

Speaker Bios

UWC-USA's Feb. 1 - 3, 2018 **Change the Conversation** conference brings together the UWC-USA community with high school students from New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Mexico. Together we will work with experts dedicated to changing the conversation and transforming the way people listen to one another and talk about needs, identities and interests, forging understanding to create new strategies.



Alexander Markovic holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is interested in ethnicity, nationalism, and the cultural politics of music and dance in the Balkans. Alexander's dissertation research involved 17 months of ethnographic fieldwork with Romani musicians in southeastern Serbia. He has also actively researched, performed, and taught folk dances from various Balkan regions for the past 15 years. His specialties include Serbian music and dance traditions of southeastern Serbia and Kosovo; Romani music and dance culture in southern Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia; and various Greek regional dance traditions. Alexander's doctoral research in Vranje, Serbia, allowed him to conduct in-depth fieldwork on dance in Romani and Serb.



Arjun Sethi is a writer, attorney, and professor based in Washington, D.C. He is a frequent commentator on civil rights and civil liberties. Arjun's work has appeared in numerous national outlets, including CNN, *The Guardian*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*. He has been widely quoted in print, radio and television, including by *The New York Times*, *The Independent*, BBC America, BBC World Radio, and NPR. Arjun has represented victims of domestic violence, asylum seekers, national security detainees, and death row criminal defendants. He is also a consultant and advises foundations, nonprofits, and advocacy groups on rapid-response policy analysis, public education and community organizing campaigns, and solidarity work with various movements. Arjun is presently traveling the country and writing a book on hate and violence in America. He is co-chairman of the American Bar Association's National Committee on Homeland Security, Terrorism & Treatment of Enemy Combatants, and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and Vanderbilt University Law School.



Atenea Rosado-Viurques MUWCI '08 was born and grew up in Mexico City. She holds a bachelor's in pedagogy from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a master's from Teachers College, Columbia University in International Educational Development. Atenea's research and practice interests focus on the educational and learning experiences of young people affected by the war on drugs in Central and North America, critical approaches to transnational citizenship education, and the educational impact of forced migration. She was formerly a federal advisor at the Ministry of Public Education

in Mexico. Atenea has taught unaccompanied minors in Mexico and United States, as well as young people previously involved in the trafficking drugs. She has been a curriculum designer and facilitator for Open Society Foundations, UNHCR, Save the Children, and Amnesty International.



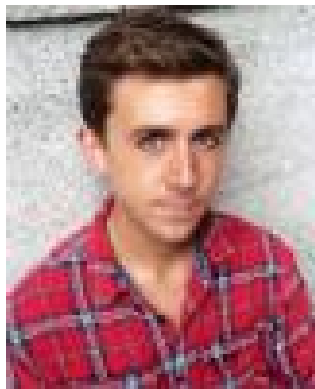
Carol Silverman, professor of cultural anthropology and folklore at the University of Oregon, has engaged in research on Balkan music and folklore for more than 30 years. With a focus on Roma in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Western Europe and the United States, Carol has explored music, politics, human rights, gender, migration, and state policy with a focus on representation. Her 2012 book, *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora*, won the Merriam Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology. Carol's recent research, supported by the Guggenheim Foundation, examines issues of migration, labor, and appropriation in the globalization of Romani culture. She has written numerous articles, works with the organization Voice of Roma, and serves as co-curator of the music division of the new RomArchive. Carol is also a professional vocalist and teacher of Balkan music, and toured for a decade and recorded with the Yuri Yunakov Ensemble.



Before launching her career as a bestselling author, **Caroline Paul** embarked on unlikely adventures ranging from flying experimental planes to whitewater rafting unexplored rivers in Borneo and Australia. By day, she was one of the first women to work for the San Francisco Fire Department, a job that inspired her first work of nonfiction, *Fighting Fire*. Her latest book, *The Gutsy Girl: Escapades for Your Life of Epic Adventure*, incorporates stories from her own life as a gutsy woman to inspire girls to break the rules, take risks and accept seemingly insurmountable challenges. In 2016, Caroline took the TEDWomen conference by storm; her talk has been viewed more than one million times.



