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2020

### Civic Engagement and Political Participation by Young People: An OER / COIL Project

Remi Alapo  
*CUNY York College*

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Civic Engagement  
and Political  
Participation by  
Young People:  
An OER / COIL  
Project.

Presented at the CUNY CUE Faculty OER  
Research showcase

By

Prof. OLUREMI “REMI” ALAPO  
(CUNY: BMCC / YORK COLLEGE).

Friday October 30, 2020.



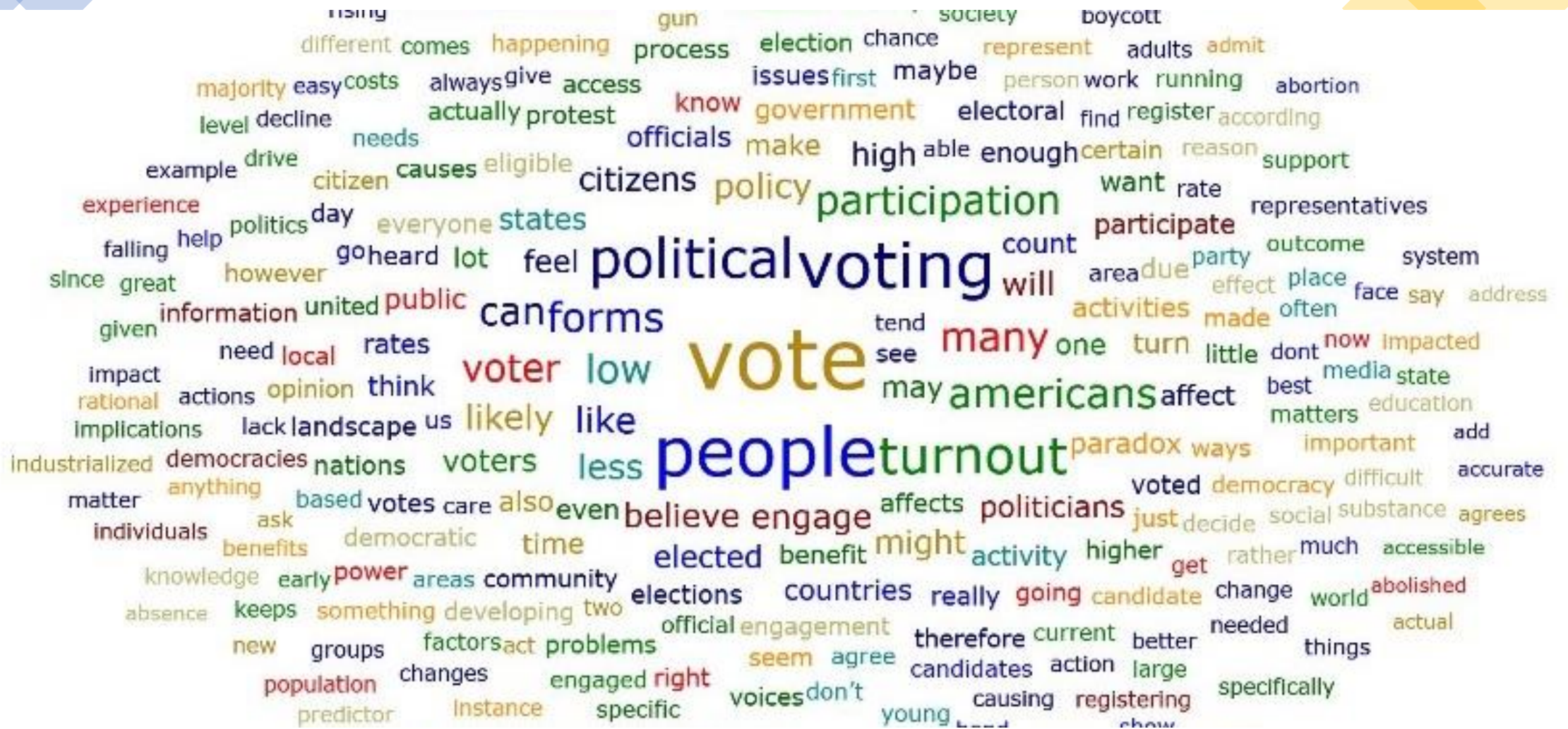
# Summary

- A summary on OER (and COIL) projects from American Government POL 100 and Intro to Politics POL 110 courses presented at the CUE CUNY conference on October 29 - 30, 2020 on the reasons why young people participate in civic engagement (or not).
- Overall, the OER / COIL projects engages student in hands-on practical understanding on the two types of political participation with 3 goals or objectives on how to be civically engagement within their communities.
- The instructor leads by example by sharing some of her civic engagement activities as part of the experiential learning to encourage students to be civically engaged.

