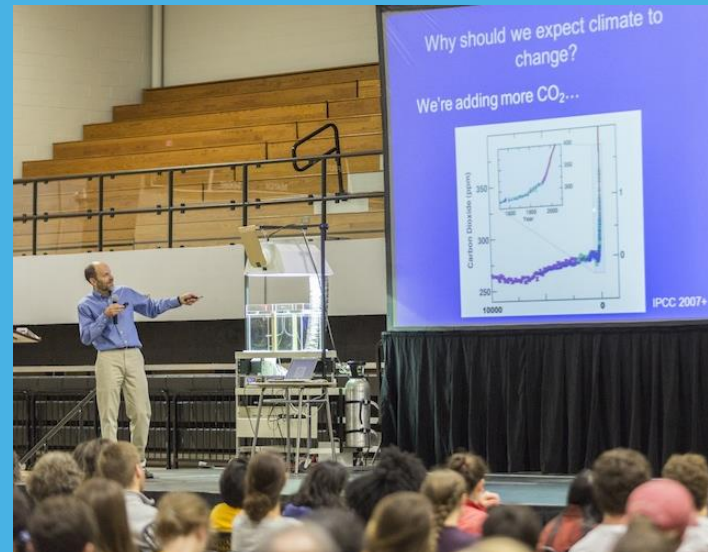


# Connecting Racism, Climate Change and Justice with a Teach-in.

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Thanks to [@hhorch](https://twitter.com/hhorch) for this relevant contribution to Faith, Justice and Nature panel [#BowdoinTeachIN](https://twitter.com/BowdoinTeachIN)



<http://community.bowdoin.edu/news/2015/10/teach-in-offers-educational-day-devoted-to-climate-change-racism-social-justice/>

# Our campus climate, December 2014



Students from Bowdoin Climate Action recruit 70 faculty members and 1000 students to sign calls for the College to divest its endowment from fossil fuels. When the Board of Trustees does not respond, campus activism heats up. Teach-in proposal comes to faculty floor on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Multicultural students call upon the administration “to take actions that uphold racial equality and justice.” “ At a time when the community of color is in mourning over the deaths of its youth and the terrible reactions of the country and justice system to these deaths, Bowdoin has been cold and silent.” –C Martinez, Bowdoin Orient, December 14, 2014



Campus leaders organize response to Ferguson grand jury.

# Intersections: People, Planet and Power (IP3)

## Creating coalitions:

- Faculty, staff and students working across social and academic boundaries.
- Offering alliances with all campus organizations.
- Bringing together traditionally separated social movements.



## Connecting to Bowdoin's Mission to *promote The Common Good* by:

- Reframing the discussion surrounding injustice.
- Hosting events that foster inclusive discussion and education.
- Promoting a just and sustainable future for all.





# THE INTERSECTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

A PANEL DISCUSSION SPONSORED BY INTERSECTIONS: PEOPLE, PLANET AND POWER (IP3), A NEWLY FORMED GROUP OF BOWDOIN STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WHO ARE COMMITTED TO AN INTEGRATIVE AND HOLISTIC DISCUSSION ABOUT JUSTICE WITHIN AND BEYOND BOWDOIN.

WHEN

Tuesday, February 24  
7pm

WHERE

Daggett Lounge



## FEATURING

**Prof. Susan Kaplan**

Climate Change in the Arctic and its Impact on Indigenous Peoples

**Prof. Matthew Kingle**

Environmental Justice and History

**Student: Alexa Leon**

The History of Race and the Prison System in the US

**Prof. Brian Purnell**

Racism and U.S History

**Prof. Melissa Rosario**

Social Movements and Justice



Join us as we discuss communication and listening strategies that will empower and motivate us to have productive conversations about injustice. As different justice groups on campus continue to collaborate towards common ends, this workshop will give us the tools we need to address critical questions: what internal assumptions may we need to debunk to maximize the success of our work together? What could we gain from collaborating more closely? What is at stake if we don't?

An event by IP3. Intersections:  
People, Planet, Power

# The initial proposal to cancel classes polarized the faculty.

- In revised motion, faculty have many options for participation, including non-participation.
- Additional outreach explicitly addressed the Teach-in as an educational project and an opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration.

