

WIPCS 40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

**A More Peaceful and Just Future is Possible:
Charting Paths from Failed Institutions to
Collective Liberation**



**WISCONSIN
INSTITUTE**
FOR PEACE AND
CONFLICT STUDIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

**Hosted by
Marquette University**

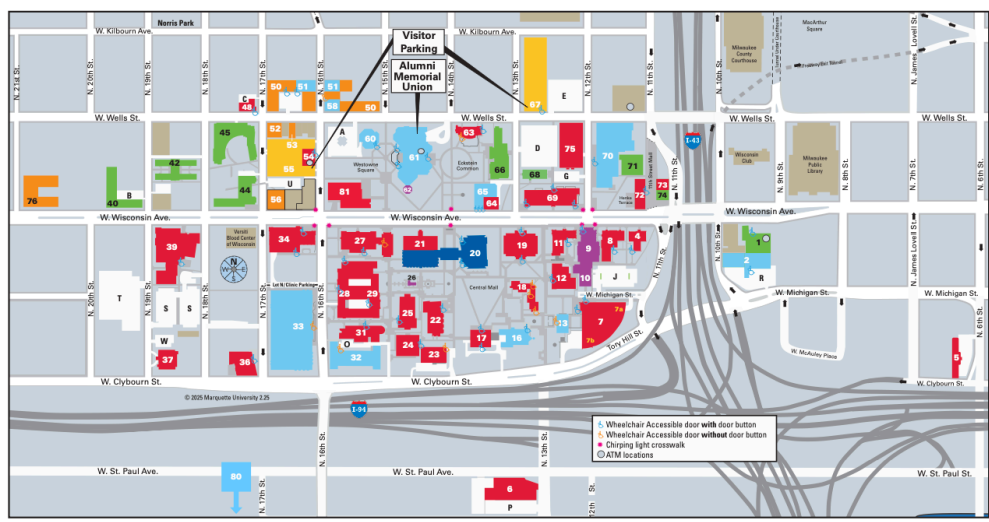
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

LAND & WATER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather here today, we are mindful that our campus and Milwaukee are the homelands and waters of the Menominee, Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Fox, Mascouten, Sauk and Ojibwe nations, who have known these lands and waters as relatives for millennia and whose descendants alongside many other tribal nation members remain our hosts.

We are mindful of our responsibility to practice good relations with the land and water as elders and ancestors past, present and emerging have done. Our responsibility entails acknowledging these cultural traditions that inform good stewardship of our environment and practicing ongoing good relations with the sovereign nations who care for it. In the spirit of reconciliation, we can authentically create the conditions of hospitality for current Indigenous students and community members and all yet to walk with us.