# PART I: In Class Experiential Learning OER / COIL / SERVICE LEARNING Examples of Non Conventional Political Participation Projects at CUNY

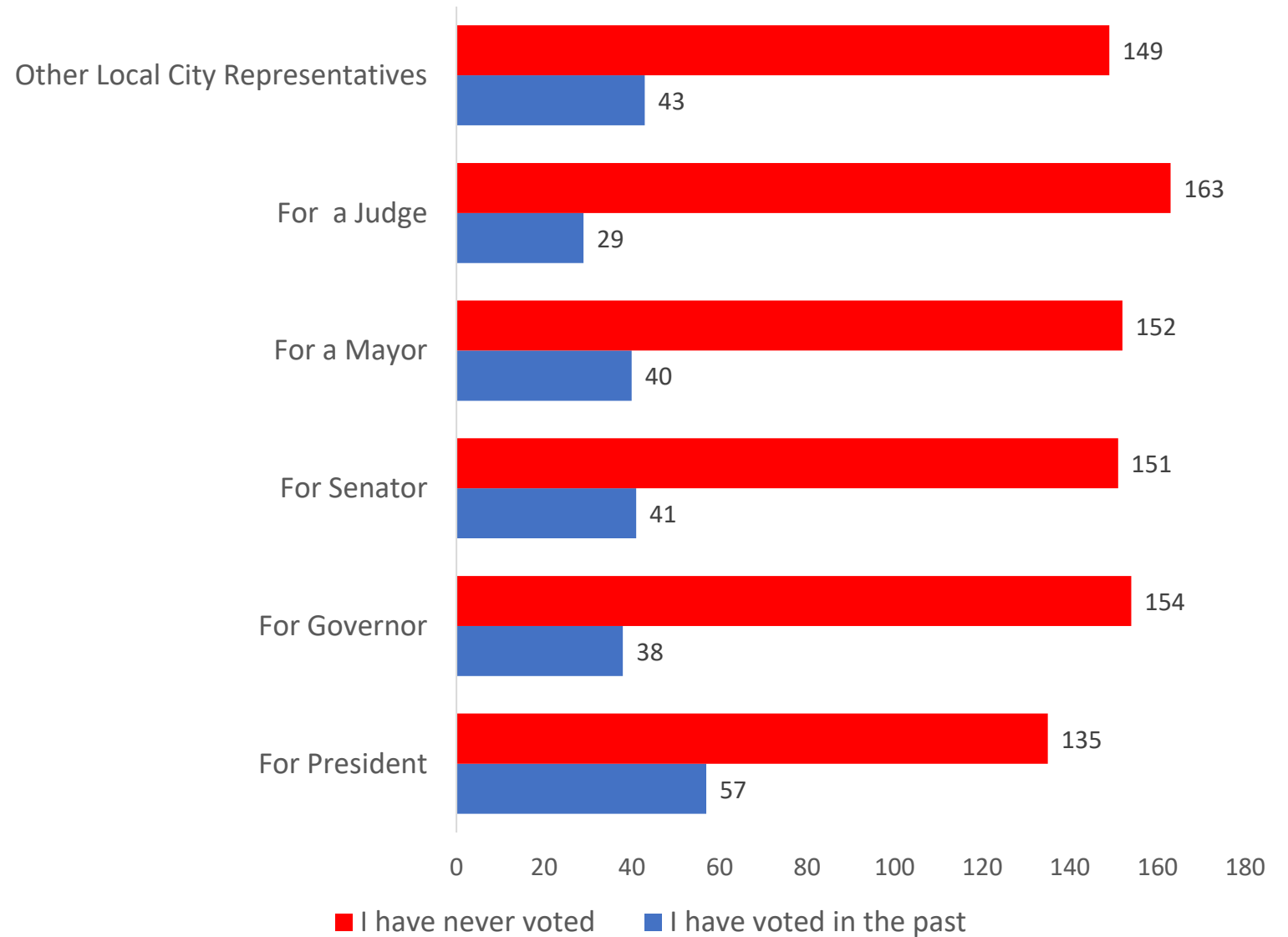
Student Presentations and Class Assignments / Research: Portfolio of Activities, Word Press Blog, CUNY Academic Works, Experiential Learning off campus: Guest Speakers, Internships, Volunteer Opportunities, News Link Page on University Public Affairs pages, Social Media – York, BMCC, BCC and BMCC FB pages.

