

## International Network of Scholar Activists Updates Spring 2015

The International Network of Scholar Activists (INoSA) has had a productive year! We're continuing to discuss ways to build upon our Peoples Movement Assembly on "**Austerity, Precarity and Academic Labor**," held last fall at George Mason University. The work for this Assembly generated a [template](#) that we're encouraging INoSA members to use to foster discussions on your campuses or across campuses your cities. Folks at Purdue are hoping to hold an Assembly in June. These assemblies draw from a model being used to build the U.S. Social Forum, and we're working to make connections to the movements involved in the USSF process. We're also working with allies in the USSF process, May First/People Link to organize a series of panels on technology and the knowledge commons at the upcoming [Left Forum in New York \(May 28-31\)](#). We encourage INoSA members to attend the Left Forum, and we'll organize a meeting of INoSA there.

We also have seen several new chapters of INoSA form in recent months to help advance work on different campuses and to provide support and information networks for scholar-activists. Below are some updates from work at Iowa State University, where INoSA folks and their allies are engaged in some important struggles against corporate influence on campuses and against the culture-ideology of violence and patriarchy. See especially the link to Vandana Shiva's talk on "[The Future of Food](#)."

Finally, I want to share some work I've been doing on my campus to expand the range of voices that help inform our teaching and research on climate change and climate justice. We organized a [Video Conference Series on Popular Responses to Global Climate Change](#) at the University of Pittsburgh, and the recordings of these sessions are available online. The guests included some of the amazing folks I've met in my work with the U.S. and World Social Forums, and collectively they bring many decades of experience in local, national, and international organizing on racial, economic, and social justice to this discussion.

### **Iowa State University Students/INoSA members Take on Gates Foundation and Corporate Research Funding**

**Transgenic Bananas? A Dialogue on the Ethics, Impacts, and Alternatives** will take place Wednesday, March 25th at 8:00 PM ***A recording of this event will be posted once it is available.***

Iowa State University's Sustainable Agriculture Student Association host a panel The public is invited to join a critical dialogue about the current transgenic banana research underway at ISU. This dialogue is intended to bring together community members as we explore the implications of the first human trials of a Gates Foundation-funded transgenic banana. Speakers include: Steven Druker (Author of *Altered Genes, Twisted*

Truth), Dr. Clark Wolf (ISU Philosophy/Sustainable Ag), Dr. Christina Gish-Hill (ISU Anthropology/Sustainable Ag), Naboth Bwambale (ISU Sociology/Sustainable Ag). Dr. Carmen Bain and Dr. Michael Dahlstrom will moderate.

**Vandana Shiva “The Future of Food” Lecture at Iowa State University, Wednesday, 11 Mar 2015 (Podcast /Video recording available online)**

Vandana Shiva is a philosopher and environmental activist who promotes ecological justice and biodiversity. She is the founder of the Navdanya Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, which works with local farming communities to promote fair trade and agroecological farming practices. Vandana Shiva is the author of numerous books, including *Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis*; *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*; *Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit*; and *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*. Her honors and awards include the 1993 Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) and the 2010 Sydney Peace Prize.

**Guns on campus?: INoSA member stands up to say “no”**

**“Listen To Fox Contributor Katie Pavlich's Trainwreck Remarks On Guns And Campus Sexual Assault” Media Matters**

Fox News contributor Katie Pavlich suggested that sexual assaults benefit feminists (she claimed "modern feminism can't survive without victims, so naturally preventing victimhood through self-defense is unacceptable.") and school administrators (who "uphold an anti-gun political philosophy"). She argued that guns can be the "best defense" against sexual assault.

**INoSA member Angie Carter** has felt the wrath of conservative followers of Pavlich for her courage in speaking out: [“Feminist Ph.D. Blames @KatiePavlich for Patriarchy, Misogyny, and ‘Rape Culture’?” The other McCain.](#)

**University of Pittsburgh Features Climate Justice Activists in Video Conference Series**

[Video Conference Series: Popular Responses to Global Climate Change](#) International and local climate justice organizers met virtually with students and organizers in Pittsburgh to highlight lessons from Grassroots environmental justice work. [Watch video recordings](#) (each is approx. 1 hr.)

- **Jacqueline Patterson**, Environmental and Climate Justice Director, [NAACP](#) and **Ahmina Maxey**, [Zero Waste Detroit](#) address environmental racism and the environmental challenges facing low-income communities of color, as well as how groups are organizing for survival.

- **Cindy Wiesner**, Director of [Grassroots Global Justice Alliance](#)—addresses the international movement for climate justice, including its history and the leadership from low-income communities of color, including those in the global South.
- **Henia Belalia**, National Organizer, [Peaceful Uprising](#) and **Nadine Narindrankura**, Diné activist fighting to defend coal impacted communities in the Black Mesa/Big Mountain Region—discuss indigenous leadership for environmental justice and the impacts of the ‘nonprofit industrial complex’ on environmental justice organizing.
- **Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr**, [Hip Hop Caucus](#) and **Michael Leon Guerrero**, Executive Director, [Our Power Campaign](#) –discuss initiatives to mobilize broad alliances that include voices of youth and movements embracing diverse social change strategies to support climate justice.