Courtney Martin, who was born and raised in Colorado Springs, has been called “one of our most insightful culture critics and one of our finest young writers” by activist Parker Palmer. In addition, Courtney's writing has been described as “varied, transformational, and necessary for us all” by actress Jane Fonda. A TED speaker, she is the author of multiple books, a weekly columnist for *On Being with Krista Tippett*, co-founder of the Solutions Journalism Network and Valenti Martin Media, and a proud momma.



Devon Hoffman and Moving Arts students - Moving Arts Española Drama teachers Devon Hoffman and Lupita Salazar have been working together with the students all year. Devon has been performing, writing, and directing theater for most of his life. He holds a bachelor's of arts in creative writing and theater from Westminster College in Salt Lake City. Devon seeks theater that offers communities an opportunity to discuss their cultural and political experiences. He has been working at Moving Arts since February 2016 in multiple capacities. Last summer, Devon directed the drama students in a weeklong program based on community-created theater techniques he learned from the Philippine Educational Theater Association.



Fatymatou Dia '09 is passionate about education and youth leadership. Born and raised in Dakar Senegal, Fatymatou graduated from UWC-USA in 2009 and studied international development and African studies at Yale University. At Yale, she was an active member in the African acapella group, West African Dance troupe, and Peer Liaisons of the Afro-American Cultural Center. Upon graduation, Fatymatou joined the Boston Consulting Group. She worked across a variety of industries in Morocco, Angola, Nigeria, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. After four years at BCG, Fatymatou returned to UWC-USA as an alumni fellow to learn more about school operations while supporting various departments.



Greg Barker is manager of facilitation programs for Seeds of Peace. He has spent the last three years facilitating several hundred hours worth of dialogues about identity, community, power, and privilege. Greg trains people how to facilitate such dialogues. He also spends a lot of time thinking about how communities organize themselves and communicate, especially through conflict. Greg is particularly interested in modes of community organization and communication that share power equally among all members and that treat conflict as an opportunity for honesty and growth. He holds a master's in divinity from Vanderbilt University, where he focused on gender, sexuality, and religion. Greg also has a bachelor's in religious studies from the University of Virginia. He believes a better world is possible, that people can create a better future, and dialogue is an important tool in that project.



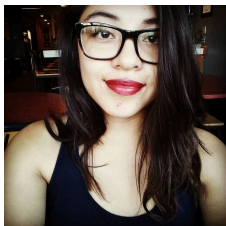
Jorge Renaud is an organizer with Grassroots Leadership, working for a more just society where prison profiteering, mass incarceration, deportation and criminalization are things of the past. Jorge's journey has included time in prison to walking the halls of the Texas Legislature as a policy analyst for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition and organizer with the Center for Community Change. An occasional slam poet and a full-time believer in the necessity of those most affected by policy to be at the forefront of change, Jorge is devoted to assisting the incredible work of the individuals in the Texas Advocates for Justice as they chop away at the roots of incarceration.



Jennifer Marley is from the San Ildefonso Pueblo and pursuing a bachelor's in native American studies at the University of New Mexico. She is vice-president of UNM's Kiva Club and a lead organizer with The Red Nation.



John Cary, an architect by training, has devoted his career to expanding the practice of design for public good. John is the author of two books, including *Design for Good: A New Era of Architecture for Everyone*. His writing on design, philanthropy, and fatherhood has appeared in the *New York Times*, on CNN.com, and other publications. John is a philanthropic advisor for an array of foundations and nonprofits around the world, and frequently curates and hosts events for TED and other entities. He is a founding partner in FRESH Speakers, a next-generation speakers' bureau that represents young women and people of color.



Norma Lira-Pérez attended the University of Wyoming and received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science. They are from a working-class, Mexican immigrant, mixed-status family who migrated from México to Jackson, Wyoming in the late 1980s. As an undergraduate, they worked with Latina youth for a research project that focused on their education and lived experiences in Jackson, Wyoming. Soon after, they were admitted into the McNair Scholars Program and completed a research project on the lives of Mexican immigrant women as domestic workers in Jackson, Wyoming. This research was published as an article in a special edition for *Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal* in the Spring of 2017. Norma is currently a second year graduate student in the American Studies Department at the University of New Mexico, where they study visual culture studies, Indigenous and Women of Color feminisms, queer of color critique and critical ethnic studies. This academic year (2017-2018), they received the Sport History Fellowship and work at the UNM Digital Initiative and Scholarly Communication (DISC) office.



