

COLLEGE OF ARTS,
HUMANITIES,
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

WILLIAM PATERSON
UNIVERSITY

Fourteenth Annual Multidisciplinary Conference

CONTEXTS

Celebrating 250 Years of American History

Liberty and Justice For All

Thursday, October 30, 2025

University Commons Ballrooms



Dr. Mark Ellis



Dr. Grant E. Stanton



Prof. Sarah Medina Camiscoli



Dr. Edmund Adjapong



Nuzhat Chowdhury, Esq

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Session 1

DEFINING DEMOCRACY

DR. MARK ELLIS, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, William Paterson University

Presentation: "The Power of Youth: Brilliance, Determination, Voice, and Results"

DR. GRANT E. STANTON, Assistant Professor of History and Africana Studies, Drew University

Presentation: "The Language of Liberty: How Black Patriots in the Revolution Led the First Successful Campaign Against Slavery in American History."

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Keynote Address (including time for Q&A)

PROF. SARAH MEDINA CAMISCOLI, Assistant Professor of Law,
Rutgers Newark Co-Founder, Peer Defense Project

Presentation: "Young Voices: Catalysts for Reimagining the Future of Democracy"

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. - Session 2

CREATIVE PATHWAYS TOWARDS JUSTICE

DR. EDMUND ADJAPONG, Assistant Professor of Education, Seton Hall University

Faculty Fellow, The Institute for Urban and Multicultural Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

Presentation: "Hip-Hop's Pursuit of Social Justice"

NUZHAT CHOWDHURY, ESQ., Director of Democracy and Justice Program, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Presentation: "What's Up With Democracy in NJ?: Voting Rights, Democracy, and What's to be Done in the Garden State"

This conference was made possible through the following departments and programs: Art, Communication, Community and Social Justice Studies, History, Philosophy, and Liberal Studies, Language, Literacy, Culture, and Writing, Music, Political Science, Legal, and Urban Studies, Psychology, and Sociology and Criminal Justice.

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