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DR. LAURIE L. MULVEY

110 Pond Lab
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 876-0203
lauriemulvey@psu.edu

Dr. Laurie Mulvey is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the [World in Conversation Center for Public Diplomacy](#) (WinC) at Penn State University. Under her leadership, WinC has become the largest university-based, cross-cultural dialogue center in the United States, hosting more than 3,000 peer-facilitated dialogues each year. Laurie and her staff at WinC also host peer-facilitated dialogues *virtually* with organizations and universities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, the Palestinian Territories, Israel, [Kuwait](#), Qatar, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Colombia, Cambodia, and twelve nations in the NATO Alliance. Laurie has also collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to offer these cross-border dialogues. Through Laurie's efforts to train non-professionals to skillfully lead dialogues, she is making it possible for average citizens [all around the globe](#) to address legacies of conflict in their own communities. For this reason, Laurie and her collaborator (and husband), Sam Richards, have been called "the parents of radical empathy." Their shared work was featured in an Emmy award-winning documentary entitled, "[You Can't Say That.](#)" Most recently, Laurie spearheaded and led an organization-wide research and development process that created a dialogue prototype that is both a structure and a process for the creative act of solving problems *in the midst of* divides—because, as Laurie says, "we can only solve problems *within* our conflicts, not outside of them. We will never be 'outside' of our conflicts."

Laurie is the author of *Making Peace Between Our Colors: The Inner Work* (2008), and [Transforming Conflict and Collaboration: Essentials for Facilitated Dialogue](#) (2019), and is currently working on another book titled, *Systems of Conflict*.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, *Human Development and Family Studies*, May 1994

M.S.W. RUTGERS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, *May 1989*

B.A. RUTGERS COLLEGE, *English*, January 1987

EMPLOYMENT

Executive Director, [World in Conversation, a Center for Public Diplomacy](#), Penn State University, University Park, PA, August 2010- Present.

Assistant Teaching Professor, [Department of Sociology](#), Penn State University, University Park, PA, August 1992 – Present.

Co-Director, Race Relations Project, Penn State University, University Park, PA, August 2002 – July 2010.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty Marshall (Will Smart), Global and International Studies, 2019.

Three-Year Operating Grant (with Sam Richards), Office of the President, Penn State, 2019.

Faculty Travel Grant (with Sam Richards), Global Programs, Penn State, 2018.

[Mid-Atlantic Emmy](#) for [Excellence in a Program Special on Schools](#), Teaching or Education, *"You Can't Say That,"* September 24, 2016.

"Many colleges and universities require diversity instruction as a condition of graduation, yet hatred and discrimination remain a pervasive influence in our society; some research even indicates that traditional approaches to diversity education actually increase feelings of prejudice. Sociologists Dr. Sam Richards and Dr. Laurie Mulvey take a different approach— they pair provocative lectures with facilitated discussions in which students have the opportunity to articulate their beliefs and understand the beliefs of their peers. By documenting the popular Penn State course SOC119: Race and Ethnic Relations, *You Can't Say That* allows viewers to experience a class where people say the things you aren't supposed to say; where students participate in a quiet revolution toward cross-cultural understanding; where the philosophy is simple: conversation can change the world."

Nominee, Spirit of Internationalization Award, Global Connections and Global Penn State, March 2015.

Faculty Marshall (Lexie Walsh), Sociology 2014.

"Cross-Cultural Training on Afghanistan's SILK Network," €392,000, NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, Brussels, Belgium, September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2017.

"Designing 'Soft Skills' Training for an Online Global Community," \$49,945, Center for Online Innovation in Learning (COIL), Penn State University, July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015.

Selected to Screen, *"You Can't Say That,"* International Public Television Screening Conference (INPUT), El Salvador. July, 2014.

Recipient, Volunteer of the Year Award, Lifers' Association, SCI-Rockview, 2008.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Facilitator, International Admissions Retreat, Penn State, University Park, PA, June 2019.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Civil Discourse in a Polarized Society](#), *Naples Next*, Naples, Florida, March 2019.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [The Needy Penis](#), Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia, March 2019.

Speaker (with Sam Richards) and Facilitator, [Metodologia de Dialogo Intercultural](#), Truth Commission, Bogota, Colombia, March 2019.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [The Mindset of Non-Violence](#), Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, March 2019.

