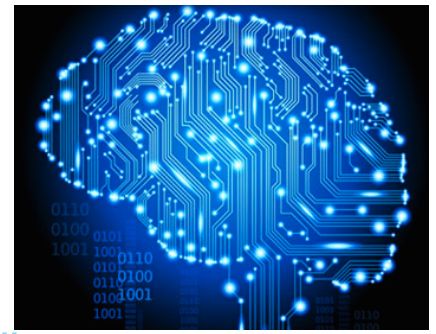


# COVID CONVERSATIONS



COVID CONVERSATIONS SYMPOSIUM RACE-BASED DATA, AI, COVID-19 & BLACK WELLBEING: WHY DATA LITERACY MATTERS DURING THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

**Saturday May 30th, 2020 10:00am - 12:00pm EST**  
**We've been here before: HIV, COVID-19, and**  
**Community Health...Lessons from the Front Lines**

In this session discussants will explore the connections between community health, COVID-19 and the HIV/AIDS pandemics. What can we learn from the early, mid and later responses to HIV? While the two pandemics are vastly different, can lessons from government and community responses to HIV help inform how we address COVID-19? How does the arrival of artificial intelligence/AI, and other technologies inform, redefine and require new strategies of co-operation and resistance?

Discussants will engage a variety of issues that interconnect, go beyond HIV and dive into the dynamics of community health. As well as, the role we can all play in preserving the health and well-being of agricultural workers, as they bring produce, from field to table.

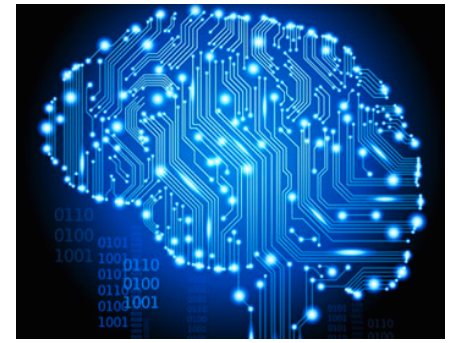
Discussants will consider the absence of safer sex messaging about COVID-19 transmission by public health units. Equally important, discussants will share how we, the public, can collectively sustain an effective response at the community level to limit COVID-19 exposure and transmission over the coming year based on decades of experience on the front lines.

**Followed by a question and answer period**

Ruth Cameron  
Dane Record  
Alexander McClelland

# COVID CONVERSATIONS

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**Friday May 29th, 2020 1:30-2:00pm EST**  
**Land acknowledgement and introduction to the symposium.**

**2:00-4:00pm EST: Black Well-Being in Past-Present Tense: How lessons from the Black Power movement and contemporary histories can guide pandemic responses**

This session will feature a conversation among the discussants about historic and contemporary experiences of Black life in Canada. The efficacy of current demands for race-based data to be collected by and with state institutions will be weighed against the state's track record and the short and long term risks to Black people.

This discussion will engage some of the following questions: How might mobilizing Black histories of self-determination via the Civil Rights movement, Black Power and labour movements help us understand, interpret, and respond to COVID-19? How do the unqualified demands for race-based data illuminate the tensions of class privilege, power differentials, professional desires and institutional attachments within and among Black communities? How might commitments to collective well-being proactively factor in that some people and sub-populations within Black communities do and will bear a greater burden and cost for race-based data, than others?

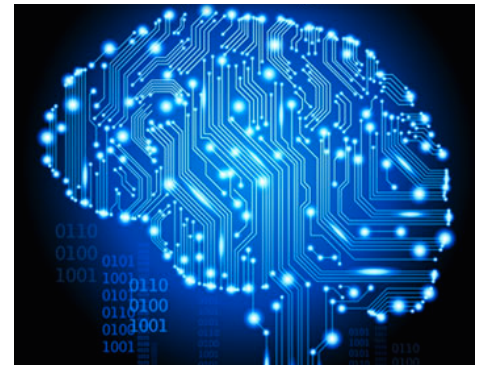
Equally importantly, what might be done that can achieve the desired outcomes, that prioritizes care? Why might it be important to grapple with these questions anew now?

**Followed by a question and answer period**

Lynn Jones  
Rinaldo Walcott  
David Austin

# COVID CONVERSATIONS

COVID CONVERSATIONS SYMPOSIUM RACE-BASED DATA, AI, COVID-19 & BLACK WELLBEING: WHY DATA LITERACY MATTERS DURING THE PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



**Saturday May 30th, 2020 7:00pm-9:00pm EST**  
**Data, Public Health, Policing, the Pandemic, and**  
**Un-Making Carceral States**

This session will feature a conversation among the discussants about historic and contemporary experiences of Black life in Canada. The efficacy of current demands for race-based data to be collected by and with state institutions will be weighed against the state's track record and the short and long term risks to Black people. This discussion will engage some of the following questions: How might mobilizing Black histories of self-determination via the Civil Rights movement, Black Power and labour movements help us understand, interpret, and respond to COVID-19?

How do the unqualified demands for race-based data illuminate the tensions of class privilege, power differentials, professional desires, and institutional attachments within and among Black communities? How might commitments to collective well-being proactively factor in that some people and sub-populations within Black communities do and will bear a greater burden and cost for race-based data, than others? Equally importantly, what might be done that can achieve the desired outcomes, that prioritize care? Why might it be important to grapple with these questions anew now?

Followed by a question and answer period.

Idil Abdullahi  
Ruha Benjamin  
Desmond Cole  
LLana James