

2019-2020 Humanities Center Brown Bag Series

Counter-Narratives and Community-Driven Research for Racial Equity in Detroit

In the years since the City of Detroit exited emergency management and bankruptcy, popular narratives have hailed the city's resurrection while marginalizing the experiences, voices, and struggles of long-time residents. Understanding the ongoing crises of water shutoffs, displacement, and school closures as consequences of structural racism, emergency management, and austerity politics in Detroit, local people and community leaders have been at the forefront of dynamic grassroots campaigns to resist unjust policies, uproot the systemic causes of these issues, and put forth alternative visions for the future of the city. This talk will explore the often marginalized histories of community-led struggles for human rights, self-determination, and racial equity in Detroit over the past 20 years through the lenses of African American Studies and Critical Race Theory. Centering the voices of Detroit's grassroots organizers, the presentation will: 1) analyze the ways organizers are utilizing counter narratives in their work to resist structural racism and build movements for racial equity, human rights, and self-determination; 2) workshop the Detroit Equity Action Lab's Voices from the Grassroots project, a community-driven oral history project to document, amplify, and support the work of grassroots organizers in the city.

FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY



Thursday, March 5, 2020

12:30PM—1:30PM

Rm. 2339

Faculty Administration Building



Peter Blackmer

Research Fellow

Detroit Equity Action Lab,

Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights

WSU Law School

Peter Blackmer is a Research Fellow with the Detroit Equity Action Lab, an initiative of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State Law School. His work focuses on structural racism and grassroots movements for human rights, political power, and self-determination in the 20th and 21st Century United States, particularly in the urban North. Peter earned his PhD from the W.E.B. Du Bois Dept. of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst.

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit <https://research2.wayne.edu/hum/>