

Civil Society Activism for Sustainable Cities

Urban community work in Stockholm, Johannesburg, New York and Paris

Date: 12 December 2015

A Unesco-MOST workshop in cooperation with REMESO, Linköping University, Arena Idé, IMER-Research Association, Unesco-LUCS and Mångkulturellt centrum.

9.30 Coffee and registration

10.00–10.15 Welcome

Kenneth Abrahamson, Unesco-MOST and Leif Magnusson, MKC

10.15–10.30 Presentation of the program.

René León Rosales, Swedish IMER-Research Association and Aleksandra Ålund, Unesco-MOST and REMESO, Linköping University.

10.30–12.00 Presentation of Arena Idé commissioned report on community work, activism and legal strategies in New York. Relevance for Swedish community work and civil society.

Rami Al-Khamisi, law student and founder of Megafonen, Stockholm, Sweden.

Discussion in Swedish with English translation. Moderator: *Lisa Pelling*, Chief Analyst at Arena Idé. Discussants: *Paul Lappalainen*, Swedish-American lawyer/Former head of a government inquiry on structural discrimination, and *Ignacio Vita*, Asylum right lawyer, and *Emma Dominguez*, recreation leader and activist, Alby.

12.00–13.00 Lunch

13.00–14.30 Urban community work in transcontinental perspective

1. *Aline Mugisho*, African Diaspora Forum (Johannesburg) and PhD student, the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy
2. *Franco Lollia*, La Brigade Anti Negrophobie, Paris, France
3. *Carl Williams*, Staff Attorney – ACLU-Massachusetts

14.30–15.00 Coffee break

15.00–16.00 Panel. Civic activism for sustainable cities

Aline Mugisho, Franco Lollia, Carl Williams and Rami Al-Khamisi in discussion with *Rafif Makboul*, Save the Children, *Paul Lappalainen*, Swedish-American lawyer/Former head of a government inquiry on structural discrimination, *Catharina Thörn*, Associate professor, Gothenburg University, *Samuel Kangethe Ngigi*, Mano group, Dandora/Nairobi

Moderator: *Carl-Ulrik Schierup*, professor, REMESO, Linköping University

16.00 Summing up and final comments.

Jens Sjöström, Unesco-LUCS, René León Rosales, Aleksandra Ålund.

16.15 Networking opportunity

Aline Mugisho: Migration, Diaspora Movements and the Politics of Mobilization in Post-Apartheid South Africa

The presentation focus on migrants mobilisation for rights in South Africa and various related struggles. Aline Mugisho will speak about the challenges migrants experience at various levels and the strategies (informal or formal) that they develop to survive in a very volatile environment while fighting for access to rights.

Aline Mugisho is a doctoral student at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, University of Erfurt and the Public Relations Officer for the African Diaspora Forum. She has a Master's Degree in Migration and Displacement from the African Centre for Migration and Society, Wits University and a Bachelor in Journalism and Communication. Her doctoral research explores Protection through Social Resilience: An analysis of Women's Strategies for Protection in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Her research interest includes: Public Policy; xenophobia and origin-based discrimination; Politics of Reconstruction in Post-Conflicts; Research Methods in Conflict; Transitional Justice; Gender, Migration and Integration; Social Cohesion and Diaspora Dynamics. She has substantive work experience in Southern Africa and Great-Lakes Region of Africa especially in South Africa, war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo and Post-genocide Rwanda and Burundi where is is also conducting her doctoral research.

Carl Williams: The Struggle for Black Liberation v. the Law in the US

The law in the US has been seen as ever progressing towards more and more freedom for the people. However, is this the case? Are there evolving systems of control that are at play. Slavery, "Jim Crow", mass incarceration, the school-to-prison pipeline, the war on drugs, mandatory minimums ... are these just different incarnations of an always existing system of racial control. And what does this mean for human rights supports, civil rights activists, and others working towards liberation?

