

Re: "Black Studies and the Fight Against Fascism" hosted by Haymarket Books

From bullittbourbon@protonmail.com <bullittbourbon@protonmail.com>

To Robin Kelley [REDACTED]

Date Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at 8:51 PM

Hi Dr. Kelley (Robin),

Wow, I did not expect such a prompt reply.

Yes, spreading this information would be fantastic. People know that Kendrick is wrong, but there is no leadership on a push back. I worked on this letter for a month while being distracted; I didn't proofread it, but it really needed to be sent out. Again, sorry about that.

I know you are busy, thank you so much for your time!

-B

On Saturday, April 26th, 2025 at 6:54 PM, Robin Kelley [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Bullitt,

I'm literally on a plane right now on my way to NYC for an event, just for a day. Reading your extraordinary letter. I need more time with it because you have a lot here, but if it can be reworked a bit are you open to publishing it as an essay somewhere? You make some really really critical points and, sadly, there is almost no criticism of hip hop on this score and complete celebration of Kendrick. I've been asked more than once to comment on or be on some panel about his half-time show and I declined because no one wants to hear a critique and I really don't have the time to lay out a strong one since there are too many pressing things we're dealing with.

let me know what you think and please give me a couple of days to read through carefully.

later

robin

On Apr 26, 2025, at 7:38 AM, Bullitt D Bourbon <bullittbourbon@protonmail.com> wrote:

Dear Dr. Kelley,

I am writing you after viewing the panel "Black Studies and the Fight Against Fascism" hosted by Haymarket Books on YouTube. I am also posting a version of this letter to the video's comments and to each of the other panelists. (hh:mm:ss time stamps refer to the YouTube video of the panel).

This entire letter is about 5000 words.

I viewed the panel because top rappers are spreading counterinsurgency propaganda with their art. I have been looking for people with platform and/ or public credibility who can speak on this.

First, I have to tell you that this panel motivated me to travel & spread the invaluable information. A bit about me: I am from San Francisco, physically in western Europe for an extended period, but not living here. I have attended several interassociation meetings in France since viewing the panel, each of those meetings are about trying to connect different social actors of various sizes & character. I am racialized but not black or African. I am neither included nor participating in my racial (Asian American) community in the US, queer, and not an academic. My primary mode of learning is self study, artistic expression, and experimentation in engineering & applied sciences. I invent scalable items for my personal use. Because of poverty and non-association with institutions, I have to use public spaces for these activities. Usually, I would not engage you, but fighting fascism is urgent. I am encouraged to reach out by the words of Mohammed el-Kurd from a separate video, with Dr. Kelley interviewing Mr. el-Kurd, that we have to be humble about knowledge production, and to not try to reinvent the wheel.

I need to describe to you 2 specific instances of counterinsurgency campaigns capitalizing on diverging interests within BIPOC alliances.

Sadly, the public cannot hear academics; there is active obfuscating of black studies scholarship. I am encouraged, however, that the YouTube video "The Black Radical Tradition Against Fascism" on the Media Education Foundation channel has gotten 20K views in 9 days. Several panelists emphasized broadening the base of the movement, and even engaging YouTube as a tool.

Dr. Haley and Dr. Spencer-Antoine spoke about the current sociopolitical state being an opportunity to make big demands and to clarify that the base is broad. The labor connection emphasized by this panel points to a general strike as the way the public can force the government to act. The US and Europe are not South Korea. Fascism is a bottom up movement, not a top down dictatorship. I see you all working very hard to rally the populace base. This letter describes current attacks on the base that you all have the tools to defeat. I urge you to act quickly. Indeed, accelerationist influence is toppling old guard politics. With strong analysis, it is even possible to steer the course of fascist actions to serve our goal of liberation.

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Preface

Academia is not reaching the general public, the rap industry & black influencers are overtly being weaponized by the administration.

Fascist propaganda is fueled by strong analysis of not only of (24:45 D. Baldwin) the power of black studies, but also

- academia's (lack of) reach
- dynamics within racialized communities
- dynamics between racialized identity groups.

