



Self and Identity: Individuality, Community, and the Intersection of Systems of Domination

7 hours

The human need to express our unique individual selves has historically been in competition with the need of the community to protect and maintain itself. Each generation pushes the preceding one to its limits, and then beyond. Without community, we are cast adrift. Within community we may feel suffocated or isolated. The belief that being oppressed in one area gives us immunity from being an oppressor in another, prevents many of us from looking at our own prejudices and oppressive behaviors.

This workshop thus establishes a framework that addresses the intersection of institutionalized systems of domination by:

- Looking at life experiences that formed and reinforced their prejudices.
- Recognizing the inevitable connection among all forms of oppression: race, class, sex, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity and differentiating them.
- Addressing discrimination against the victims *and* deconstructing the privilege of the offenders.
- Defining racism as a social and political problem, not just an individual one.

On one hand we guard against essentializing our selves or others as categories, on the other we try to avoid equating them. We work towards understanding these issues as feminist legal scholar Trina Grillo put it, “as closely to their full complexity as possible...seeking out voices that are drowned out.”