Speaker, [Moving from Object to Subject](#), Sustainability Showcase, Penn State University, February 2019.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Lessons Learned from 25 Years of Dialogue](#), Knowledge University, Erbil Kurdistan, December 2018.

Podcast interview (with Sam Richards) and Martin McMullan, [Youth Action Network](#), Belfast, Northern Ireland, October 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Conflict is Not a Dirty Word](#), Penn State—Great Valley, Malvern, PA, September 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Conflict is Not a Dirty Word](#), ACOR, Penn State University, University Park, September 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Race Relations in Trump's America](#), Higher School of Economics, National Research University Laboratory of Comparative Social Research, St. Petersburg, Russia, March 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Cross-Cultural Impressions: Russia and the U.S.](#), Polytechnic University, St. Petersburg, Russia, March 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Exploring Nationalism and Racism](#). Smolny College at St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia, March 2018.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Facilitated Dialogue in Community Development Contexts](#), *Fundacion Social*, Bogota Colombia, December 2017.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Why I Do What I Do](#), discernPSU, Penn State University, October, 2017.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [What is Empathy?](#) Providence Country Day School, Providence, RI, September, 2017.

Speaker (with Sam Richards), [Empathy and Outpatient Outcomes](#), COEDE, Providence, RI, September, 2017

Invited Speaker (with Sam Richards) and Facilitator, [*Radical Empathy: A Dialogue with Business and Community Leaders*](#), Universidad ECCI and Columbia Se Escucha, Bogota Colombia, August 2017.

Facilitator Trainer, *Real Dialogue as Training*. Bogota, Colombia, May 2017.

Speaker and Facilitator (with Sam Richards), *Gender Equity Engagement Project*, U.S. Navy War College, Newport Rhode Island, March 23-24, 2017.

Speaker and Facilitator, [*President's Council Dialogue, Penn State, University Park, PA, January, 2017*](#)

Speaker, Haitian Partners for Christian Development, *Gender and Sexuality in Marriage*, Port Au Prince, Haiti, November 2016.

Facilitator (with Sam Richards), *A Dialogue with the Penn State Football Team*, University Park, PA, October, 2016.

Presenter*, *Shaping the Future of Pre-Deployment Training and Situational Awareness*. NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, June 23, 2016.

Presenter (with Sam Richards), *Cross-Cultural Dialogue as Co-Curricular Engagement*, Ecole de L'air, Salon de Provence, France, June 20, 2016.

Invited Speaker (with Sam Richards), [*Intercultural Dialogue and the Sociology of Post-Conflict*](#). Universidad ECCI. Bogota, Colombia, May 23, 2016.

Speaker. *Work Alchemy: The Impact Interviews*. Podcast hosted by Ursula Jorch. www.workalchemy.com, February 9, 2016

Speaker (with Sam Richards), *What to Do with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology*, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, December 2015.

Moderator, *The role of women and gender policies in addressing the military conflict in Ukraine. Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions*, Instituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) of Rome and the Democracy Development Center (DDC) of Kiev, in Kiev, Ukraine, September 2015.

Presenter (with Sam Richards), *A Social Experiment in Empathy*, The 75th Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in Boston, MA, June 2015.

Keynote Presentation (with Sam Richards), *Empathy is Not a "Soft Skill,"* Jewish Education Project, Manhattan, New York, May 2015.

Keynote Presentation (with Sam Richards), *Cross Cultural Competence in a Security Environment*, European Defense Workshop, National Defence University, Warsaw, Poland, April 2015.

Facilitator, *Town Hall on Global Citizenship*, World Innovation Summit for Education, Doha, Qatar, November 2014.

*Part of an international peacebuilding delegation in Brussels to brief NATO personnel on dialogue as a peacebuilding tool for military. The seven person team (Belgium, Denmark, Jordan, Poland, UK, and USA) presented interim results of a dialogue project testing the applicability of dialogue as tool for humanization and situational awareness—that is simple, cost effective and meets NATO operational requirements.

Presenter (with Rafi Nadiri and Sam Richards), *Cross-Cultural Dialogue on the SILK-Afghanistan Network*, the Science Peace and Security Science panel, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, February 2014.

