



Feature: Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman on Covering the Movements Changing America

Increased threats to freedom of the press have shown the importance of truly independent media to hold those in power accountable. In more than 20 years of reporting, Democracy Now! has covered the social movements that are forming the groundswell of opposition to the Trump administration—movements long ignored by the corporate media.

Packed tightly into Tishman Lecture Hall, students, staff, and faculty were joined by a fantastic showing of community members from the towns of Bennington and North Bennington.

The scope of Goodman's talk was unbounded by the limits of a single headline. Rather, she wove the work of her own journalistic career—from covering Arturo Hernandez Garcia, the immigrant who had taken refuge in his local Denver church only to be detained last week without just cause, to her own arrest while broadcasting the stories of Ladonna Brave Bull Allard and the other Water Protectors of Standing Rock. She ended with a reminder of our continued responsibility in light of the violence we see each day on the news:



We will not be silent.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Dado Čobo, Amina Hodžić, Inas Gačanin & Ajša Udovcic

Q. How would you describe the Center for Peace Building in Bosnia in a sentence?



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Z Winters-Derevjanik

Q. How would you describe The Consortium for Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education in a

A. *Šta ćemo, kako ćemo?* (A question leading up to the assessment of the given circumstances; frequently used in a semi-formal or informal setting. A conversational expression that invites for brainstorming.)

Q. What excites you most about the outcomes of your work?

A. The relationship we established with the local community through conversation, projects, and performances that we all learned from, and the ability to create the safe space that organically let us explore the means to produce what we felt was missing in our immediate communities.

Q. What makes this work important to you?

A. Returning to our home country, we wanted to engage in a conversation with our generation through Center for Peacebuilding. We find that using performing arts and social entrepreneurship business models as methods for addressing the social problems is important for the transitioning society that lacks resources for youth. After getting the outside perspective on our homes we gained the tools to tackle the issues that have been stifling our communities back home. We wanted to offer the participants the tools needed to express themselves as well as address the specific issues in the media, youth engagement, and educational system. This experience was important for us in many different ways, but especially in working with ambitious people of our age and finding purposeful and fun ways to communicate ideas.

sentence?

A. The consortium for Forced Migration, Displacement, and Education consists of four colleges, Bennington, Bard, Vassar, and Sarah Lawrence, working together to utilize our strengths as liberal arts colleges to effectively respond to the current refugee crisis.

Q. What excites you most about the outcomes of your work?

A. Our work is already receiving fantastic response from the rest of the scholars in the consortium. At Bennington we're focusing on very small pieces at a time, such as researching free tertiary education opportunities for displaced people, and compiling needs assessments. The frequent visible outcomes of our work makes it easy to feel like we're already helping. Since the election I've tried to focus on a few areas where I can spend my time to make a difference, and for me those are education reform, and helping refugee communities.

Q. What's something unexpected you have learned as a result of this work?

A. So much! I think this project has brought the idea that the survival needs of a person are inextricable from their educational needs. It's impossible to say, "We're just going to focus on helping this person get an education and job training" if that person doesn't have a safe place to sleep at night, or doesn't have food or clean water. Human needs are also the needs that must be met by socially responsible institutions of education.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

For more events, visit the [CAPA Website](#)

Ongoing | [Refugee Solidarity English Language Exchange Program](#) | [Register Here](#)

Help refugees practice their English conversation skills over Skype! Join Vassar and Sarah Lawrence students to provide weekly English conversation sessions to interested refugee students. We hope that these sessions help strengthen the refugee's English skills as they prepare for exams or aspire to attend universities in the future. These interactions also provide the possibility for a cultural exchange and for transnational relationships to form.

Contact Gabrielle Chwae (gachwae@vassar.edu) for more information.

May 10 | [Clinton Global Initiative \(CGI\) University Program](#) | [Application](#)

The CGI hosts a conference for college students to meet with former President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton as well as attend entrepreneurial workshops, that feature opportunities, networking, mentorship, and seed funding. This experience culminates in a three-day conference on October 13-15 at Northeastern University in Boston. Find out more about the CGI University Program [here](#).

May 17 | [Ancestors](#) | CAPA Symposium

Eliot Weinberger is a celebrated translator of Chinese poetry and Latin American literature. His work regularly appears in the London Review of Books and the New York Review of Books, and has been translated into over thirty languages.

May 18th | [Black Male Fugitivity in the Wake of Loss](#) | CAPA Symposium

Artist-curator Jaamil Olawale Kosoko '05 has been deeply inspired by what scholar and poet Fred Moten calls the "black radical tradition." Jaamil Olawale Kosoko will perform and share excerpts of new and selected works as part of a presentation collapsing strategies of performance as life practice, theory, and public discourse.

May 19-20 | [Taconic Mountain Student Water Conference](#) | CAPA Symposium

Where and when does the Anthropocene come to matter? Looking at inundated low-lying islands, the melting Arctic, or the coastal wrath of super storms, many suggest such contemporary moments prophesy the future that awaits us all. Others, returning to the ecological fallout of the colonial plantation, hydrocarbon imperialism, or nuclear weapons, suggest our impending unraveling rests on deeper investments in destruction. This conference invites reflections on these tensions, not necessarily to resolve them to but to reflect on what political realities they work to instantiate.



*"Peacebuilding Seminar" with Vahidin Omanovic
and Susan Sgorbati*

What was the most meaningful thing you learned from this class?

Ines Simbi: "I learned how to solve conflicts by trying to understand what the other person's needs and fears are in a conflict. Also, I learned how to avoid stereotypes."

Connor McElravy: "I learned that most people want peace, we just don't always know how to find it on our own."

Kendra Oulette: "I would say one of my biggest takeaways from this class is the role of identity in interaction and how we can take identity into account when making peace with others."

Lulu Wiley: "I learned the peace building is most effective on a person-to-

person basis. I also felt that working small has great value. Our teacher said your enemy is the person whose story you do not know. I believe this, and I want to know everyone."



The CAPA Newsletter is a student-run project with the mission of developing the CAPA community.

We want to share the amazing work that our friends and coworkers are producing. Each issue will include features on students and faculty members with inspiring projects, CAPA classes tackling important issues, and upcoming events and opportunities.

We want your feedback! If you have any suggestions to make this newsletter something that's truly beneficial to you [let us know](#).