After faculty endorsement the Dean of Academic Affairs supported a summer working group for planning and provided a substantial budget for the day.



**Motion of endorsement passes 53-43.**

*We move that the faculty recommend Thursday, September 17 be dedicated to a campus-wide teach-in on racial and social justice, climate change, and their intersections.*

# Challenges

- The tyranny of the calendar
- Protection of academic turf and classroom safe space
- Alienation and suspicion of activists from every camp
- Self-segregation of issues
- The conservative blogosphere

# Responses

- Personal outreach
- Affirm community values
- Encourage critical scholarship
- Careful sharing



Bowdoin is committed to carbon neutrality by 2020 and to a diverse campus community. IP3 pushed people to understand that both efforts require time from the entire community. Social and environmental sustainability is a team effort!



# What happened?

- A vibrant daylong schedule of 20 open classes, 12 panel discussions, an information fair, a film feed, library resource pages and 2 plenary sessions with roughly 90 faculty, 10 staff and 40 student presenters.
- ~1200 people came out for all or part of the day. On a campus with 1700 students this was an unprecedented volunteer turn-out.
- Student activists worked with staff and faculty and developed new ways to discuss needs for the campus.
- Many faculty practiced collaboration across divisional boundaries (science, humanities and social science) for the first time.
- Self-segregation and issue isolation was challenged.
- Enormous learning about issues and about community.







# What was on the Schedule?

8:30 - 10:00 Open Class: Earth Care: Public Health, Disease, and Environmental Inequalities in the Anthropocene ES1101

9:35 - 9:55 Open Class: Forced Migration and Interdependence: A Climate Dance Event Dance 1101

10:00 - 11:15 Welcoming Plenary: Framing the Questions

11:30 - 1:00 Panel Discussions:

- A Heritage of Greed: Colonial Enterprises' Past and Present
- Is the US Political System Broken?
- Faith, Justice and Nature

11:30 - 1:00 Open Classes:

- The Proposed Second Central American Canal in Nicaragua: Environmental and Social Consequences
- Chemical Exposure Risks: Public Safety and Burden of Proof Chemistry 3050
- Mercy, Mercy Me: The Environment, the Blues and Hip-Hop
- #Black Lives Matter vs. Climate Change?
- Imagining Futures: Readings from Science Fiction on Identity and the Environment
- Bookmaking, Humans and Nature
- Problems, Agitations and Solutions
- Sonic Environments: Composing Analogies to Social and Natural Processes. Music 2551
- Natural Climate Variability in the Equatorial Pacific: Mechanisms and Impacts. Earth and Ocean Science 2540
- Policy Pathways for Reducing CO2 Emissions: In Pursuit of Efficacy, Efficiency and Fairness

# What was on the Schedule?

## 1:00 - 2:30 Panel Discussions

- Intersectionality: Student Perspectives on Living and Working Together at Bowdoin
- Oceans and Climate Change: Impact on Human and Ocean Communities
- Food for Thought: Eating for a Healthier Planet and a Healthier You

## 1:00 - 2:30 Open Classes

- Don Quixote of the Arctic: Inuit, Social Justice and Climate Change
- What is Fair? Who is Responsible? Global Climate Negotiations and Climate Activism North/South/East/West Gov 2515
- Climate Change and Its Impact on Society in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Slave Resistance and Revolts Africana Studies 1101
- Writing After Katrina
- Our Fair Cities? The Urban landscapes of Social and Environmental Inequalities
- Two Sides of the Border: Imagining, Experiencing and Embodying the “Other” with the Facts of Climate Change
- Public Art: Feminism, Labor, Environment

## 2:30 – 4:00 Panel Discussions

- Globalization: Wealth, Poverty and Climate Disruption
- Striving for Change: Social Movements & Campus Politics
- Who Owns the Earth: Maine’s Diverse Populations & Environments
- Stop Killing Us: Power, Violence and Extinction
- Human Health & Climate Change Public Health in the US and Abroad: Differences in Population Benefits
- Talking Across Differences: Facing Challenges and Sharing Strategies

## 2:30 - 4:00 Open Class Social Inequity in the Mideast

## 4:00 - 5:15

- Concluding Plenary: Ways Forward
- Rain, Rain, Beautiful Rain (Bowdoin Choir)