



Faculty

Our extraordinary panel of thought leaders represents a nexus of media, activism and contemplative wisdom.



Amy Goodman [@democracynow](#)

Amy Goodman is the host and executive producer of *Democracy Now!*, a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing worldwide. Her independent grassroots political journalism offers millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by the mainstream media. democracynow.org



Van Jones [@VanJones68](#)

Van Jones, a former advisor to President Obama, is author of *The Green Collar Economy* and *Rebuild the Dream*. He is a political contributor to CNN and president of Dream Corps, a social justice accelerator. In 2009, *Time* magazine called him “one of the 100 most influential people in the world.” vanjones.net



Joan Chittister [@joanchittister](#)

Sister Joan Chittister is one of the most articulate social analysts and influential religious leaders of our time. For more than 30, years she has asked the most critical questions impacting the global community. Courageous, passionate, and charged with energy, she is a sought-after international speaker and clear voice across all religions. She has received widespread recognition for her work for justice, peace, and equality, especially for women in the church and in society. joanchittister.org



Jon Meacham [@jmeacham](#)

Jon Meacham is a renowned presidential historian, contributing writer to the *New York Times Book Review*, contributing editor at *Time*, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author. His book, *American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, was a *New York Times* best seller and awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2009. He served as editor of *Newsweek* magazine from 2006 to 2010. jonmeacham.com



Cornel West [@CornelWest](#)

Cornel West is a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual. He is a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University. He has a passion for inviting people from all walks of life into his world of ideas to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.—telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice. cornelwest.com



Opal Tometi @opalayo

Opal Tometi is a cofounder of Black Lives Matter, the historic political project created to combat implicit bias and anti-black racism and to protect and affirm the beauty and dignity of all Black lives. A New York-based Nigerian-American writer, strategist, community organizer, and transnational feminist, Tometi currently helms the Black Alliance for Just Immigration. opaltometi.com



Jon Kabat-Zinn @jonkabat-zinn

Jon Kabat-Zinn is the founder of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) and of the Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he is Professor of Medicine emeritus. He is the author of numerous books on MBSR and mindfulness, currently in print in more than 40 languages. He teaches mindfulness around the world. www.jonkabat-zinn.com



Paul Hawken @PaulHawken

Paul Hawken is an environmentalist, activist, and author who writes about the environmental movement and the impacts of commerce on living systems. He has founded successful, ecologically conscious businesses, and consulted with heads of state and business leaders on economic development, industrial ecology, and environmental policy. paulhawken.com



Rhonda V. Magee @rvmagee

Rhonda V. Magee, JD, is professor of law at the University of San Francisco. She teaches contemplative lawyering and is author of "Contemplative Practices and the Renewal of Legal Education" in the book *New Directions in Teaching and Learning: Contemplative Studies in Higher Education*.



David W. Orr @OberlinProject

David W. Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and special assistant to the president of Oberlin College. He is founder of the Oberlin project and a founding editor of the journal *Solutions*. oberlinproject.org



Sarah Van Gelder @sarahvangelder

Sarah van Gelder is cofounder and editor-at-large of *YES! Magazine*, a public speaker, and the author of *The Revolution Where You Live: Stories from a 12,000 Mile Journey Through a New America*, which tells the story of her solo road trip around the United States, seeking out the people who are making deep, transformative change happen.



Jamia Wilson @jamiaw

Jamia Wilson, a feminist media activist, organizer, and storyteller, is the executive director and publisher of the Feminist Press at the City University of New York. Her words and works have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Elle*, *Refinery 29*, and *The Guardian*. jamiawilson.com



Ali Smith @HLFINC

The Holistic Life Foundation was founded in 2001 by brothers Ali Smith and Atman Smith and Andres Gonzalez. The three met at college then moved back to the West Baltimore neighborhood where the Smith brothers grew up, and where they have since offered yoga and mindfulness programs to almost 6,500 young people and 1,500 adults. hlfinc.org



Atman Smith @HLFINC

The Holistic Life Foundation was founded in 2001 by brothers Ali Smith and Atman Smith and Andres Gonzalez. The three met at college then moved back to the West Baltimore neighborhood where the Smith brothers grew up, and where they have since offered yoga and mindfulness programs to almost 6,500 young people and 1,500 adults. hlfinc.org



Andres Gonzalez @HLFINC

Andres Gonzalez, MBA, is cofounder and chief financial officer for the Holistic Life Foundation, Inc. A yoga instructor and coauthor of a high school physical education curriculum based on yoga principles, he has been practicing and teaching yoga for the past 10 years to diverse populations at Baltimore public schools, drug treatment centers, wellness centers, and colleges. hlfinc.org



Tristan Harris @tristanharris

Tristan Harris is a former design ethicist at Google who left the company to create Time Well Spent, a nonprofit movement that reveals how technology undermines discourse and behavior through its ad-driven mission of capturing and then holding users' attention. tristanharris.com



Omékongo Dibinga @omekongo

Omékongo Dibinga, PhD, is a motivational speaker, trilingual poet, television talk show host, rapper, and professor of cross-cultural communication at American University. His work seeks to inspire people to take a stand whenever they see an injustice, no matter how small or large. upstanderinternational.com