- Real World Political Participation: Mostly at BMCC, One at York, 3 At Bcc
- York – Orange The World – Fall 2019
- BMCC – Un Dec 10, 2019
- BCC – Orange The World – Fall 2018
- BCC HR Day Fall 2018
- BMCC – WTC - Spring 2018
- BMCC - City Hall – *Spring* 2018
- BCC – Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
- BMCC - Community Board 1 (Service Learning) Fall 2019
- BMCC Fall 2018 HR Day
- UN Dec. 10, 2019



## In class activity:

Students in a BMCC POL 100 course (spring 2019) were polled to find out if they have previously participated in any election by voting.



## **Why Vote? (Ref. From LOWV)**

### Why vote if all politicians are the same?

If you look closely at the candidates, they are NOT the same. Educate yourself about the candidates.

### Why vote if I don't know anything about the candidates?

Educate yourself about the candidates. There are website and brochures available, as well as candidate forums and events where you can hear candidates express their opinions.

### Why vote if I don't know enough about local issues?

You know what affects you and your family in your community. That's enough to help you determine which candidate you want to support.

### Why vote if my vote doesn't even matter?

Every vote counts! Many elections have been decided by less than 10 votes, as well as by counting absentee ballots after election day. The local elections are often much closer than the national elections, so your vote is even more important in the local and state elections. You can make a difference.

Two forms of political participation

Activities of Prof. Alapo Teaching by example:

“VOTE for changes”

“Be civically engaged in MANY activities even if you cannot vote yet!”

- **Conventional:** voting / running for office.
- **Non-Conventional:** civic / voter education, demonstrations, fundraising, canvassing for signatures, proposing an idea for a political platform / agenda / strategy.



# Conventional Political Participation



## Early voting 2019

Today Sunday November 3, 2019 I participated in the early voting in my neighborhood. Today was also the last day for early voting. Regular voting resumes on Tuesday November 5th from 6am to 9pm.





