

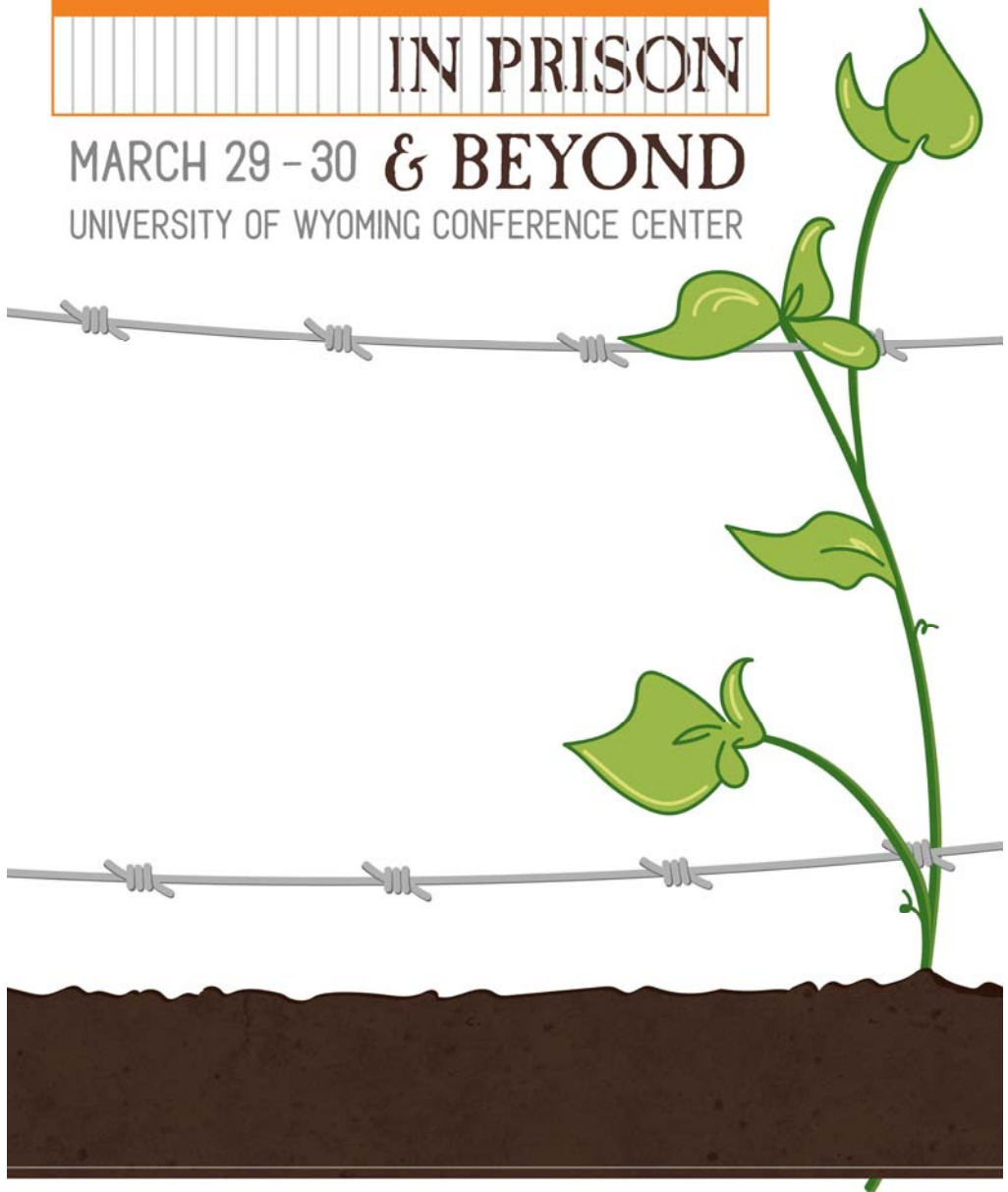
# SYMPOSIUM

ON TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

IN PRISON

MARCH 29 - 30 & BEYOND

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING CONFERENCE CENTER



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# Symposium on Transformative Education in Prison and Beyond

University of Wyoming Conference Center, March 29-30, 2019

<http://www.uwyo.edu/stepb>

## Introduction

The purpose of this two-day, solution-oriented symposium is to advance the field of education in prison, as well as efforts to support formerly incarcerated people in their transition from incarceration to freedom. The Symposium will focus on enhancing current programs, strategizing and implementing new programs, and sharing solutions to existing challenges.



## Transformative education

trans·form·a·tive: causing a marked change in someone or something

The fact that higher education, specifically the humanities, transforms the lives of prison inmates is remarkable -- and the transformation is lasting. Quality education supports the development of emotional intelligence as well as academic growth, and prepares people to live successful lives post-release. Using education to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and underserved populations who end up in prison supports a multitude of social justice initiatives and helps to improve the lives of incarcerated individuals, their families, and communities as a whole.