Kalin Kirilov is an associate professor of music theory. Before coming to Towson University, he taught at the universities of Oregon and Massachusetts Amherst. Kalin received his bachelor's of arts from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv, Bulgaria; an interdisciplinary master's in Folklore from the University of Oregon; and a doctorate in music theory from the University of Oregon. Kalin's research explores the boundaries between two often compartmentalized fields, music theory and ethnomusicology. His innovative analytical perspectives on Eastern European music have been well received at national and international conferences. Kalin's book, "Bulgarian Harmony," was published in Ashgate SOAS Musicology Series in the fall of 2015. It is the first analytical study of 20th century Bulgarian harmonized repertoires tracing unique harmonic developments in Bulgarian village music, wedding music, and polyphonic choral arrangements performed by Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares. A master of multiple instruments, Kalin has performed extensively in Bulgaria, Western Europe, and the United States. In 2003 and 2005, he toured the United States with Ivo Papazov, recipient of the 2005 BBC audience award in the world music category.



Karen Rencountre works with Youth Allies, a program of Earth Care that is a leader in advocating for young people's voices and contributions in decision-making for a community's future. With young people, communities can develop in harmony with the natural world and local cultures. Earth Care's programs are based on a decade of work with young people, schools, and communities in and around Santa Fe. Earth Care offers youth leadership institutes, civic engagement and advocacy opportunities for youth, service-learning projects, resources for teachers, enrichment programming in sustainability education to K-12 schools, urban agriculture programs, and training and internship placements for young professionals. Karen worked for Earth Care as an AmeriCorps Vista in 2011 and has been an adult ally and Youth Allies training team member for the program ever since. She joined Earth Care as staff to take over the management of the program in January 2015. Born in Rapid City, S.D., Karen comes from a large family with a rich history with the land, culture, Native American activism, and changemakers.

After graduating with a bachelor's in photography from Webster University in St. Louis, **Mariano Ulibarri** taught English as a second language for two years in Tokyo. He has also taught digital photography, computer fundamentals, and other subjects at Rio Gallinas and Pecos Middle schools, New Mexico Highlands University and Luna Community College. Mariano has received national recognition for his work with STEM education, robotics and design. Partnering with the Harvard Graduate School of Education, he helped catalyze a national network of maker educators. Ulibarri's Parachute Factory makerspace in Las Vegas and his work with libraries and youth caught the attention of Harvard's Agency by Design, which is part of the Project Zero research center; together with local partners he has offered hundreds of workshops throughout the state.



Nathan Scott is the co-founder of the Global Climate Corps, an organization dedicated to educating, training, and empowering global youth to become leaders in addressing the root causes of climate change in their communities and around the world. Nathan has spent much of his professional career working in global experiential education, first as the executive director of Studies Abroad for Global Education based in Colorado, which sends high school students all over the world on transformative learning journeys. He is the president of the Winterline Global Skills Program, a nine-month global skill building gap-year based in Cambridge, Mass. Nathan also has a background in theater and the performing arts, having designed, directed, performed and taught with a variety of puppetry, theater and dance companies around the world. Nathan has a bachelor's from Oberlin College and a master's in international studies from the University of Washington in Seattle with a focus on South Asian folk performing arts.



Originally from the Netherlands, **Noor Cornelissen** (UWC-USA '10) has lived, worked, and studied around the world. After completing her BA degree in History and Political Science in Germany, she continued studying in Geneva for her MA in International Development with a focus on public health and gender. Following her studies, Noor worked for UNAIDS and conducted research in Nairobi, Kenya on police-handling of gender-based violence claims, while working at the Gender Violence Recovery Centre of the Nairobi Women's Hospital. In 2015 she started working for Médecins Sans Frontières at the department of Humanitarian Affairs. Since then, she has worked in rural Democratic Republic Congo, in South Sudanese refugee camps on the border with Uganda, in detention centers in Libya, and on a Search-and-Rescue vessel on the

Mediterranean Sea. She is specialized in migration and gender issues and particularly interested in challenging the dominant containment narrative and policies on 'stemming migration flows'.