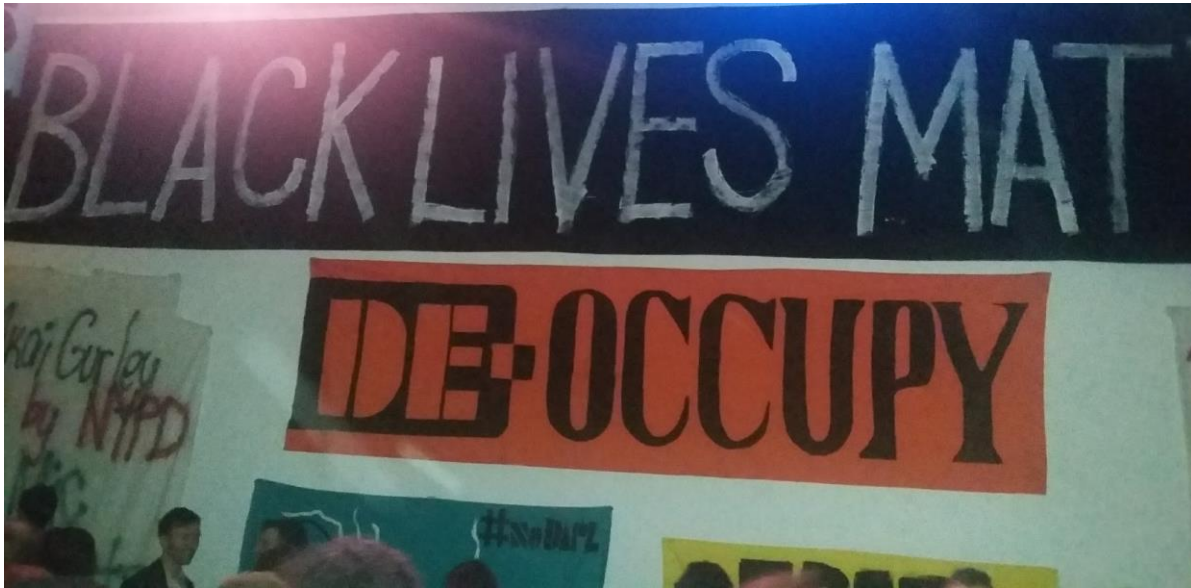
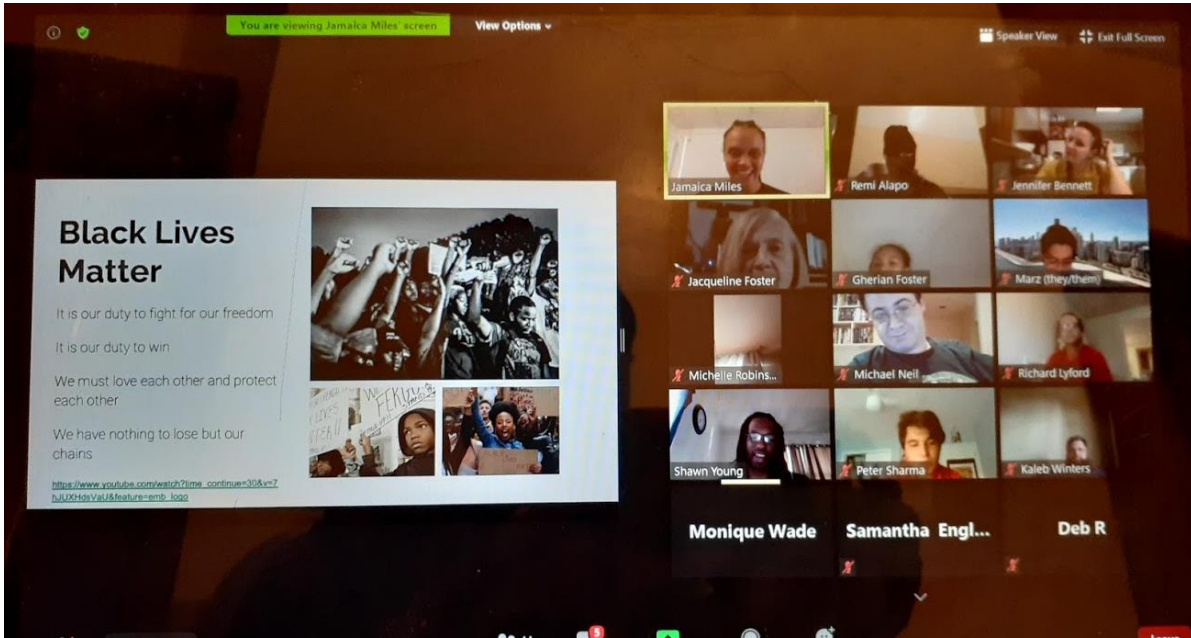
# November 2020 Election: NYC Election Observer Corps Volunteer





