HIT ‘EM AGAIN: Is Violence an Essential Thread in the Fabric of American Society?

Friday, March 25, 2016
1:30 – 3 p.m.
Givens Conference Room (120 Elmer Andersen Library)
West Bank campus

Free and open to the public

Live streaming available via our website

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z.umn.edu/criticalconversations

America’s long history of violence began with the killing and displacement of its indigenous peoples. Later, largely as a result of slavery, the Civil War nearly tore the country apart. The U.S. is a world leader in gun ownership per capita, in murders committed by guns and in numbers of citizens incarcerated. Domestic violence, sexual harassment, and sex trafficking continue to be serious, yet often ignored problems, and places we expect to be safe - homes, schools, theaters, hospitals - have sometimes experienced bloodshed and murder. Violence in video games, television, and film has become more graphic and explicit, and extreme aggression in professional sports now results in brain and other life-shortening injuries. Join a discussion about potential factors implicated in violence including: changes in popular culture; a public/private prison industry focused more on profit than rehabilitation; pervasive attitudes regarding mental health; and the systemic roles of sexism and racism. In addition to understanding causal links, learn more about potential solutions. How can we create a society focused on conflict resolution through pragmatic, peaceful means?

Panelists: Dallas Drake, Executive Director, Center for Homicide Research; Zeam L.B. Porter, a transgender/gender non-conforming high school student and activist in anti-bullying/Safe Schools initiatives; Sarah Super, Learning & Development Consultant, Hennepin County Human Resources and activist regarding pervasive ‘rape culture’; Oliver Williams, Professor, University of Minnesota School of Social Work whose research focuses on domestic violence.

Moderator: Julie Showers, Director, University of Minnesota, Office for Conflict Resolution.

Learn more at diversity.umn.edu/criticalconversations, or contact Anne Phibbs at phib0001@umn.edu or 612-625-9973.

To request disability accommodations for this event, or to obtain this material in an alternate format, contact Ralph Blanco at rblanco@umn.edu or 612-625-8680.