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



Academic/Administrative Buildings	
313 Building	6
525 Building	5
707 Building	72
1700 Building	48
Admissions	69
Athletic and Human Performance Research Center	75
Carpenter Tower	73
Clark Hall	31
Coughlin Hall	18
Cramer Hall	28
Cudahy Hall	19
Dentistry, School of	39
Ekstein Hall, Law School	7
Engineering Hall	
Opus College of Engineering	34
Graduate School	69
Grounds Maintenance Facility (not shown)	38
Haggerty Hall, and Olin Engineering Center	27
Holthusen Hall	64
Johnston Hall	
Diederich College of Communication	8
Krueger Child Care Center	37
Lalumiere Language Hall	17
Lemonis Center for Student Success	21
Marquette Hall	11
Marquette University Police Department	54
O'Brien, Dr. E. J. & Margaret, Hall, College of Business Administration, Graduate School of Management	81
O'Brien, Dr. E. J., Jesuit Residence	63
Physician Assistant Studies Building	36
Schroeder Complex, College of Health Sciences, College of Education	29
Sensenbrenner Hall, Klingler College of Arts and Sciences	4
Service Building	23
Straz, Jr., David A., Hall College of Nursing	12
Todd Wehr Chemistry Building	22
Wehr Life Sciences Building	24
William Wehr Physics Building	25
Zilber Hall	69
Churches/Chapels	
Chapel of the Holy Family	62
Church of the Gesu, a Jesuit-sponsored parish	9
Gesu Parish Center	10
St. Joan of Arc Chapel	26
Libraries	
Law Library	7
Raynor Library	20
Parking Structures	
16th Street Parking Structure	55
Ekstein Hall Parking	7a, 7b
Wells Street Parking Structure	67
Art/Entertainment/Recreation Facilities	
Alumni Memorial Union (Information Desk and Spirit Shop)	61
Gymnasium, Marquette	32
Haggerty Museum of Art	13
Helpaer Theatre	16
Al McGuire Center	70
Rec Plex	2
Union Sports Annex	58
Valley Fields (not shown)	80
Varsity Theatre	65
Weasler Auditorium	60
Wellness + Helpaer Recreation (Medical Clinic and LOVELLSTRONG Center for Student Well-Being)	33
Residence Halls	
Abbottsford Hall	68
Carpenter Tower Hall	74
Coben Hall	71
The Commons (Ekstein Tower and Wells Street Hall)	45
Humphrey Hall	44
Mashuda Hall	40
O'Donnell Hall	42
Schroeder Hall	66
Straz, Jr., David A., Tower Hall	1
University Apartment Buildings	
Campus Town Apartments	50
Frenn Building	53
Gilman Building	52
The Marg	76
McCabe Hall	56
University Information – 414.288.7250	

Updated February 2025

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

LOCATIONS

Alumni Memorial Union

- 1442 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

The AMU is open from 7am-10:45pm.

WIFI AND INTERNET

Free Wifi Network: MU Guest

BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY

All AMU entrances are wheelchair accessible with automatic doors.

- Elevators are located adjacent to the North Stairwell, outside of Marquette Place on the 2nd floor and Union Station on the 1st floor.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be located on the second floor of the AMU and will be available all day.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

PARKING

The conference is on the main campus of Marquette University.

- Building #67: Wells Street Parking Structure – Structure 2 located at 1240 W. Wells St.
- Building #55: 16th Street Parking Structure – Structure 1 located at 749 N. 16th St.

FOOD

Boxed lunches will be available to those who pre-registered with the lunch option. If you did not pre-register for lunch, there are many food options available inside the AMU and on campus:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Erbert’s & Gerbert’s (AMU) | • Maki Yaki |
| • The Brew (AMU) | • Papa John’s |
| • La Taqueria (AMU) | • Gordo’s Bubble Waffles |
| • Grill 155 (AMU) | • Real Chili |
| • Einstein Bros Bagels (AMU) | • Annex Sports bar and grill |
| • Cousins' subs | • 7- Eleven |
| • Qdoba | • Sendik’s Food Market |
| • Autie Anne’s | • Taco Pros |
| • Jimmy John’s | • SereniTea MKE |
| | • Starbucks |

WIPCS CONFERENCE 2025 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY APRIL 3

6:00-7:30PM

A Conversation on Gaza: Next Steps for Collective Liberation

- **Central United Methodist Church Fellowship Room**
 - **Dr. Thaer Ahmad**, Emergency Medicine Physician & Board Member, MedGlobal
 - **Huwaida Arraf**, Civil Rights Attorney & Co-founder, International Solidarity Movement
 - **Julie Kosowski**, Human Rights Advocate & Member, Jewish Voice for Peace

FRIDAY APRIL 4

8:00-9:00AM

Registration (throughout the day)

Alumni Memorial Union 2nd Floor

9:00-9:20AM

Welcome and Outline of Day's Events

Featuring Dean Heidi Bostic and WIPCS Executive Director Jennifer Collins

9:20-9:30AM BREAK

WIPCS CONFERENCE 2025

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Thaer Ahmad

Thaer Ahmad, MD is a board certified emergency medicine physician working at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Chicago.