# Non Conventional Political Participation

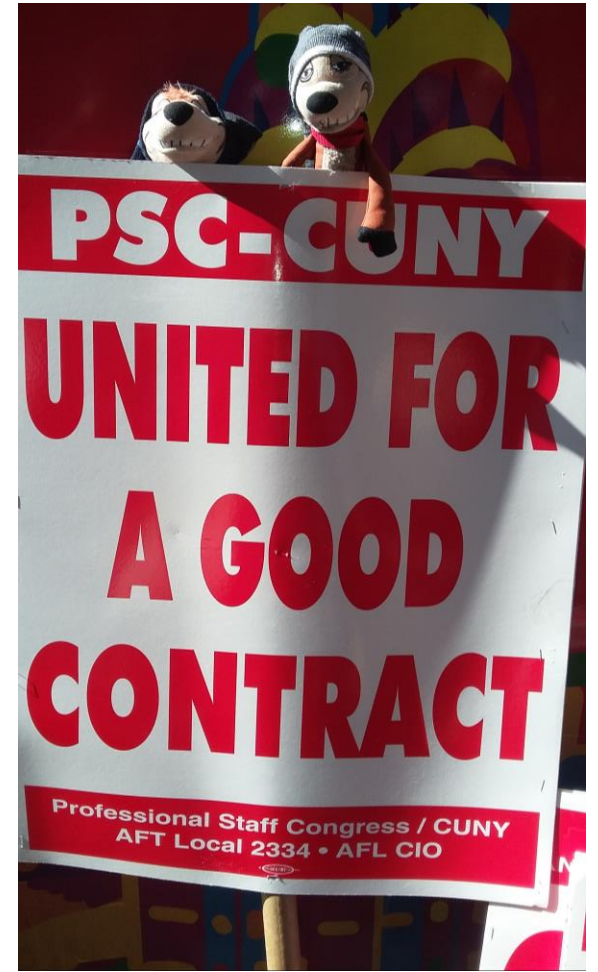














# End goal: OER class assignments, exams, small group class projects = Hands on Experiential Learning: political participation and civic engagement

**1. Who / What are local or state representatives?** Community Board, Police Precinct, City Council, Assembly Members, District Leaders, Borough Presidents, Coroner, District Attorneys and where are they located? Create a community map of your representatives and their contact info.

**2) Think about the neighborhood that you live in....**what activities, organizations are you interested in based on the community life? For example, think about a specific policy issue that you would like to engage in within your neighborhood.

**3) At the beginning of the semester,** you all identified an issue or 2 in your communities or neighborhoods. Research and find out the responsible parties, entities or individuals responsible or that should be responsible for ameliorating these conditions and what role they should play politically in doing so. In addition, identify their specific role, offices, elected positions if any in NYC or NYS government.





