

Society for the Future of Higher Education

March 2024

News and Views

I hope I'll see you at the Centennial Conference! Do mark your calendar for July 10-14, 2024 at La Roche University in Pittsburgh, PA. Additional information is available on our website. This year, we will explore topics related to equity, defined by many as the state, quality or ideal of being just, impartial, and fair. Specifically, the 2024 conference theme is Equity and Community: From Theory to Practice.

The programming committee is excited to share that one of our keynote speakers will be Kevin Jarbo, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University. His research explores how the risk of confirming a stereotype about a student's individual or group identity influences whether, and how much, they attempt to avoid potentially negative interpersonal experiences and interactions in academic settings. Dr. Jarbo also advises individual students and student organizations involved in social justice activism.

As you finalize your summer plans, I hope attendance at the SFHE conference will be included on your list of priorities. SFHE has a long and rich history dating back to 1922, when we were the National Council of Schools of Religion. To honor that tradition, at this Centennial conference, not only will we celebrate our rich history, but we will explore the possibilities of our future as an organization.

At the Winter Board meeting, your SFHE leaders contemplated the past, present, and future of SFHE. We are excited. And, we know we cannot continue to grow without your help. The future of SFHE depends greatly on the active membership, conference participation, and financial support of SFHE members. With your support, SFHE can continue to serve you as it always had, but also grow into its newest stage of service.

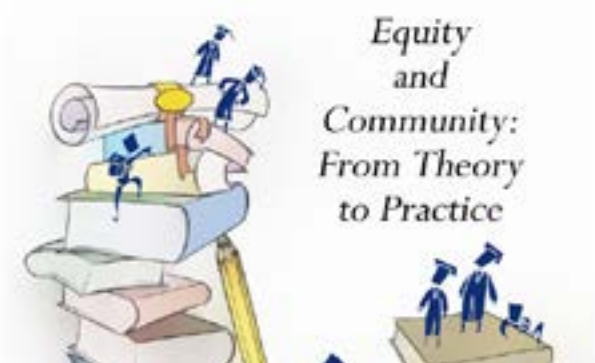
I encourage your continued investment in the Society for the Future of Higher Education by contributing to its Annual Fund. Also, please share the story of SFHE with your peers and colleagues. Encourage them to submit a proposal to the conference programming committee and to register for the conference.



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Centennial Conference
La Roche University
Pittsburgh, PA
July 10-14, 2024
Registration Begins
Soon!

2024Conference



Dr. Kevin Jarbo
Wednesday, July 10
7:00 PM

Kevin Jarbo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences and Co-Director of the Data-Driven Diversity (D3) Lab in Dietrich College at Carnegie Mellon University. Kevin earned his bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh in 2006 before going into brain imaging research at Pitt and UPMC. In 2013, he joined the graduate program in Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at CMU and the Center for Neural Basis of Cognition where his dissertation research examined brain connectivity that supports the integration of gains and losses with perceptual uncertainty during risky decisions. After earning his PhD in 2018, Kevin joined CMU's inaugural cohort of President's Postdoctoral Fellows in Social and Decision Sciences where he has been an Assistant Professor since 2021. His research has pivoted from cognitive psychology and neuroscience to social psychology and behavioral decision-making to study college student engagement, help-seeking behavior, perceptions of diversity initiatives, and decisions to persist in higher education. He has also worked closely with CMU's Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students to create its first Black Male Summit in 2019, which has since evolved into the Black Futures Retreat and features a series of student-centered programs inviting the entire CMU community to educational and social events that spotlight Black identity development and culture. Outside of his academic work, Kevin has also served as the program chair for the annual Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit planning committee since 2019. Sciences where he has been an Assistant Professor since 2021. His research has pivoted from cognitive psychology and neuroscience to social psychology and behavioral decision-making to study college student engagement, help-seeking behavior, perceptions of diversity initiatives, and decisions to persist in higher education. He has also worked closely with CMU's Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion in collaboration with undergraduate and graduate students to create its first Black Male Summit in 2019, which has since evolved into the Black Futures Retreat and features a series of student-centered programs inviting the entire CMU community to educational and social events that spotlight Black identity development and culture. Outside of his academic work, Kevin has also served as the program chair for the annual Pittsburgh Racial Justice Summit planning committee since 2019. also supports work in CMU's Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion, where he advises individual students and student organizations involved in social justice activism and implements programs focused on the intersections of race and masculine gender identity development.