# Thank you to our supporting groups

The Symposium on Transformative Education in Prison and Beyond is co-hosted by the University of Wyoming Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Wyoming Pathways from Prison who have previously partnered to bring Stoicism programming to Wyoming correctional facilities.

A very special thank you to Dean Paula Lutz and the University of Wyoming College of Arts & Sciences for generously providing the funding to allow this event to happen.

Thank you to the Social Justice Research Center and the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research for providing additional financial support.

Learn more about...

Wyoming Pathways from Prison: [www.uwyo.edu/wpfp/](http://www.uwyo.edu/wpfp/)

UW Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies: [www.uwyo.edu/philrelig/](http://www.uwyo.edu/philrelig/)

UW College of Arts & Sciences: [www.uwyo.edu/as/](http://www.uwyo.edu/as/)

Social Justice Research Center: [www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/](http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/)

Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research: [www.uwyo.edu/wihr/](http://www.uwyo.edu/wihr/)



College of  
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College of Arts and Sciences  
Philosophy and  
Religious Studies



# Friday, March 29th

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- 8:00-8:30 AM Check-in and Coffee (light breakfast available)
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- 8:30-9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions
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- 9:00-10:30 AM Keynote by Jody Lewen
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- 10:30-11:00 AM Break
- 
- 11:00-11:45 AM Insights from the Wyoming Department of Corrections and Wyoming Pathways from Prison (facilitated by Jody Lewen)
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- 11:45-12:15 PM Insights from Currently Incarcerated Men
- 
- 12:15-1:15 PM Lunch Break (meal not provided)
- 
- 1:15-2:30 PM Panel Discussion  
“Building the Field: Theories and Practices of Higher Education in Prison” - Mary Gould  
“Successes and Challenges in Replicating the Campus Experience in Prison College Programs” - Rachel Bernard, Lee Cruceta  
“Correctional Education Association: Our Role in Corrections” - Betty Abbott
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- 2:30-3:00 PM Discussion  
“Using Game Theory to Understand Some Prisoners’ Hesitancy to Participate in Education and Programming” - Michelle Blakely
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- 3:00-3:30 PM Break
- 
- 3:30-5:30 PM Panel Discussion  
“Philosophy in Prison” - Damon Horowitz, Ben Walker, Robert Colter (facilitated by Alec Muthig)
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- 5:30-7:00 PM Reception/Break (hors d’oeuvres provided)
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- 7:00-8:30 PM Keynote by Damon Horowitz
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# Saturday, March 30th

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9:00-9:30 AM Coffee (light breakfast available)

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9:30-10:00 AM Insights from Currently Incarcerated Women

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10:00-11:30 AM Panel Discussion

“Documenting Success of Higher Education in Prison Programs: Insights from the Research Collaborative on Higher Education in Prison at the University of Utah” - Erin Castro

“Reinvigorating Prison Education: Early Lessons from the Second Chance Pell Grant Pilot Project” - Alesha Seroczynski, Heather Erwin

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11:30-11:45 AM Break

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11:45-12:15 PM Discussion

“Does Immersive Technology have a place in Transformative Education in Prison?” - Simon Alexander

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12:15-1:30 PM Lunch Break (meal not provided)

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1:30-3:00 PM Panel Discussion

“Making Good One Semester at a Time: Formerly Incarcerated Students Consider the Redemptive Power of Inclusive Education” - James Binnall, Irene Sotelo, Anais Lopez, Sara Rodriguez

“Making Words Work: A Jail Writing Program as Transformative Action” - Tobi Jacobi, Haven Enterman, Manton Chambers, Shelby Tuthill

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3:00-3:30 PM Break

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3:30-5:00 PM The Way Forward: An open participation workshop to unite ideas and determine future paths (facilitated by Alec Muthig)

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# Jody Lewen

Jody Lewen is the executive director of the Prison University Project, which operates the College Program at San Quentin. The Program provides a general education Associate of Arts degree and intensive college preparatory courses to approximately 350 people incarcerated at San Quentin. The Prison University Project also provides training and technical assistance to colleges offering higher education programs in prisons throughout California and across the United States.

Dr. Lewen's involvement with the College Program at San Quentin dates back to 1999, when she started as a volunteer instructor. Today she serves as a thought leader in the field of prison education, advocating for the values of high academic quality and inclusivity, as well as serving as a resource and advisor to policymakers, practitioners, academics, and corrections administrators at San Quentin State Prison and within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Lewen received her Bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in modern European history; her Master's degree from the Freie Universität, Berlin in comparative literature and philosophy; and her Ph.D. in rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley. Her publications include "Punishing Evil: A Psychoanalytic Perspective on the Spectre of Inmates in the Public Imagination" (in *Evil, Truth, and Reconciliation*, Rodopi, 2004) and "'So eine Gemeinschaft': On the Use of Irony in Hugo Bettauer's *Die tadt Ohne Juden*" (in *Austria and Austrians: Images in World Literature*. Stauffenburg Verlag, 2003).