One of the major weak points in leftist organizing is the lack of clearly defined and promulgated action objectives. The real leaders, like you, are obscured by *decoys*: artists & influencers.

These decoys target the void that Dr. Baldwin discusses at 1:04:50, agents different from the likes of FBA & ADOS, but tandem to them. It targets Afro pessimism, those who do not read or read deeply.

Where academia does not reach, popular culture does.

Most people are not working and not in school... not in the sense that you all personally experienced, this makes popular culture even more effective.

One thing that struck me with the panel was that each academic spoke about the greater community with an implicit assumption that people are either in school or working. As you know, even those who are employed in the traditional sense can fully engage in certain other activities while at work, namely consuming immersive media or to game. The only (working) population that experiences removal from media are the incarcerated, and then it's only from internet. They continue to consume tv, films, and music, sometimes referred to as 'programming'.

We are seeing extraordinary organizing from federal workers joining with AFL-CIO and teamsters, foregrounding unions. As a ne'er-do-well, this looks like middle class people who can afford taking up space talking about something that doesn't help me and people I know. It continues to treat us as invisible. I recently viewed the (masterpiece) film 'Us'. I now understand it's horrifying for academics to acknowledge the parallel world described in the film. I speak to you from this parallel world. Dr. Ransby spoke about looking for allies in many places, these places are actually very immediate.

Labor has transformed so much that some assumptions about it no longer apply, but they continue to be assumed.

This profound transformation is not fathomable to those who do not experience it. It morphs in real time. Scholarship of this unprecedented experience is not the experience itself. The contemporary experience is marked by idle time, coupled with restrictions on activity space. Most people have been in that position for years. Idle time, as long as it is in front of a screen, is decreasingly stigmatized as laziness, not the least because it is monetized & monitored, mimicking employment but without the safeguards of an employment contract.

Unemployment is defined by active job seeking. A large segment of the population is no longer seeking employment, or they have been seeking for so long that they are no longer paid insurance,

therefore not counted. Gig workers are constantly looking for work yet no one calls them unemployed. Influencers receive enough income and gratification to not seek a traditional career, which is likely unavailable anyway.

Other common sources of income include focus groups/ surveys, gambling, and trading stocks & crypto. Money is distributed at will through these channels, rendering employment moot.

Describing labor using the old language is like describing unkempt, wretched people as homeless while ignoring unhoused people who stay clean and do not look like a stereotype.

My lived experience as a temp in a Silicon Valley tech corporation informed me that I should not prioritize assigned tasks, instead, focus time on either interpersonal relationships or visibility to other workers. My habitual absenteeism made me visible; it fueled others' conversation and did not offend their own priorities of non work related activities. Doing the above involved **media consumption and production**, where coworkers I do not even personally know enjoyed images of me not working. Changes in the character of work amounts to **profound changes in cognition**. People are constantly learning about ideas not immediately present in their environment while moving through physical space, which is deprioritized. Compliance with propaganda had just viewed on the phone may lead to instant rewards/ income in the immediate space. None of these things would be assumed by your extraordinary minds because you do not live this commonplace milieu.

Most People are not in College

Only 41% of all people between 18-24 are enrolled at tertiary institutions, this percentage is undoubtedly lower for the black population. Those who are not enrolled & unincarcerated are also most probably not working the way people worked when unions were strong, if at all. Noteworthy is that, by contrast, those who are of elementary, middle and high school age are conversely required to enroll.

A side note: in 1964, Ethiopian universities required students to participate in public service, it was mandatory for graduation. 71.2% became high school teachers. This enabled them to organize in high schools (and neighborhoods), preparing younger students to continue the struggle on campus once they enter university. If applied today, the community can also inform and integrate the university students serving in their elementary or secondary education institutions, contrasting with internships that immerse them in corporate culture.

YouTube and TikTok are probably the learning tools that people invest the most time in the world. It's not something to fight against, because you cannot. It's actually good that there is a tool that has such reach; without the means & motivation for attending university, public lectures online is a valuable source of information for me.

