

# Diversity and Inclusion Report

## Department of Cultures, Societies and Global Studies

The Department of Cultures, Societies and Global Studies (CSGS) approaches the challenges facing humanity through perspectives that are primarily informed by the experiences of the peoples from the Global South—Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America—and its diasporas. Our department houses programs in Africana Studies; Asian Studies; History, Culture and Law; Latino, Latin American and Caribbean Studies; and Spanish. And we recently added a new minor in Black Feminist Studies. Tackling questions of racial and social justice are at the heart of CSGS’s mission, to engage in research and teaching: “on the transformative power of culture as an instrument for social change and innovation.”

A critical aspect of our unit is its crucial foundations in academic partnerships. Such collaborations are reflected in joint appointments with English, History, International Affairs, Philosophy & Religion, Political Science, Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and the World Languages Center, as well as combined major with Religion & Philosophy and, shortly, one with Political Science. Taken together such work explicitly speaks to the inherently interdisciplinary foundations of the study of race and social justice.

In addition to offering a variety of classes that focus on race and social justice—such as “US Race and Ethnic Relations,” “Early African American Literature,” “Black Popular Culture,” “Gender, Race and Medicine”—the unit also engages in a variety of public programming intended to foster and engage with those issues. The Africana Studies program is hosting a series of talks and panel discussions focused on the student-developed, broad topic of “Africana Studies in the Academy: The Fight to Be Seen Heard and Understood.” Panel discussions have included participation not only by faculty, but also students and community members. In addition, Africana studies co-sponsored, in conjunction with the Center for Reparations and restorative Justice an amazing conference intended to explore the potential relationships between lynching and reparations. This day-long conference brought speakers such as Representative Shirley Jackson Lee, Angela Davis, and Ta-Nehisi Coates, to the campus community.

Our faculty regularly participate in race and social justice events and programming on campus, beyond the unit. Nicole Aljoe, Angel Nieves and affiliate faculty member Tracy Robinson-Wood and Melissa Pearson participated in the Racial Literacies pop-up class. New member Fadeke Castor was interviewed by Northeastern News about the African American holiday, Juneteenth.

Several of our unit members bring their research and scholarship on issues of race and social justice to bear through on-campus Northeastern-based public-facing organizations such as the Early Black Boston Almanac, the Early Caribbean Archive, the Integrated Initiative for Global Health, the Institute on Race and Social Justice, the Northeastern Center for Health Policy and Law, NULab, Office of City and Community Affairs.

This work is also brought to bear in organizations outside of Northeastern such as: the African Centre for Community Investment in Health, the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies, the Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network, *Signs: Journal of Women in Society & Culture*, and the UPenn Center on Digital Culture and Society.

The CSGS faculty collaborate on an ongoing basis with several of the university's cultural institutions—including the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, the Asian-American Center, and the Latinx Student Cultural Center—and numerous student groups—such as the Brazilian Student Association, Chinese Student Association, Latin American Student Organization, Northeastern African Student Organization, and the Northeastern Black Student Association.