He currently serves as an attending physician at and is the Assistant Program Director for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program and the Global Health Director for the Emergency Department at Advocate Christ. Dr. Ahmad is a board member of the Palestinian American Medical Association and a past board member of MedGlobal. Dr. Ahmad also works as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois. He has served in Gaza at Nasser and Al-Aqsa Hospital, as well as in Lebanon during the recent escalations. Dr. Ahmad has spent time in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Kenya, and Greece working on local healthcare capacity building projects.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Julie Kosowski

Julie Kosowski is a human rights activist and member of Jewish Voice for Peace. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and lived in Israel during the first year of the 1987 Intifada. In November of 2023, she was one of more than 100 protesters arrested at a ceasefire demonstration at the Ogilvie Transportation Center in Chicago, Illinois.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Huwaida Arraf

Huwaida Arraf is a Palestinian American attorney and human rights activist. She has been involved in a number of legal and grassroots initiatives for Palestinian rights. In 2001, she co-founded the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led non-violent resistance movement, which has twice been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Huwaida is the former Chairperson of the Free Gaza Movement, and from August to December 2008, led 5 successful sea voyages to the Gaza Strip to challenge Israel's illegal blockade on the 2 million Palestinians living there. She was one of the organizers of the Gaza Freedom Flotilla and was traveling with it when it was lethally attacked by Israeli forces on 31 May 2010. In 2011, she was one of the six Palestinian Freedom Riders, who attempted to ride segregated Israeli settler public transport, for which they were harassed then violently arrested.

SERIES 1

9:30-10:50AM

Session 1 | AMU 157

- **Refugee for 75 Minutes**

- **Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi, Sophia Schwartz, Ella Hill, Kidest Mitiku, Emmet Appleby, UW-Superior**

Session 2 | AMU 163

- **Panel: Inclusion and Exclusion**

- **Dr. Amira Albagshi, *Exploring Disproportionality in Special Education: A Comparative Study of Oshkosh and Ripon School Districts*, Ripon College**
- **Jacob Michael Hicks, *American Islamophobia: What Does the History of American Nativism Teach Us?*, UW-Eau Claire**
- **Kingsley Chidimma Ezeuwa, *Mohammed V, Anti-Semitism and the Moroccan Homefront during the Second World War*, Marquette University**
- **Felix Akinboyewa, *The Roles of Ethnicity and Procedural Justice in Peace Intervention Programs*, Kent State University**

Session 3 | AMU 227

- **Panel: Migration and Refugees**

- **Dr. Sumana Chattopadhyay, *Purple Perspectives -- How the Wisconsin and Georgia Media Covered the Migrant Busing Crisis*, Marquette University**
- **Dr. Miao David Chunyu and Dalia Glatt, *U.S. Refugee Policies Over Time and Their Impact on Central Wisconsin Communities*, UW-Stevens Point**

SERIES 1 (CONT.)

9:30-10:50AM

Session 3 (Cont.)

- **Angeline Valentina Morgado Romero**, *The Venezuelan Diaspora Across the Continent: Narratives for Protection, Integration, and Representation*, UW-Madison
- **Kayla Lewis**, *Resettlement of Rohingya Refugees in the Midwest United States: Beginning of a Healing Process*, Marquette University

Session 4 | AMU 137

- **Panel: Building Resilience Among Change Agents**
 - **Dr. Gabriel Velez and Malysa MacFarland**, *Community-Led Healing: Scaling Wellness in Milwaukee's (SWIM) Trauma-Informed Approach to Peacebuilding*, Marquette University
 - **Jolynn Woehrer**, *Justice Keepers and Mental Health: Centering Trauma Awareness, Resilience, and Well-Being in Legal and Advocacy Work*, UW-Milwaukee
 - **Amy Horst**, *Afrocentric Principles for Liberatory Social Service*, UW-Milwaukee