Below, I will detail 2 specific instances of weaponizations. I will end with describing the specific objective of a general strike.

A.

Black rappers are modeling preemptive compliance to fascist agenda to social and material rewards.

Community organizing was replaced by street gangs; with the gentrification of elder gang members, street gang-ish culture and tactics are now recruiting idle people for the administration's agenda while posing as doing the opposite. Dr. Fernandez stated at 42:37 that Cointelpro recruited citizen agents on

a mass scale. What is happening is sophisticated, engineered propaganda fitting into a larger program.

Kendrick Lamar (KL) the rapper is given a lot of platform now, culminating in his Superbowl half time performance. His image has been honed over the past decade, from a 'good kid' Bloods affiliate in Compton, to countenancing intellectual legitimacy by an academic-ish institution, the Pulitzer Prize. I saw this tweet from somebody talking about (being compelled into) studying his poetry in a classroom setting <https://x.com/VarrickWI/status/1887967738536112475>. His current messaging and the subsequent (astroturf &) community responses has divided BIPOC, pushed the Greenland/ Alaska land grab agenda, and silenced any criticism despite his open association with Hebrew Israelites.

Kendrick Lamar's messaging is simple and consistent

1. Over the past year, he has been in a high profile rap beef. It was carefully planned drama that is/ was highly publicized. Being in LA among youth, I am sure Dr. Kelley is aware of the energizing impact that the beef winning track "Not Like Us" had upon the city. I want to point out that the messaging is consistent with fascist politics, as the Yale academic Stanley describes, a politics of Us vs Them. The line that is repeated in the song is 'they not like us'. An older YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/rbBRfxIDOu4> illustrates fascism as a 4 tier pyramid scheme.

<image1745678306627.png>

2. KL is then ~~erowned~~ deified as the savior king of rap. Even before winning this beef against the previously incumbent "king of rap" Drake, he employed Christ imagery in the album and tour "Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers". More discussion under point 4.
3. KL followed the winning of the beef, which was announced by influencers, with a full album "GNX" that was released free on multiple platforms. In the second track "Wacced Out Murals", KL said "turn me into an eskimo".
Soon after the release, I saw social media giving me several pieces of information in conjunction: a. eskimo is a racial slur, b. calling it out as a racial slur and a problem is an attempt to disparage Kendrick, c. aggressive speech telling those calling it out (indigenous voices) to STFU. The push back has been minimal.

4. The diamond encrusted crown of thorns by Tiffany is also a symbol of capitalism and not giving a damn about African (including indigenous) populations.
Diamonds are worn by rappers all the time, but KL presented as very moral. KL talks about having gone to Africa in his poetry, implying some type of understanding or connection deeper than his audience. Fresh natural diamonds are always exploitative of African populations including indigenous ones. It can be gleaned what type of relationship KL decided he has with people in Africa.

KL Falling in Line with the Arctic Land Grab Agenda

Greenland is majority Inuit, and Alaska's native population is Inuit. This presidential administration has the agenda of grabbing these arctic lands. When you look at the lyrics of Wacced Out Murals, the line preceding the one rhymed with the word 'eskimo' could be better rhymed with 'popsicle' or 'icicle', if KL just wanted to say he's cold. Instead, he used the slur. On top of that; social media made sure the

consumer understood it as a slur. And when confronted, KL refused to apologize or even acknowledge the confrontation. It's clearly propaganda for this administration's agenda.

There is minimal confrontation from indigenous communities, but I engaged with some indigenous folks vocalizing discontent online. Like most people exposed to this messaging, I did not know that 'eskimo' was a slur toward Inuit peoples. At first, some people online projected that an apology was forthcoming. It never came. Indigenous voices did not get loud nor sustain a protest. I myself, on the other hand, reached out to Red Nation Podcast asking them to address this shade in a way that can potentially disarm it. The following week they did a panel on cults in the US but only those affecting the yt population.