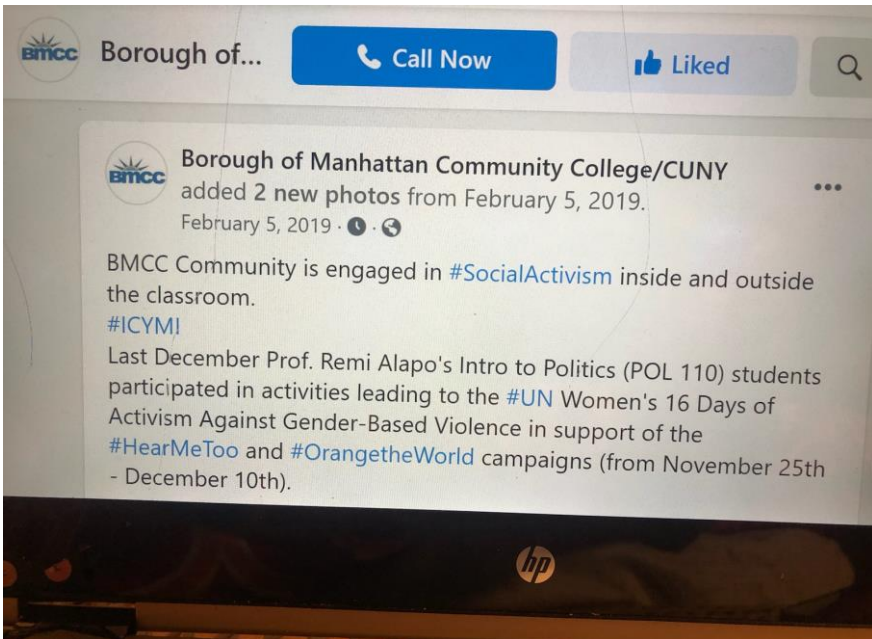
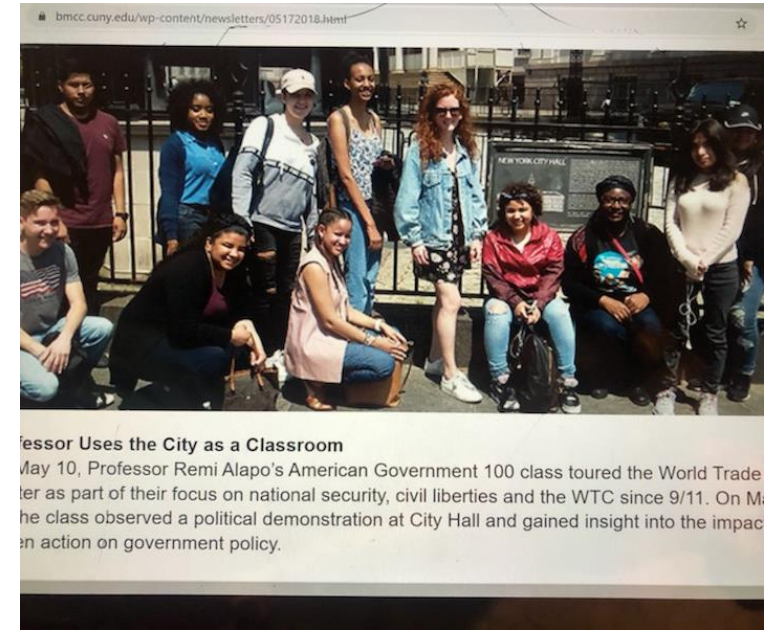
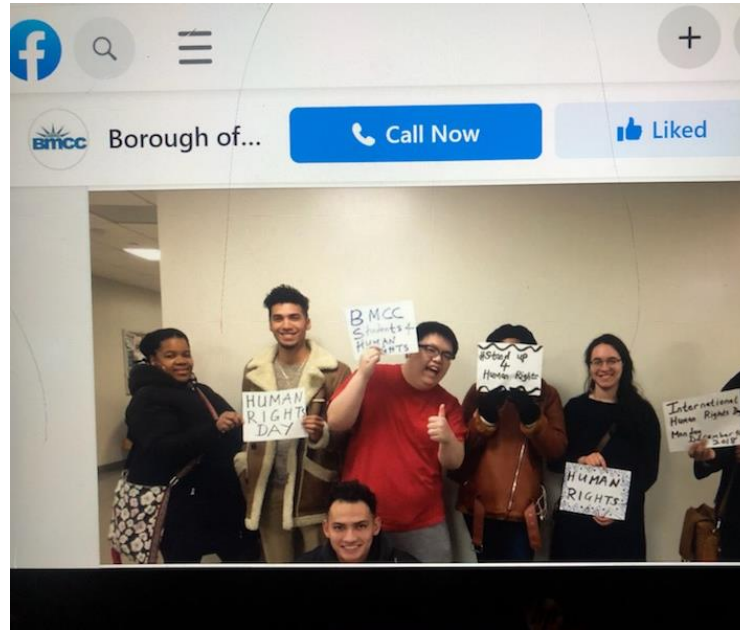
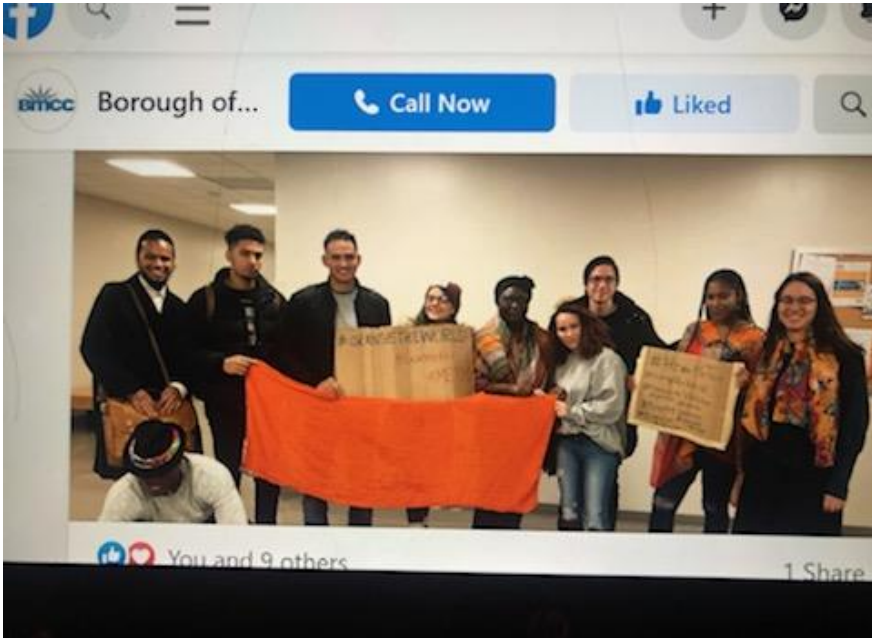
# Extra Credit Assignment

- Go vote on Tuesday November 5th.
- Polls open from 6am to 9pm.
- Post your election day extra credit (2.5 points extra overall) to the week discussion folder for week 11. (with a photo of your registration card or I voted sticker If you are not eligible).
- If you are not eligible to vote due to immigration or age status, you can still visit a poll site, your local board of election etc and post a picture with you visiting or find out ways that you can be actively engaged with a candidate or their platform on issues affecting your communities.
- Note you will not be able to take pictures in the polling site but outside with the signs is good :)

