



TRIFAITH[®]
INITIATIVE



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RACE, RELIGION & SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

2024 Sustainable Progress

Call for Proposals

The Tri-Faith Initiative and UNO's Religious Studies department invites submissions for the third annual **Race, Religion, and Social Justice Conference** that will be held on **June 5-6th, 2024 on the Tri-Faith Commons in Omaha, NE**. The conference will address intersections between race, religion, and social justice across different sectors of society. We invite multi-sector approaches - nonprofit and civic leaders, diversity, equity, access, and inclusion (DEAI) practitioners, community members, educators, health and mental health practitioners, artists, religious communities, and scholars. We are seeking papers and presentations that address topics associated with **Sustainable Progress**.

Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of the future, whether for ourselves, our communities, our economy or our environment. Social justice work is a marathon, not a sprint; it is important to keep a sustainable pace to move forward. Sustainable progress, therefore, is about seeking societal change that takes root at a deeper level than a victory that can be easily stripped away in the next political tug-of-war. Sustainable progress requires out-of-the-box thinking, multimodal approaches, and patience for the long game.

We are seeking presentations on topics including but not limited to:

- Resiliency and wellness
- Diversity, equity, access, and inclusion (DEAI)
- Youth and education
- Immigration and refugees
- Multi-sectoral institutional responses to injustice and reconciliation, such as within religious institutions, businesses, and schools
- Arts, theater, and creative initiatives
- Political polarization and democracy
- Racial diversity within religious traditions
- Religious diversity within communities of color
- Environmental justice

Sessions will be focused on professional learning and community engagement and provide key takeaways for participants. We welcome the following types of presentation formats:

Education Sessions (30-minute presentations or panels with 15-minute Q&A)

Presenters share their work, innovations, or new opportunities. The presenters are responsible for leading the conversation, providing new and varying perspectives, and offering practical applications of their work. The education sessions can be held as brief individual presentations (e.g., TED Talks) or panels.

Conversation Sessions (45-minute time slots)

Presenters lead a facilitated conversation in which participants will discuss an issue or challenge, in order to help examine or solve the problem. The proposal should include the conversation topic and engaging questions for discussions. This session type should be highly interactive with planned activities for participant engagement, and the proposal should describe specific activities as well as specific discussion questions.

Workshops (45-minute time slots)

Presenters engage participants in an activity related to the conference topics. Workshops should be structured with collaboration between the presenter and participants and between participants. In the proposal, please clearly describe the activities in which participants will engage.

Visual and Performing Arts (45-minute time slots)

Presenters will develop a creative display of visual or performing arts that directly engages a conference topic. They will be available to discuss their presentation with conference participants. Space requirements and other accommodations may be specified in the proposal.

Other

If you have an idea and you are not sure how it fits, please propose it!

Proposals must include the following information:

- Presenter name(s)
- Professional bio (including experience and profession) - 100 word limit
- Title of proposal
- 200-word summary
- Key takeaways/Value/Learning Outcomes
- Presentation style - Lecture, PowerPoint, performance
- Special requests/needs
- Sign up to moderate options

Decision-making Process

- A committee representing diverse religious, racial, and professional backgrounds is gathered.
- The committee checks the proposal for relevance to the conference (race and religion prioritized, but must touch upon race OR religion).
- The committee rates the relevance to theme, uniqueness, and strength of proposal
- The committee weighs the balance of topics and areas of interest to provide opportunities for all.
- The committee tries to ensure that both professional speakers and emerging speakers have opportunities to present.

Please submit your proposal by ~~February 16, 2024~~ **March 1, 2024 (deadline extension)** via the form at trifaith.org/rrsj-cfp-2024. If you have any questions, please email RRSJ@trifaith.org.

In solidarity,

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