I recently learned that, about 10 years ago, there was an Inuit social media protest regarding a celebrity Ellen Degeneres funding anti sealing campaigns and platforming this agenda. Also the legacy of Brigitte Bardot's extended campaign regarding baby seals.

I viewed the documentary *Angry Inuk* to learn more about this issue. This doc discussed at 13:02 Inuit anger being quiet, individuals insult whoever offended with satiric song, "then they take a turn at the drum and tease you back. It's kind of like a modern day rap battle."

There is no Inuit rap superstar, or even someone in the community who has the confidence to take on the ostensibly biggest rapper in the world. I am getting a mental image of a cis white man in his 20s being tasked with engineering counterinsurgency at the height of No DAPL 10 years ago, watching this documentary.

In his Pulitzer Winning album "Damn" (from a decade ago), in the track "Yah", KL states:

I'm a Israelite, don't call me black no mo'

That word is only a color, it ain't facts no mo'

My cousin called, my cousin Carl Duckworth

the outro is Carl Duckworth (aka Karni Ben Israel) stating in voicemail "*we're gonna be under this curse because He said He's gonna punish us — the so-called blacks, Hispanics and Native American Indians are the true children of Israel.*"

Some indigenous people pointed out that KL has been anti native for a while when the "eskimo" issue came up.

Further, fans read his words as metaphor even though KL explicitly states he is an Israelite both in his music and in interviews. When I engage with rap consumers about this, mostly people in their late teens & 20s, many begin to splain to me about 'Israelites' being symbolic until I show them the SPLC article on Hebrew Israelites. This makes sense to me as a non black person, given who would get into conversation with me.

Rappers are displayed prominently as being rewarded for falling in line.

KL won a lot of Grammys for Not Like Us, ostensibly a west coast uniting song. As someone from the San Francisco Bay Area, I would say it did not even unite California even though it alluded to the

hyphy movement from Oakland, as social media commentary narrates, making sure I knew. It united the LA rap scene and energized LA. Yet, while the LA fires' devastation was still fresh on the night of the Grammys, KL did not give one single shout out to the affected communities. Displacement is an agenda of the city of LA, exacerbated by having to make space for Olympics construction.

KL is not the only one showing that falling in line is rewarded.

1. The one performer that garnered backlash is Snoop Dogg performing at Trump's party, although it can be gleaned that he did not try to manipulate the community.
2. A third example is Doechii, who was not super popular until after the Grammys. She signed recently to KL's long time record label "Top Dog", and has been labeled the female KL. She also received a lot of Grammys this year. The night of the Grammy Awards was the start of the ICE raids by this administration. The host of the awards was Trevor Noah, an immigrant, who would not stop talking about illegal immigrants. Doechii was framed in a shot with Noah talking about immigrants and rolled her eyes visibly. This was further highlighted on social media, with gifs and clips, and Douchi was lauded while Noah was being called inappropriate, racist, and not funny. The disconnect between recognizing one's own identity as coming from an agrarian slavery past and present agrarian slavery of another group is salient.

Immediately after the Grammys, she was shown on social media attending Paris fashion week sporting many outfits when attending runway shows with praises for her looks. The Twitter account 'Good Kids Madd City', an ostensibly grassroots youth group from Chicago tweeted her cross dressing photos and praised her. Basically she is what happens when Missy Elliot & Lady Gaga go into a blender. Again, this shows an artist falling in line with the agenda and literally receiving immediate awards. Few in the black community is calling out this artist, and when they do, it is attributed to feuds with other artists who are more in the lineage of the stripper turned rapper archetype, while Douchi is marketed as wholesome.

3. Trinidad artists Trinidad Killa & Nicki Minaj made a song called Eskimo, In the song, TK repeats that (they) are nice.

