The resurgence of racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, anti-immigrant, anti-labor, and white supremacist discourses in the aftermath of the 2016 American Presidential election has necessarily produced an existential crisis in labor organizing and called into question the efficacy of traditional leftist principles and practices. At the same time, grassroots political and social movements including #BlackLivesMatter, American Indian resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline, the populist appeal of the Bernie Sanders campaign, and the Women’s March in the wake of the 2016 election continue to illuminate a path forward that utilizes intersectional theory and practice.

Intersectionality is a framework created by Black feminist scholar and civil rights advocate Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw in 1989 to describe conflicting and reciprocal identities that confront both individuals and social movements as they seek to navigate gender, race, social class, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, mental disability, physical disability, mental and physical illness as well as other forms of identity. Crenshaw argued that these aspects of identity are not "unitary, mutually exclusive entities, but rather ... reciprocally constructing phenomena." Intersectionality can be used to understand the multidimensionality of systemic injustice and how different expressions of power and oppression collaborate to create an all-encompassing system reflecting multiple forms of discrimination. Further, any serious comparative historical view of resistance to power suggests that demands for solidarity across social divisions are as likely to compete as to coalesce.
This conference seeks to further CFA’s demands for solidarity across the lines of social division by engaging the framework of intersectionality as a critical mode of organizing and coalescing the multiple identities that comprise the American labor movement.

**Conference Participation**

The Council for Affirmative Action commits to sponsoring up to five (5) persons from each chapter to attend. Moreover, the Council strongly encourages chapter presidents to invite current or prospective activist colleagues to participate in the conference. In addition, chapters are strongly encouraged to support, at their expense, additional faculty with whom it wishes to build stronger activist relationships.

**Conference Planning Committee**

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Direct conference questions to Audrena Redmond

**SAVE THE DATES**

Friday, March 16, 10:30am – Saturday, March 17, 6:00pm