For those eligible to vote, don't forget to vote on the proposals on the back of the ballot:

- 1) Elections
- 2) CBR - Civilian Complaint Review Board
- 3) Ethics and Governance
- 4) City Budget
- 5) Land Use

For everyone, write a 2 page paper on the importance of voting or on the importance of the 5 proposals at the back of the ballot: [ContestListPreview 9-30-2019.pdf \(nyc.ny.us\)](#)



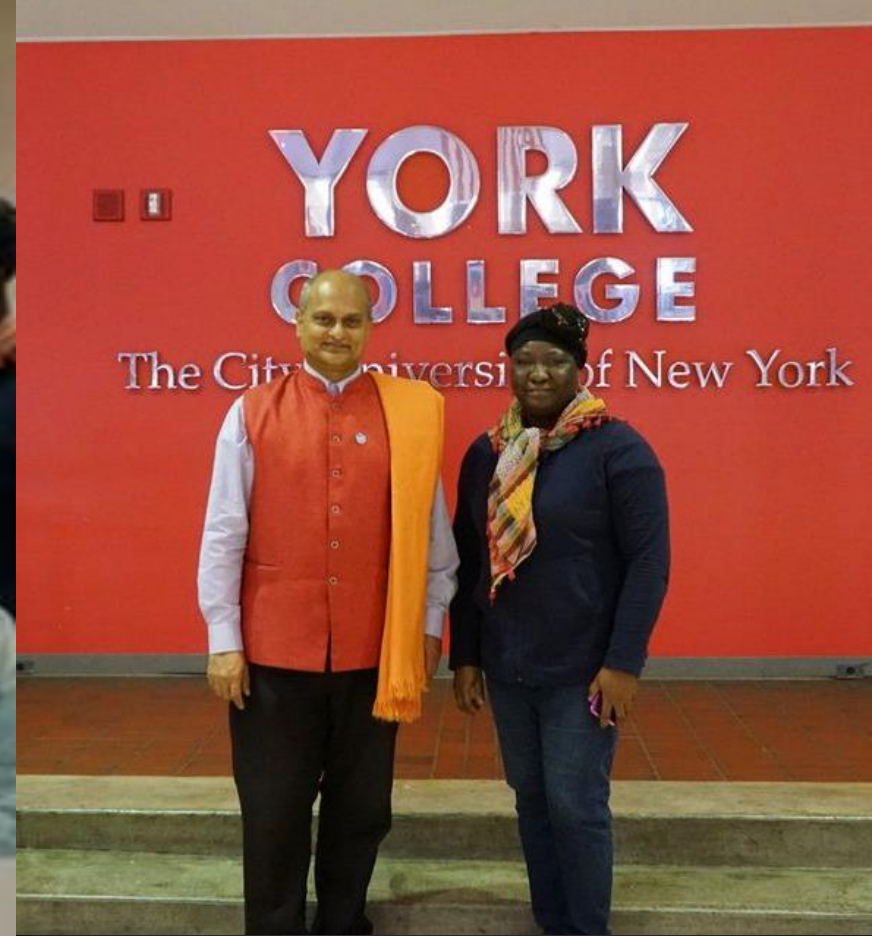
OER / SERVICE LEARNING Experiential Learning: Social Justice Activism in and out of the classroom at BMCC – Spring 2018 – Fall 2019.

# Social Justice Activism: HR Day Dec. 10th at the United Nations with IHRC.



## **Students Attend International Human Rights Day Events at UN**

On December 10, Introduction to Politics (POL 110) students led by Professor Oluremi Alapo in the Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department took part in International Human Rights Day at the United Nations on Manhattan's east side. They toured the UN grounds then attended a human rights conference held at the Millennium UN Hotel, where Alapo delivered remarks on gender equality and movements against gender-based violence. "It was a good learning experience for our students as they observed, listened to and networked with UN representatives and Civil Society leaders whose work focuses on human rights at all levels," Alapo said, adding that several students were invited to participate in Model United Nations (MUN) in January and the UN Youth Assembly in Spring 2020. Alapo was also recognized at the event by the International Human Rights Commission led by H.E. Ambassador Malik Nadeem Abid as one of the 100 Human Rights Defenders recommended by the Deputy Foreign Minister of the IHRC, H.E Ambassador Foday Mansaray.