This public theatre is spoonfed to me like it is fed to millions. I do not watch awards shows and I am not a rap enthusiast, however, because of Gaza, I got back on social media to support Gazans asking for direct support. In that process, I have been exposed to the above. Even French people listen to Not Like Us in real time; France is actually where American culture from 60 years ago go to retire and die, they usually receive American media late and react late, but not with Not Like Us. KL is part of the propaganda machine hard at work.

Where academia does not reach, popular culture does. The above is carefully engineered, planned, and executed weaponization, directed at youth, of popular culture, in action right now. It needs to be coutracted.

The methods of attack are:

- modeling preemptive compliance, topped with fame, public awards, and implied monetary gain as reward;
- dividing the black community from indigenous and Latino/ immigrant communities

- promoting insulation and self segregation.

The current divisions are aimed at undermining our ability to act together.

Dr. Ransby stated at 1:02:53 that preemptive compliance - a lot of what's going on is difficult to enforce; preemptive compliance is how a lot of movements are defeated. Some grassroots groups like 'People's city Council LA' have come out stating that KL sucks. They are also not loud enough. Such preemptive compliance should be strongly rebuffed, socially punished & made an example out of. I really believe that you can grasp this problem and play an important part to the solution.

B.

YouTubers Speaking as Academics Spread Unconscious US Hegemonic Bias

As a result of my observations about KL & the rap industry, I first reached out to YouTubers. They did not react. But it gave me the opportunity to observe how a YouTuber's foibles are exploited to divide BIPOC and further US hegemonic prejudice.

Many more people are exposed to influencers than luminary academics, and YouTube is a much more accessible educational tool than university. Influencers can represent academia to the public. This propaganda scheme exploits the gulf between the public and academia.

Within the same week that the video of this panel was published on YouTube, 2 videos came out on YouTube which compelled me to write similar responses in the comments to both. Both responses begin:

Minority talk in the US always speaks in relation to yt (white not YouTube) & about yt. 2 videos this week compelled me to write this reply. The other video is __. When speaking about race relations, each minority group wants to be the only 1 left in the room with yt. Discourse stays within a framework of relationship with yt, (this is generational trauma of the oppressed.)

I point to a failure to acknowledge PEERS' oppression, because each identity group is obsessed with being the only 1 left in the room with yt. I bring it up because this abusive relationship cycle is actively being weaponized right now.

Under these circumstances, yt becomes the proxy/ filter through which different groups relate to each other, or even within the same identity group, or even within individuals. There is imperative to overcome these trauma related cycles immediately.

The videos were:

- FD Signifier "I Finally Understand Hoteps" (the title was changed to "How One Word Killed Black Radicalism" after 1 week, and changed again after a month to 'You don't even know what a "Hotep" is so maybe you should shut the f*ck up about it...')
https://youtu.be/chNI9fzE_nc?si=5rWAY_3q9Xb9bnjX
- Red Nation live stream, Nick Estes interviews Mohammed el-Kurd, later republished as "Pity is a Form of Oppression"
https://youtu.be/TUh1qnjwKJA?si=luyPR0_epHU6TRi2

FD Signifier has been picked to be amplified on YouTube. He collaborated with Lil Bill on "Hotep".

Some things I noticed:

- FD & Bill speak as academics of black studies, even though they are not professors.
- Their premise is US centric, anything non US is mentioned only briefly to dispatch it.
- They primarily speak to yt; FD has stated that YouTube viewers are mostly yt, therefore he must cater to that as someone making a living off of content creation. He even has a paid video called "Talking to White People".
- FD freely admitted that he used to be an 'edgelord'. He expounds Afro Pessimism in his Hotep video, stating Black liberation movements cannot see itself winning.
- FD talks a lot about Hip Hop, he painted KL as the savior of hip hop.

Fascist propaganda predicted and influenced the lack of visible reaction to KL's bad faith actions from not only Inuit groups but also the greater indigenous community on Turtle Island.

My response to "Hotep" video:

1:01:00 Very disappointed that FD characterized self segregation to be community building itself. Collectivism and community building center the community being formed, self segregation describes a reaction to yt. The way FD talked about this has all the ear marks of the term self segregation having been weaponized. I'm not saying that booting out yt meddling is unnecessary or non-essential to the goals of community building and resource pooling, but the point should never be about reacting to yt, the point is always that having your own community is necessary.