10:50-11:00AM BREAK

SERIES 2

11:00-12:20PM

Session 1 | AMU 157

- ***Refugee for 75 Minutes***

- **Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi, Sophia Schwartz, Ella Hill, Kidest Mitiku, Emmet Appleby, UW-Superior**

Session 2 | AMU 163

- ***Panel: Resistance and Enforcement***

- **Dr. Mark Berlin, *Why Human Rights Violations Persist in Liberal Democracies: The Case of the Chicago Police Torture Scandal*, Marquette University**
- **Eric Rorholm, *"Blue Cities" or Cop City? Exploring the Role of Policing in Mayoral Elections in Major US Cities Post-George Floyd*, Marquette University**
- **Emma Sarazin, *Crowd, Riot or Mob: Conceptualizing Mob Violence as Distinct*, Marquette University**
- **Dr. Gerry Canavan, *Dune at 60*, Marquette University**

Session 3 | AMU 227

- ***Dialogue Workshops***

- **Dr. Alexandra Crampton, *Peacemaking through Conflict and Dialogue: 3 Approaches*, Marquette University**
- **Sabaa Abdulrazzaq, *How "Listen Only Listen" is Important for Middle School Students*, UW-Milwaukee**

Continued

SERIES 2 (CONT.)

11:00-12:20PM

Session 4 | AMU 137

- **Panel: Campus Scholarship and Activism**

- **Dr. Christine Schindler**, *Empowering Youth to Combat Gun Violence: Establishing a Chapter of Team ENOUGH in the Marquette University College of Nursing*, Marquette University
- **Dr. Freesia McKee**, *Teaching Ecopoetics*, UW-Stevens Point
- **Joshua Moore**, *Leveraging the Co-Curriculum to Address Human Rights Across Disciplines*, Beloit College
- **Emilieanna Maus, Rosie Stone, Carmen Litzau, and Amani Dalieh**, *Creating a Culture of Active Nonviolence: The Center for Peacemaking Student Activism Projects*, Marquette University

LUNCH & MAIN PLENARY

12:20-1:20PM

If you are registered for a meal, you will receive a ticket at the Lunda Room/Henke Lounge entrances. Otherwise, you can purchase a lunch from the vendors at Marquette Place or restaurants surrounding Marquette and bring your lunch into the room.

Lunda Room

- ***WIPCS Anniversary Panel: Peacemaking and Activism in the 1980s and Today***
 - **Dr. Deborah Buffton**, Professor Emerita, History, UW-La Crosse, and former Executive Director, WIPCS
 - **Dr. Jennifer Collins**, Professor and Chair, Political Science, UW-Stevens Point, and current Executive Director, WIPCS
 - **Dr. Ax DeLessio-Parson**, Professor, Peace Studies, Marquette University
 - **Dr. Lynne Woehrle**, Associate Professor and Director of Peacebuilding Programs, UW-Milwaukee, and former Executive Director, WIPCS
 - **Dr. Eric Yonke**, Professor Emeritus, History, UW-Stevens Point, and former Executive Director, WIPCS

1:20-1:30PM BREAK

40TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Deborah Buffton

WIPCS Executive Director, UW-La Crosse, retired

Deborah Buffton taught at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for 33 years before retiring in 2020. Her courses included World History, French History, and Chinese History, as well as Peace and War, and the History of Nonviolent Resistance Movements. She has served on the Executive Committee of the WIPCS since 1993 and twice was Executive Director. She is also a past president of the Peace History Society. She has published articles on war and peace in public spaces and is a co-editor of the Oxford Handbook of Peace History. She also organizes a weekly peace vigil in La Crosse, and generally tries to rabble-rouse for good causes.



Dr. Jennifer Collins

Current WIPCS Executive Director, UW Stevens Point

Professor Jennifer Collins joined the Department of Political Science at UW-Stevens Point in 2007. She serves as the department chair. After graduating from college, she spent eight years working in Central and South America, first in Nicaragua with Witness for Peace, and then in Ecuador with the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI). She was the recipient of two Fulbright fellowships for field research in Ecuador and Bolivia and serves as a contributing editor to the Handbook of Latin American Studies.

40TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Lynne Woehrle

*Former WIPCS Executive Director,
UW Milwaukee Masters of Sustainable
Peacemaking*

Dr. Woehrle's research focuses on documenting, analyzing and evaluating how people identify, challenge and transform injustice in their communities. Her goal is to expand knowledge of how communities which are equitable and peaceful can be developed. She studies ways that communities and organizations can change from practices of structural or direct violence to supporting inclusive, sustainable, and nonviolent social systems. Specifically, she researches organizations that address difficult social problems, analyze their change-making behavior and contextualize it in larger social institutions and the intersection of those social structures.



Dr. Eric Yonke

UW-Stevens Point, retired

Eric served on the faculty at UW-Stevens Point in the Department of History & International Studies as well as serving in administrative posts in International Programs and for the College of Letters & Science. Eric coordinated and taught courses in Peace and International Studies and offered seminars in the History of Human Rights. In 2022, Eric started a new career with the Ethiopian Community Development Council helping launch a refugee resettlement agency in Wausau.

40TH ANNIVERSARY PANEL

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Ax DeLessio Parson

Marquette University Peace Studies

Ax DeLessio, PhD is an educator, sociologist, and demographer who seeks to advance liberatory social change and instigate/interrogate intellectual engagement with democracy and government. She has given lectures in and outside the classroom, in geographies from Argentina to Milwaukee, and taught at Willamette University, Portland State, and Marylhurst University prior to its closure.

Previously she worked on projects financed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and for The Center for Rural Pennsylvania during her years earning her doctorate at Penn State. DeLessio has published on veganism and its linkages with gender/masculinity, and been interviewed about this work in English and Spanish on radio, television, and for newspaper stories, across the political spectrum. She co-organized a local food growing space (2020-2023) in Milwaukee, and now orients herself towards political spaces while also thoroughly enjoying teaching in the classroom. She deeply values time in community, reading, and music/the arts.

SERIES 3

1:30-2:50PM

Session 1 | AMU 157

- **Refugee for 75 Minutes**

- **Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi, Sophia Schwartz, Ella Hill, Kidest Mitiku, Emmet Appleby, UW-Superior**

Session 2 | AMU 163

- **Panel: Local Level Activism**

- **Dr. Aaron Schutz**, *Creating Transformative Experiences for the Development of Social Justice Leadership: The Practice of the Northwest Community Organization*, UW-Milwaukee
- **Dr. David Nowacek**, *Marquette Can Decarbonize and Save Money: Here's How*, Marquette University
- **Zarifa Saadat**, *Educate Afghan Women: Pathways to Collective Liberation Through Education*, UW-Milwaukee
- **Marissa Cudworth**, *With, Not For: Weaving Engineering and Peacebuilding into Water System CoDesign*, UW-Milwaukee

Session 3 | AMU 227

- **Panel: Global Violence and Peacemaking**

- **Dr. Sedef Topal**, *Rebel Group Mergers: A Marriage of Convenience or Enforcement?*, Ripon College
- **Camille Carlson**, *Temporality of Militarism: Refusing Foreclosed Futures in Oceania and Globally*, Marquette University

Continued

SERIES 3 (CONT.)

1:30-2:50PM

Session 3 (Cont.)