Dr. Lewen was the 2006 recipient of the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award from the University of California, Berkeley, and a 2015 recipient of the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award. In 2016, the Prison University Project received the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama.

For more information about the Prison University Project, please visit <https://prisonuniversityproject.org/>.

# Damon Horowitz

Dr. Damon Horowitz is a philosophy professor and serial entrepreneur, working at the intersection of technology and the humanities.

He recently served as Consulting Philosopher at AltSchool, a B-corp focused on using technology to bring personalized progressive education to a broader population. Previously, he was In-House Philosopher / Director of Engineering at Google, leading a company-wide personalization initiative with a focus on data privacy issues. Prior to that, he built several startups based on his natural language processing research, including Aardvark (acquired by Google), Perspecta (acquired by Excite), Novation Biosciences (acquired by Agilent), and NewsDB (Daylife).

He has taught courses in Philosophy, AI, and Cognitive Science at Columbia, NYU, Stanford, U. Penn., and San Quentin State Prison. In addition to advisory work in industry, he has served on the Board of several arts and humanities non-profits, including CalHumanities.

He is a popular public speaker at venues ranging from TED to AAAI to O'Reilly conferences, and his work has been featured in media ranging from the New York Times to the Chronicle of Higher Education to NPR to TechCrunch.

Horowitz earned his B.A. from Columbia, his M.S. in Artificial Intelligence from the MIT Media Lab, and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University.



# Speaker/panelist directory

Listed alphabetically (by last name)

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Betty Abbott

Vice President, Correctional Education Association

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Simon Alexander

Senior Programmer Analyst, Virtual Reality/Extended Reality Specialist

University of Wyoming

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Rachel Bernard

Academic Coordinator, Fishkill and Taconic Correctional Facilities

Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

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James M. Binnall, J.D., LL.M., Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Law, Criminology, and Criminal Justice

School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, & Emergency Management

California State University, Long Beach

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Michelle L. Blakely, Ph.D., M.Ed., NCC

Assistant Professor, Social and Administrative Pharmacy

University of Wyoming

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Erin L. Castro, Ph.D.

Co-Director & Co-Founder, University of Utah Prison Education Project

Assistant Professor, Higher Education, Department of Educational Leadership

and Policy, University of Utah

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Manton Chambers

Community Literacy Center intern, Colorado State University

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Rob Colter, Ph.D.

Professional Academic Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Religious

Studies, University of Wyoming

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Lee Cruceta

Academic Coordinator, Greene Correctional Facility  
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

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Susan Dewey, Ph.D.

Co-founder/Coordinator Wyoming Pathways from Prison  
Associate Professor, School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice  
University of Wyoming

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Haven Enterman

Community Literacy Center intern, Colorado State University

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Heather J. Erwin, J.D., Ed.D.

Director, University of Iowa Liberal Arts Beyond Bars (UI LABB)  
Senior Advisor, Institute for Higher Education Policy

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Teena Gabrielson, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Wyoming

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Susanna Goodin, Ph.D.

Head/Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
University of Wyoming

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Mary R. Gould, Ph.D.

Interim Director, Alliance for Higher Education in Prison  
Associate Professor, Department of Communication  
Saint Louis University

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Damon Horowitz, Ph.D.

Department of Philosophy  
Columbia University

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Tobi Jacobi, Ph.D.

Professor of English; Director, Community Literacy Center  
Colorado State University

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Robert Lampert, J.D.  
Director, Wyoming Department of Corrections

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Jody Lewen, Ph.D.  
Founder and Executive Director, The Prison University Project  
Recipient of the National Humanities Medal

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Anais Lopez  
Undergraduate student at California State University, Long Beach  
Member Rising Scholars

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Alec J. Muthig, M.A.  
Co-founder/Coordinator Wyoming Pathways from Prison  
University of Wyoming

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Laurie Nichols, Ph.D.  
President, University of Wyoming

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Sara Rodriguez  
Graduate, California State University, Pomona  
Member Rising Scholars

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Alesha D. Seroczynski, Ph.D.  
Director of College Operations, Moreau College Initiative  
Holy Cross College

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Irene Sotelo  
MSW student at California State University, Long Beach  
Co-founder Rising Scholars

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Hayley Speiser  
Correctional Education Programs Manager, Wyoming Department of Corrections

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Julie Tennant-Caine, M.A.  
Deputy Administrator, Wyoming Department of Corrections

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Shelby Tuthill  
Community Literacy Center intern, Colorado State University

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Ben Walker, Ph.D.  
Founder, The Crito Project  
University of East Anglia, United Kingdom

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