Keynote Presentation (with Sam Richards), *The Future of Education and Development*, World Innovation Summit for Education, Doha, Qatar, October 2013.

Keynote Presentation (with Sam Richards), *Talking about Race in the College Classroom*, Teaching Race in the Undergraduate Classroom Symposium, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University, April 2013.

Facilitator, *Civilian – Military Alliances and Linkages*, a three-day international dialogue forum, NATO Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, VA, June 2012.

Organizer (with Sam Richards), *Global Youth Day Forum*, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, Doha, Qatar, December 7, 2011.

Invited Member, *Expanding Global Video Dialogues*, Soliya Gathering of Experts, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Pocantico Center, Pleasantville NY, October 2011.

Keynote Speaker (with Sam Richards), *Building Bridges: Islam and Christianity*, Milwaukee Council of Churches & Wisconsin Islamic Society, September 2011.

Speaker, *An American View of Cultural Diversity*, Gulf University for Science and Technology, Kuwait City, Kuwait, May 2011.

ACADEMIC COURSES

Over the years, I learned that social science lectures and textbooks do not get “inside” us. Students hear what they expect to hear; and they confirm their beliefs and biases accordingly—even in the face of information that contradicts them. I observed that being in a traditional classroom setting did not alter the internal barriers to understanding something new or feeling something new. And I saw that learning requires room for emotions and perceptions, values and beliefs. So, introspection and immersion became central to my classes—because facts could not be addressed without also addressing meaning, nuance and interpretation. On top of all of that, I cannot know what each student brings into the classroom with them. So, we have to find the lessons together, in real time. As a result, my primary work as a teacher is to provide opportunities for learning (practicum) and then to be present for whatever is “alive” for students in the process. Through this, students learn how to facilitate communication, understand conflict and navigate group dynamics (as well as lots of other things) in the process.

International:

Global Engineering Program, Lima, Peru: Cross-Cultural Engagement Program, Summer Study Abroad, Miraflores Peru, May 2019.

Unbound Prometheus Intellectual Retreat, Summer Course, *Democritus University*, Kavala, Greece, July 10-21, 2017.

Youth Advocacy Virtual Workshop, *Education Above All*, Doha, Qatar, January 2015-March 2016.

Youth Advocacy Virtual Workshop, *Imagine1Day*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, September 2015-March 2016.

At Penn State:

Advanced Theory and Practice in Small Group Facilitation (SOC 469)

Foundational Theory and Practice in Small Group Facilitation (SOC 369)

Intercultural Dialogues Concepts and Practices (SOC 269)

["Sociology of Social Conflict"](#)

Cultural Encounters and Social Issues

Small Group Dynamics

Sociology of the Family

Sociology of Death and Dying

Introduction to Sociology

Human Development and Family Studies Interventions

Interpersonal and Personal Skills for Human Development

MEDIA

Interviewee, [Digging Deeper: World in Conversation](#), WPSU, March 24, 2019

[Live Television Interview](#), Knowledge University, KTV24, Erbil, Kurdistan, December 2018.

Podcast Interview, Democracy Works, [A Conversation about conversation, May 2018](#).

Print news, [An Iraqi man's bond with a Penn State professor started with an email. Then U.S. forces bombed his house](#), April 13, 2018.

Facilitated Dialogue on Election of President Trump, WPSU April 5, 2017.

Facilitated Dialogue on Election of President Trump, WPSU February 2017.

[Empatía radical: Escuchar y Entender al Otro](#), El Espectador, Bogota, Colombia, August 2017.

Documentary film, [Extended Hand: Shaping the Future of Pre-Deployment Training and Situational Analysis](#), July 2016.

Video Interview, [Colombia: Reconciliación y paz pasan por el diálogo \(sociólogo\)](#), May 2016

Print Interview, [¿Para qué sirve entender las motivaciones de un guerrillero o un paramilitar?](#)

Pacifista! May 2016.

Print Interview, Revista Arcadia, ["Nos consideran peligrosos porque lo cuestionamos todo,"](#) May 13, 2016

["Un conflicto no termina hasta que sus causas no estén solucionadas"](#), El Espectador, May 18, 2016.

Podcast, ["World in Conversation,"](#) Awakin Call, Awakin.org, April, 2016.

