

STRANGE FRUIT, STRANGE TIMES:

CONFRONTING LYNCHING, RACIAL TERROR, AND THE
PURSUIT OF SAFETY.

VIRTUAL EVENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
12 - 1 PM



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DR. SHEILA CALDWELL

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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The Southern Illinois University System invites faculty, staff, and students to participate in a timely and thought-provoking Conversation of Understanding exploring the history of lynching and racial terror in America and their enduring implications for safety, belonging, and community today.

Requested by members of the SIU System community, this conversation will bring together distinguished voices from SIUE and SIUC to examine difficult histories, consider their contemporary relevance, and reflect on our shared responsibility to foster environments where all individuals can experience dignity, safety, and belonging.

KEY QUESTIONS WE WILL EXPLORE

- What can the history of lynching and racial terror teach us about the relationship between race, violence, power, and safety in America?
- How do these histories continue to shape contemporary experiences and perceptions of safety and belonging?
- What role can higher education play in confronting difficult histories, encouraging dialogue, and advancing understanding?
- How can faculty, staff, and students contribute to building university communities grounded in dignity, respect, and shared responsibility?

All SIU System faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend. Join us for an opportunity to learn, reflect, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue across our university community.

Conversations of Understanding have become a fixture across the SIU System and on our individual campuses. They are a series of exchanges where students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the broader SIU communities can share their experiences and thoughts on a variety of themes related to antiracism, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We want to be a model for others in higher education and be recognized as a leader in our region and beyond for our work in fostering understanding of relevant contemporary issues.

Students, faculty, and staff across the SIU System are invited to join a live discussion focusing on critical issues regarding equity and justice in our country and what we can and must do to address those issues within the SIU System and beyond. A question-and-answer session will follow where audience participants can participate.

Sponsored by the SIU System President's Office and the SIU System Diversity Advisory Council

YOUTUBE LINK FOR THE COU:

<https://youtube.com/live/j4yjd-FeyYaA?feature=share>



Southern Illinois University System

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