About La Roche

La Roche University is a private, Catholic, co-educational university north of Pittsburgh founded by the Sisters of Divine Providence in 1963. With a town center across the street from campus, and a scenic county park in their backyard, La Roche is at the center of activity in our hometown of McCandless Township. The main attractions include McCandless Crossing, a new neighborhood and business district, and North Park of Allegheny County. The University is about 30 minutes from Pittsburgh International Airport.

Morning Groups

Historical Fiction - Mary Papke - papke@utk.edu

In light of the conference's theme—Equity & Community—we will discuss four novels that address issues of caste, class, gender and race as these factors play out in American life. The first novel is Jess Walter's *The Cold Millions*, “an intimate story of brotherhood, love, sacrifice and betrayal set against the panoramic backdrop of an early twentieth-century America that eerily echoes our own times.” Jeannette Walls's *Hang the Moon* is our second novel and “a thrill ride through Prohibition and change in the American South.” The third novel is Pulitzer-Prize winning *Trust*, by Hernan Diaz, a “tale of privilege and deceit” that interrogates “the reality-warping force of capital, and the ease with which power can manipulate facts.” Our final work brings us to the present day—Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, her extraordinary reimagining of Dickens's *David Copperfield* transported to the mountains of southern Appalachia.

Writing Retreat - Dorothy Hurlburt - dhurlburt1@gmail.com

Do you wish for a good block of time to develop or even complete a writing project? This seminar is for those who want to write and to create in an encouraging environment. Come with a specific project in mind, or in progress, whether it is a scholarly article, a set of poems, a memoir, novel, mixed-media artifact, or something else. During these sessions we will begin by sharing and exchanging ideas about our projects, then we will get down to writing. We will tailor the meeting according to the needs of participants with spontaneous opportunities for discussion, collaboration, or feedback. At the end of the morning the group will reconvene to talk about how it's going. We would be happy to hear from people ahead of time about projects you are working on or how you would like to use the time.

Pop Culture - Erik Ecklund - eecklund@francis.edu

Thursday

The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss the Barbie movie (available on Max at the time this is written).

Friday

The Pop Culture morning group will meet to discuss Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood and the movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (available on Hulu at the time this is written).

Saturday

The Pop Culture morning group will travel to the Andy Warhol Museum. <https://www.warhol.org/>

Sunday

The Pop Culture morning group will gather to share other pop culture works (past, present, or on the horizon) that have caught the attendees' attention since we last met. All are encouraged to make suggestions for the topics of next year's gathering!

Theorizing Culture and Modes of Teaching will also be meeting. We will share their information as soon as it becomes available.

Fellows News

Thanks to all who supported the Annual Fund

Builder

Dick and Gay Harter
Nancy Jones
Danny Kodmur
James Longstreth and
Maria Viktoria Abricka
Ellen Maher

Partner

Joel and Trudy Cunningham
Greg Robbins
Mary Treanor
Howard and
Nancy Corson Carter
Stephen Sfekas
in memory of David Jones

Sustainer

Eric Ecklund
Dan Sack
in memory of David Jones
Melanie Howard
Phil O'Mara

Contributor

Thomas Bird
in memory of John McDermott
William Mowat
William Richter
Carol Stack

Harland Nelson
in memory of Corrinne Rye Nelson
Sid Bremer
Estella Lauter
Carol Ochs
John Raby

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Martha Bailey
Gayle Bray
Linda Olds
Reynold Feldman
Judy Saltzman-Saveker
Marianne Gilbert Finnegan
W. Brown Patterson
Judy Saltzman-Saveker

***Watch your email for information about the SFHE
Board election!***

Dues/Annual Fund

It's that time again! The Society depends on your dues and Annual Fund contributions to continue its good work. All contributions are appreciated! As we look ahead to our next 100 years, financial stability is essential

Becoming SFHE.org

The sharp eyed among you may have noticed a change in our web address. We were able to acquire sfhe.org and have migrated our website to the new address. The great news is that sfhe.us automatically forwards to sfhe.org, so no one looking for us will get lost! Why the change? Does it really matter? It does, .org was created for non-profits and charities. Having it as part of our web address signals to visitors that we are a non-profit. When we changed our name, we wanted to change our web address also, but sfhe.org was not available. We used .us, the country code for the United States.

In Memory

Robert Spivey
2035 - 2023

Bob graduated from Duke University in 1953 where he received a Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude. He also attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1954-1956 and earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He attended George August University of Gottingen, Germany on sabbatical from 1956-1957. After returning to the United States, he earned a PhD with highest honors in Philosophy from Yale University (1957-1960).

Bob became a member of the Society as a Danforth Fellow in 1953. He was an active member serving in multiple capacities, including Board President. He served as an example and mentor to many.

[Full Obituary](#)

Society for the Future of Higher Education
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