Documentary film, ["You Can't Say That,"](#) WPSU, aired April, 2015

Interview, ["Conversations from Penn State, Sam Richards and Laurie Mulvey: World in Conversation,"](#) *Town and Gown*, May 2013.

Interview, ["Emerging from the Storm,"](#) Penn Stater Magazine, September 2012.

Documentary film, ["The Day We Came Together,"](#) Rebellious Truths, July 2012.

Interview, ["Conversations from Penn State, Sam Richards and Laurie Mulvey: World in Conversation,"](#) WPSU, May 2011.

Print, ["Rewriting rules at life's end."](#) Centre Daily Times, November 2009.

Interview "MSNBC," April 2008.

Interview, "Tony Brown's Journal," May 2008.

Interview, "Pennsylvania Inside Out: What Matters," WPSU, May 2005.

WRITING

Mulvey, L. *Systems of Conflict*, manuscript in progress.

Mulvey, L., Minnick, S., and Frisby, M. [Transforming Conflict and Collaboration](#), Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, 2019.

Mulvey, L. *The Scar Behind Me*, manuscript in progress.

Mulvey, L. and Richards, S. "[Say No to State Patty's Day](#)," *The Daily Collegian*, February 10, 2012.

Richards, S. and Mulvey, L. "[Whose 'Fault' Is It?](#)" in *Shadowboxing with Race*, McGraw Hill Learning Solutions, New York, 2011.

Richards, S. and Mulvey, L. "Do Racial Groups Exist?" in *Shadowboxing with Race*, McGraw Hill Learning Solutions, New York, 2011.

Mulvey, L. "[Conflict resolution requires enemies to be open-minded.](#)" *Patriot-News*, May 11, 2008.

Mulvey, L. and Richards, S. "Thoughts on a Conversational Approach to Race Relations," *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2007.

Mulvey, L. "We must learn to listen on race issues." *Pennlive.com*, January 21, 2005.

Mulvey, L. "[Welcoming other views would be one way to achieve this.](#)" *Erie Times-News*, January 14, 2005.

Mulvey, L. "[Avoid Food Fights: Listen to the other side.](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, January 10, 2005.

Mulvey, L. "[How Bush could have rallied the country against terrorism and for peace.](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, March 15, 2003.

Mulvey, L. *Making Peace Between Our Colors: The Inner Work*, Kendall-Hunt, 2003, 2012.

Mulvey, L. "[Moving beyond Trent Lott.](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, December 22, 2002.

Mulvey, L. "[Perhaps we'll make democracy work again.](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, November 19, 2000.

Mulvey, L. "[Come in close and join the conversation.](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, October 1, 2000.

Mulvey, L. "[March Focus: Our Democracy in Danger.](#)" *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*, September, 2000.

Mulvey, L. "[Floating Classrooms to Lead March.](#)" *Voices of Central Pennsylvania*, September, 2000.

Mulvey, L. "[Freedom of speech: A part-time inalienable right?](#)" *Centre Daily Times*, July 16, 2000.

Mulvey, L and Richards, S. Becoming Eternal, unpublished manuscript.

Mulvey, L. Untraining Manual, Skills Training for Dialogue Facilitators, unpublished.

Mulvey, L. Interpersonal and Personal Skills for Human Development, Penn State Department of Distance Education, 1993.

SERVICE

Member, Diversity Promotion Committee, Sociology Department, August 2018-present.

Facilitator, Community Dialogue on Criminal Justice. University Park, PA, September 2018.

Facilitator (with Sam Richards), Leadership Council on Community Conduct, University Park, PA, September 2018.

Teacher/Facilitator, Service Trip for Afghan partners, Port Au Prince, Haiti, May 2018.

Organizer and Facilitator, [The Peace Table at Middlesex High School](#), Middlesex, NJ, May 2018.

Board of Directors, *Colombia Se Escucha*, February 2018-present.

Campaign Advisor, *Ad Council*, Manhattan, NY, June 2017.

Facilitator, *Sociology Department Diversity Promotion Committee Dialogues*, April 2017-February 2018.

Member, *MTV Advisory Board*, 2013-2016.

Board President, [Last Rights of Central PA](#), 2005-present.