, *Discussing Divestment* will explore whether Williams should continue funding the main drivers of climate change or whether we want to choose to support a more sustainable and equitable future.



## **Film: *The Graduates***

3:45 PM in Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

5:30 Dinner Dialogue in Dennett Lounge, Mission Hall

*The Graduates* offers first-hand perspectives on key challenges facing Latino/a students and their families, educators, and community leaders. It stresses the importance of civic engagement, of students becoming involved in their own schools and communities, and - crucially - having a say in their own futures. A dinner discussion will follow the film.



## **From Potential to Action with *Kinetic***

3:45 PM in Dodd Living Room

*Kinetic*, a student group, examines and designs action-focused solutions to prevailing problems through simulation. Event leaders will assist small groups in breaking down issues pertinent to this campus and brainstorming how to take action to address them and make our community a better place.



## **Let Me Tell You A (Really Fast) Story**

3:45 PM in the Class of '58 Lounge, Paresky

Ever wonder what people you pass on your way to class are thinking? Ever want to tell them what's on your mind? Storytime is hosting "Let Me Tell You A (Really Fast) Story," which is your chance to put stories behind the names and faces of the students, faculty, and staff around

you. Each participant will alternate listening and telling stories, for three minutes each, in a kind of platonic speed-dating. What you hear might surprise you!

## **Dinner Discussions**

**5:30 - 7:30 PM**



### **Food For Thought**

5:30 PM in Driscoll Lounge

Food plays an important role in how we define ourselves and our relationship with the world. It can reflect how we choose to interact with our environment, the limitations our bodies place on us, our ethics and our

religious and cultural traditions. How do we navigate these religious and secular choices and restrictions? Join in on the conversation.

### **Sex Jam / Beyond Consent**

5:30 PM in the Dodd Dining Room

Move the conversation beyond consent. Join Laini and Justin's popular interactive and educational sex jam workshop. Laini and Justin each do a short educational piece (Justin's condom and dental dam demo, and Laini's 5 C's), then open it up to anonymous questions from the audience.



### **Staff Speak Sustainable Food**

5:30 PM in the Faculty House Lounge

Williams staff members share expertise on how they incorporate food production, ecological floral beauty, and buy-local food strategies into their personal lives: Bruce Wheat, Jeanne Davis (beekeeping); Fred Ackley (cooking

local foods); Chris Winters (suburban farming); and Margy Gwozdz (organic gardening).

### **The Graduates Discussion**

5:30 PM in Dennett Lounge, Mission Hall



## Who Cares About Claiming Williams?

5:30 PM in the Dodd Living Room

Love Claiming Williams Day? Hate it? Wish more people would attend? Ready to ditch it because it doesn't apply to you? Because it's not your job to educate those around you? Come to

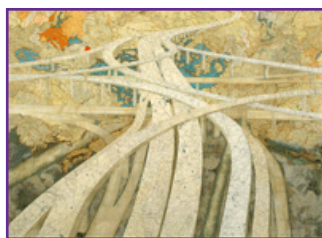
a discussion about the present and future of Claiming Williams Day.

## Williams Activists of Yore (*a continuation of Williams Through the Ages*)

5:30 PM in the Faculty House, Old Private Dining Room

## Evening Events

8:00 - 9:30 PM



### American Muslims and the Reform of Islam

8:00 PM in Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Dr. Zareena Grewal, Yale University, will explore some of the most pressing debates about and among American Muslims: What does it mean to be Muslim and American? Who has the authority to speak for Islam and to lead the stunningly diverse population of American Muslims? Do their ties to the larger Muslim world undermine their efforts to make Islam an American religion? Dr. Elizabeth Urban, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Middle Eastern History at Williams, will facilitate discussion following the lecture.



### Joshua Bennett/The Strivers Row Performance and Q&A

8:00 PM in Goodrich Hall

Joshua Bennett is an award winning performance poet from Yonkers, NY. He has recited his original works at events and venues such as The Sundance Film Festival, the NAACP Image Awards, The Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Poetry Africa and President Obama's Evening of Poetry and Music at the White House. Come hear Joshua perform his original works and answer your questions about his pieces and how words can create change.



## Campus Pizza Party

10:00 PM - 1:00 AM, Baxter Hall, Paresky



Want to continue the day's discussions? Come to Paresky for free pizza, cake, live music from student groups, and informal conversation about the day's events. You can stay as little or as long as you like! Music by Williams Jazz Quartet, Lucy Davis, The Jeff Daniel's Project, Robin Park, Neal Ellis and Dan Schreiner, and Gentleman Art Thieves.

## **Claiming Williams Steering Committee 2014**

Michelle Almeida, Alumni Relations  
Bilal Ansari, Chaplain's Office  
Sumaya Awad '16  
Ryan Barry '15  
Bob Blay, Special Academic Programs  
Monica Civile '14  
Qadir Forbes '15  
Kieran Honderich, Women's Gender and Sexuality  
Jallicia Jolly '14  
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Paula Machado, Development  
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Erica Moszkowski '15  
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Willa Simon, '62 Center  
Karen Swann, English and Office of Strategic Planning  
& Institutional Diversity  
Melissa Soule '15  
Laini Sporbert, Health Services  
Cinnamon Williams '16

### **With Special Thanks To:**

Matthew Adelson; Mike Amann, Media Services; Mike Bodnarik, Student Life; Sarah Bolton, Dean of the College; Cosmo Catalano, '62 CTD; Jenny Dewar, Music Department; Adam Falk, President of the College; Keith Forman, Videographer; Kevin Garcia, Student Life; Brice Green '15; Carrie Greene, Dean of Faculty; Roman Iwasiwka, Photographer; Travis Killeen, Student Life; Erica Maker, Dean of Faculty; Bea Miles, Facilities; Phil Remillard, Media Services; Sawyer Library, Acquisitions; Robert Volpi, Director of Dining Services; Bruce Wheat, Media Services; Nate Wiessner, '62 CTD.

### **and to our co-sponsors:**

Art Department; Alumni Relations; Athletics Department; Center for Community Engagement; Chaplain's Office; College Council; The Davis Center; Dining Services; Gargoyle Society; Health Center; Lecture Committee; MinCo; Queer Student Union; Students for Justice in Palestine; Williams College Museum of Art.