1:10:29 Lil Bill: "we don't engage with these alternative schools of black thought unless it's to deride it"

When I heard that I didn't know who "we" is. (Is it Black ppl? Pan-Africanists?) Turns out it's "academics who are white & black in America". I haven't watched Lil Bill before, and I did watch his video about hoteps. He doesn't even blink, everything is speaking to yt. It's painful to watch, and it's also why you guys are given platform.

6:30 Near the beginning of the essay, FD talks about exclusion of everyone else (everyone who is not in the in-group,) which he should mention the same goes for African Africans. Instead, he talks about there incidentally being African Africans who are figures in this tradition. 45:14 Black revolutionaries in the US cannot imagine social justice winning (indigenous people are the same in the US, painfully obvious to third parties btw.) At no point does this essay substantially discuss what is happening on the African continent now. I can say with certainty that some African Africans -- e.g. former French colonies -- can see themselves winning. In light of this, black revolutionaries in the US cannot afford this continued exclusion. here's another mentality thing: it's black people in the US joining the momentum of African Africans.

Instead, we get Kendrick at the Superbowl talking about Drake. We get Douchi at the Grammys rolling her mf eyes at an immigrant refusing to stop talking about illegal immigrants being

deported, showing the kids that going along with the program gets you rewarded.

(Black) revolutionaries, academics, celebrities in the US, anyone *given platform* always speak from a stance of US hegemony, and as if that hegemony will never expire, even as black people talk about toppling the American empire. FD discussed this before, that the toppling is often about replacing yt as the apex group with all implied privileges. This position was always untenable.

FD also talks about the failure of the black community to sanction/ check those who harm it, contrasting with Jewish people who do enforce such sanctions within that community. People are unwilling to impose sanctions because they see ascendancy through harming (the in-group!) as success, and conflict addiction. People need to get over all of that pronto because the yts themselves are destroying the empire. This should be seen as an opportunity.

My response to Red Nation interviewing Mohammed el-Kurd

At 35:47 Nick talks about who the audience is when writing, at 40:10, that we don't see each other. Weeks ago, I commented on another Red Nation video talking about Kendrick Lamar pushing an anti indigenous agenda that's going unchecked, I asked f Nancy or comment to disarm it. Pop culture is being weaponized to divide BIPOC. I'm not an academic, I take action.

I'm American but I don't really know any indigenous people from the areas controlled by the US, I do know indigenous people in areas controlled by Canada. A friend, who is active locally and internationally, told me she did not understand why native people in the US do not push hard. I know why. It's generational trauma, much like the black revolutionaries, people cannot see themselves winning.

Revolutionaries, academics, celebrities in the US, anyone given platform always speak from a stance of US hegemony, and as if that hegemony will never expire, even as black people talk about toppling the American empire like in Blood in my Eye. yt is dismantling the power structures/ hegemony rn. this should be seen as an opportunity. I propose that demanding accountability from the black community will have positive results for both parties that strengthen each community and the bridges between them.

We so needed Mohammed el-Kurd's insight into the ostensible platforming of No Other Land. There's limited distribution in the US, the content is not being platformed at all, it's about controlling the narrative. Repeating the points here in case people are skimming.

Also the part about pity being domination... Super important. I support a small community kitchen & cat shelter in north Gaza via t witte r. The main guy appeals to pity and even gives extra attention to pity reponses. So toxic. Things are so bad rn.

Minority communities being pushed into maintaining these social structures that we are fighting. They are intellectual dead ends as Dr. Spencer-Antoine pointed out. As she also points out, it is a moment of opportunity to address these intellectual loopholes in order to broaden the base. The movement is international and there is a need to learn from the world as Dr. Ransby states at 1:14:46.

C.