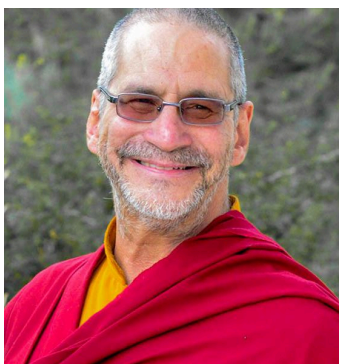


Sharon Seto is co-founder of Global Climate Corps, an organization dedicated to educating and empowering young people to engage constructively with the global crisis. Sharon has spent most of her career working in international and experiential education, most recently in Shanghai, China, with Northeastern University. She was instrumental in designing and launching a gap-year program for Winterline Global Education that leveraged skill-building for personal development. Sharon also taught geography at UWC-USA and served as dean of co-curricular programs and director of Community Engagement. At Woodstock School in India, she was development director, a teacher, and residential staff member. Sharon believes that experiential and international education are

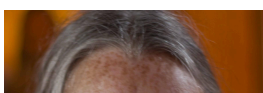
powerful tools to equip people to make positive changes at both local and global scales. She holds bachelor's degrees in geography and economics from San Francisco State University and a master's in business administration from University of New Mexico.



Wendy MacNaughton is a *New York Times* best-selling illustrator and graphic journalist based in San Francisco. Her books include *Meanwhile in San Francisco*, *The City in its Own Words*, *Lost Cat: A True Story of Love, Desperation, and GPS Technology*, *Pen and Ink: Tattoos and the Stories Behind Them*, *Knives & Ink: Chefs and The Stories Behind Their Tattoos*, and the forthcoming *Leave Me Alone with the Recipes, The Life, Art and Cookbook of Cipe Pineles*. Wendy is the back-page columnist for *California Sunday Magazine*, and co-founder of Women Who Draw. She studied art and social work, and worked as a copywriter in advertising, a campaign director for non-profits, a bookseller in a used bookstore, and a counselor on a suicide hotline. She also created the national campaign for the first democratic elections in Rwanda, health education materials for nomadic tribes in Northern Kenya, and a short film in Eastern Congo. She lives in Potrero Hill with her partner (and frequent collaborator, the writer Caroline Paul), two cats and a dog.



Lama Dorje Gyaltsen completed a traditional three-year retreat in the spring of 2016 under the auspices of Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche. Lama Brad's focus is on translating the seemingly complex practices and words of Buddhism into the simple, clear, life and meditation instructions they really are. As directed by his teachers, he is working on distilling some of this into book form. Lama Brad is always available to discuss dharma, practice, or the forms obstacles may take.



Gabrielle Herbertson lives in a community in the mountains of northern New Mexico where she helps run a retreat center. She's been meditating since she

was a teenager and follows a spiritual path with several strands; one focuses on the Buddha and one on Christ. She is a poet and storyteller. For 30 years, Gabrielle taught writing, literature, and meditation at various Taos schools. She has two grown sons, believes wildly in love, and shares a house and life with Lama Dorje Gyaltsen.



Mignon Zezqueaux belongs to the Texas Advocates for Justice in Houston, a family of former convicts and their loved ones. The group's mission is to break down obstacles to returning home and destroy the systematic racist policies that have been in practice for decades. A mother of three sons, Mignon's job was to make sure they made it to adulthood without a record. Her hopes were shattered with the murder of her middle son. Somewhere between trauma and trying to fill his brother's shoes, Mignon's youngest son then became acquainted with the juvenile justice system. The 15-year-old's anger was treated as a discipline problem, not a mental health issue. At 16, he was charged with a felony. Mignon has had to break through her protective shell to confront the realities of having a loved one in captivity who needs counseling, therapy and medication. Mignon's blog "Birthing these Babies" focuses on the experiences of a mother with a son in prison.

EVENT - Saturday night Band including UWC-USA Music Director Melinda Russial!
www.evetmusic.com