Carl Williams joined the ACLU of Massachusetts as staff attorney in September 2013. He was previously a criminal defense attorney with the Roxbury Defenders Unit of the Committee for Public Counsel Services. Carl is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and the University of Wisconsin Law School.

A long-time resident of Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, he has been an activist and organizer on issues of war, immigrants' rights, LGBT rights, racial justice and Palestinian self-determination. Carl is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and has served on its Massachusetts board of directors. During the Occupy Boston movement he was part of its legal defense and support team, which provided nearly 24-hour support to the participants.

More recently, Carl was a Givelber Distinguished Lecturer on Public Interest Law at Northeastern University School of Law, where he taught a class on social justice movements and the law.

Franco Lollia: The Autopsy of Negrophobia (Negrophobias obduktion)

Franco Lollia will give a broad definition of the concept of Negrophobia (Nérophobie) as it is conceptualized in France, and explain how it can be seen as a weapon for mass destruction, active in the creation of neocolonial alienation and marginalization. Lollia will also describe the methods and tools

that the Brigade anti-nérophobie is using today in order to highlight Negrophobias effects in the French society, and demanding change.

Franco Lollia is the spokesperson for Collective/brigade anti-nérophobie in Paris.

La brigade anti nérophobie föddes ur de oroligheter som präglade året 2005 i Frankrike. Under året omkom cirka 50 människor i bränder i flerbostadshus i Paris. Höghusen som brann var hem för de allra fattigaste i staden. Den stora majoriteten hade afrikansk bakgrund, de flesta var barn. Under oktober samma år dog Zyed Benna (17 år) och Bouna Traoré (15 år) när de försökte undkomma en poliskontroll genom att ta sin tillflykt i en elanläggning. Detta blev startskottet för en flera veckor lång urban revolt som fick internationell mediauppmärksamhet. Att de döda ungdomarna var av arabisk och afrikansk bakgrund kan ses som symptomatiskt för en situation där speciellt ungdomar med denna bakgrund råkar ut för polisens praktiker av rasprofilering. Det finns studier som visar att svarta ungdomar och de med arabisk bakgrund har upp till 6-8 gånger större risk att stoppas av polisen, jämfört med vita jämnåriga i Frankrike. Inför dessa och liknande tecken på strukturell rasdiskriminering i Frankrike, som drabbar svarta extra hårt, bestämde sig grundarna av La Brigade anti-nérophobie att skapa en organisation med fokus på det de valde att kalla "Nérophobie" på franska, den strukturella, kolonialt präglade statliga rasismen som människor med afrikansk bakgrund drabbas av i ett land som gärna annars ser sig som "de mänskliga rättigheternas land".

Rami Al-Khamisi, Megafonen Stockholm

Can law be used for progressive societal change? How can law strengthen people's situation, the civil society and challenge existing social structures? In which ways can social movements interact with progressive lawyers to achieve important social and political objectives?

Kan juridiken användas för progressiv samhällsförändring? Vilken roll kan juridiken spela för att stärka människors situation, civilsamhället och utmana rådande samhällsstrukturer? På vilket sätt kan sociala rörelser interagera med progressiva jurister för att uppnå viktiga sociala och politiska mål?

Utifrån mina erfarenheter som juridikstudent och roll i de sociala rörelserna i de svenska miljonprogrammen såg jag ett ökat behov av juridiska kunskaper både för enskilda personer och lokala organisationer som strävade efter social rättvisa. Jag bestämmer mig för att åka till USA, som historiskt haft en stark tradition av medborgarrättsrörelser, och där jurister haft en framträdande roll för utsatta gruppers organisering. Under vistelsen träffar jag medborgarrättsorganisationer, både nationella och lokala gräsrotsrörelser som i sin kritik av samhället utvecklat juridiska strategier för social rättvisa. Jag träffar jurister och aktivister för att diskutera deras inställning till juridiken, deras syn på förändringsarbete och hur de arbetar med frågor som rasism, jämlikhet, polisvåld och segregation.