- **Rosemary Akpan**, *Women's Portrayals in War and its Implications for Peacebuilding: A Case Study of the Nigeria-Biafra War, 1967-1970*, Marquette University
- **Claudia Liverseed**, *Women as Peacemakers: Rwanda as a Case Study for Women's Leadership in Reconciliation Processes*, UW-Madison

Session 4 | Lunda Room

- ***Envisioning Peace Through Restorative Practices: Discussing Ongoing Developments in Milwaukee Public Schools***
 - **Dr. Gardner Seawright**, UW-Whitewater
 - **Moriah Weingrod**, Milwaukee Public Schools, Department of Restorative Practices
 - **Joanna Rizzotto**, Milwaukee Public Schools, Department of Restorative Practices
 - **Dr. Gabriel Velez**, Marquette University
 - **Dr. Heather Sattler**, Restorative Practices Facilitator and Teacher
 - **Dorian Tellis**, Medical College of Wisconsin, 414 Life
 - **Maurice Newton Jr.**, UW-Milwaukee/Cudahy School District

2:50-3:00PM BREAK

SERIES 4

3:00-4:20PM

Session 1 | AMU 157

- *Refugee for 75 Minutes*
 - Dr. Khalil Dokhanchi, Sophia Schwartz, Ella Hill, Kidest Mitiku, Emmet Appleby, UW-Superior

Session 2 | AMU 163

- *Sudan Rising: An Artistic Vision for Peace and Justice*
 - Nagwa Ahmed, Lojain Gamar, Nada Ahmed, Amani Gamar, and Dan Elhour, Marquette University

Session 3 | AMU 227

- *Cultivating Resistance: How Food Sovereignty Fuels the Fight for Justice*
 - Zoe Boyd, UW-Stevens Point

Session 4 | Lunda Room

- *Panel: Methodologies of Transformation*
 - Dr. Marc Eaton, *Reparative Genealogy as a Means of Restorative Justice*, Ripon College
 - Dr. George Dalbo, *Unsettling Narratives: The Possibilities and Limitations for Justice in Settler Colonial Nation-States*, Beloit College
 - Dr. Matheus Cruz, *Choral Music and Social Issues*, UW-Stevens Point
 - Isabelle Holmes, *Shaping a More Just World Through Spiritual Reflection and Transformation*, Marquette University

4:20-4:30PM BREAK

CLOSING CEREMONY

4:30-5:00PM

- **Awards Ceremony & Closing Remarks | Lunda Room**
 - *40th Anniversary Celebration with Cake!*
 - *Student and Leadership Awards*
 - Dick Ringler Distinguished Peace Educator Award
 - WIPCS Student Scholar Award
 - WIPCS Student Activist Award
 - Graduate Paper Award
 - Undergraduate Paper Award
 - *Closing Remarks*

2025 AWARD WINNERS

Dick Ringler Distinguished Peace Educator Award



Patrick Kennelly

*Center for Peacemaking,
Marquette University*

Dr. Patrick Kennelly, Arts '07, Grad '13, Grad' 23 is the director of Marquette University's Center for Peacemaking and serves as the Principal Investigator for the Near West Side Partners' signature grant program known as PARC, Promoting Assets and Reducing Crime. Pat earned a BA and MLS from Marquette University. Pat was recently honored as one of Milwaukee Business Journal's Forty Under 40 and also is a Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leader.

2025 AWARD WINNERS

WIPCS Student Scholar Award



Marissa Cudworth

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Marissa K. Cudworth is a graduate student in the Master's in Sustainable Peacebuilding program and an Advanced Opportunity Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Global Security with minors in Spanish and Political Science. Marissa is also a two-time Public Allies Wisconsin alum; her service years emphasized social change and community engagement initiatives in environmental work at Groundwork Milwaukee and Walnut Way Conservation Corps.

WIPCS Student Activist Award



Segun Daniel Okeowo

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Segun is a community development leader and peace building advocate specializing in youth empowerment, policy advocacy, and sustainability. As a Master of Sustainable Peace building candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he focuses on strategic communication and stakeholder engagement.

He has led workshops, policy initiatives, and leadership programs through OneAfrican Child Foundation, UNESCO IICBA, and the World Economic Forum. In Milwaukee, his work with 5Points Neighborhood Association and the Housing Authority centers on research, policymaking, and community engagement to improve youth and neighborhood well-being.

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