We Need a General Strike

Covid might have informed the general public that cessation of work/ all economic activity for an indefinite amount of time does not really matter. In the first weeks of this administration, it spoke as if it did not care about hurting trade. Its imminent U turn on tariffs against China shows that it was bluffing. Attacking the bottom line is the offense we need to force compliance with our demands.

Dr. Baldwin said academics need to go to the grassroots and connect black studies to the community at 1:11:09. There is an absolute imperative to do so, as popular culture is weaponized to display that preemptive compliance with fascism is rewarded with attention and money.

But a general strike today does not look like any in the past.

What Does a General Strike Look Like Today

A general strike today should be defined as cessation of participation in the economy in all sectors. It means not viewing ads; not ordering food; no shopping, not even for groceries. Today this includes children. They consume and produce media. They also produce income for municipalities and states as headcount in schools. It includes anyone who uses a smart phone as all activity is monetized.

A Scared Public's Concerns About Consequences

Leftists organizing make them the targets and talking points for galvanizing right wing reaction. This is why online organizing spaces on controlled platforms allow leftist use. As a result, leftist groups self segregate. Dr. Fernandez discussed at 37:51 that FASCISM historically emerges under 3 conditions:

1. deep economic crisis
2. widespread discontent
3. challenges to the social order from an organized left.

A general strike organized by the left fits point 3.

It matters that we can call what is happening in the US (proto) fascism— which necessarily arise from a base: we see what happens when there is no base in the case of this past Feburary in South Korea: the would-be dictator and his goons get arrested. Fascism is a bottom up movement as defined by Dr. Fernandez, involving the mobilization of vast numbers in the middle classes to carry out violence against perceived enemies. The power seizure by the US administration is a culmination of that mobilization. Constrasting with the impunity of that mob, **should there be successful mobilization of the masses to cease all economic activity, martial law and lock downs are possible scenarios.**

Dr. Fernandez also discusses that the character of fascism includes suspension of civil society & absolute elimination of rights. People see this as possible, being already trained and traumatized by Covid lock downs. It stops them from acknowledging pressing problems out of horror, much less take a moral stance. It takes leadership to push people out of this rut.

We would think that workers are all leftist. The workers of today are, as described, completely different from the employed and sometimes not even aware that they are working. They consume and produce media. What would truncate this inertia?

Conclusion

Role modeling preemptive compliance to the agenda is a huge problem that people are not addressing. Your intervention will change those who would replicate this behavior or those close to them. Academics reach the community through their students. The community must visibly sanction such bad behavior, to state clearly and loudly that this model, clothed in religion, is a path of nihilistic destruction.

Middle aged Youtubers are posing as academics, spreading unconconscious bias of US hegemony. Real academics can reach them, and convert their use of their platforms constructively.

This panel identified the need to include the greater community, to broaden the base, making onramps for the movement. Our unity is distracted and undermined by counterinsurgency. We can free ourselves right now on the backs of giants. You all have the tools to defeat the counterinsurgency tactics described here.

Finally, the most valuable assets universities can provide are space and infrastructure. Students find encampments on campus useful to form connections, but encampments attracted violent oppression. Can we reimagine formats of physical meeting in which connections can be formed that still attract & activate community members yet do not attract violent suppression? Students are preparing for violence, but violent resistance is an energy and resource drain.

I apologize that this letter is not better organized. Thank you for your vital work and your valuable time.

Sincerely,

Bullitt D Bourbon

Robin D. G. Kelley, PhD
Gary B. Nash Endowed Chair in U.S. History, UCLA

“In regard to the ten thousand wrongs of the American slave, you would enforce the strictest silence, and would hail him as an enemy of the nation who dares to make those wrongs the subject of public discourse!”

Frederick Douglass

UCLA acknowledges the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples as the true stewards of the unceded territory of Tovaangar (the Los Angeles basin and So. Channel Islands). As a land grant institution, the university pays respects to the Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders) and 'Eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging. As an anti-colonial scholar, I support the Land Back movement. Return all Indigenous lands and restore Indigenous Sovereignty.