OER Social Justice Activism / Experiential Learning in the classroom  
York College, CUNY – Fall 2019.

**Professor promotes #SocialActivism in the classroom at York College, CUNY!**

by [Venisha V Henry](#) — last modified Feb 20, 2020 02:58 PM

Prof. Remi Alapo's Fall 2019 Intro to Multi-Cultural Studies in the 21st Century (CLDV 100) students participated in activities leading to the #UN Women's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in support of the #HearMeToo, #16DaysOfActivism and #OrangeTheWorld campaigns (from November 25th - December 10th). The days' activities started by teaching students about diversity, respect, and tolerance for other cultures, both verbal and non-verbal communications and the ways in which certain cross-cultural communication especially in the use of gestures, body language, and verbal expressions may be miscommunicated by others, which may result in violence, unwanted approach, and touching. Professor Alapo encouraged her students to take a social activism approach in understanding diversity and different cultures especially as the majority of the students are migrants, or have origins in others nations where certain hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language have different values or meaning depending on the region or culture that the person is from.

Prof. Alapo invited H.H Maharaj Dileepkumar Thankappan (popularly known as "Guruji" or "Guru Dileepji"), Global Chairman of World Yoga Community to provide a hands-on approach to cross-cultural understanding and eliminating violence as part of his interfaith peacebuilding work, which included a mini yoga and meditation session. Both Prof. Alapo and Guru Dileepji, as he is popularly known, have collaborated for almost 10 years on faith-based and cross-cultural activities promoting understanding, tolerance, respect and most importantly, love as the school of thought to understanding those who are different from us.





→ Not secure | bcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/the-communicator-may-may-20.pdf


### CAMPUS NEWS

#### Sociological Concepts of Race and Ethnicity, Culture, Society and Identity Discussed in Intro to Sociology (SOC 11 – D22 455589) BCC's One Book, One College, One Community

Dr. Remi Alapo's spring 2019 students participate in the "One Book, One College and One Community Book" read as part of course syllabus content. Students explored sociological concepts of culture, society, social interaction, race, ethnicity and identity politics of The Dominican Republic and Haiti and made comparisons to the similar scope in history of the United States and its roots on racism and discrimination and one that many communities of color are in search of ethnic identities and equality. The books were provided to the class by the Office of Academic Affairs as part of the Bronx Community College "One Book, One College, and One Community" events for the 2018 / 2019 academic year.

Culture is the sum of practices, languages, symbols, beliefs, values, ideologies, and tangible objects that mankind has created to deal with real-world conflicts. Culture enables individuals to adapt and thrive in any setting. The element of cultures consist of shelter, norms, clothing, economy, religion, or education. Three primary theoretical perspectives are symbolic interactionist perspective, the functionalist perspective, or conflict theory. Symbolic interactionism uses symbols to represent significant part of one's culture. Functionalism is the aspect of society being interdependent and this contributes to how society functions as a whole. Conflict theory is competition for scarce theory. In many experiences, individuals, groups of people and their communities are determined to keep aspects of their culture alive through a common or shared language, tradition, music, folk-tales, folklores, folkways, norms, beliefs or values. In addition, many individuals uphold their spiritual beliefs as sacred, and they will attach significant cultural meaning and values in the preservation of their cultural heritage, language, and artifacts.


Other course topic discussions included socialization and interaction of different cultures sharing similar national interests, symbols, music, dance, food



*Left to right: Jeanne Martinez, Marianne Paulino, Jacqueline Moran, Abel Dominguez, Oswaldo Franco, Kimmarley Braitwaite, Professor Remi Alapo, and Taj Scott.*

and relating it to life in their communities as the majority of the students are predominantly from the DR.

Cultures can persist overtime if we can sustain our traditions by documenting our native language, recording ancestral delicacies, practices or showcasing our traditions through various aspects of the arts such as gestures, body movements, facial expressions, dance, music, food, clothing, and language or other communication modes. Local communities can join together to orchestrate programs to teach their neighbors about their cultures traditions and customs so that they will not be completely lost in peril. A strong culture or tradition can foster stronger economic or community ties that can reduce or eliminate discrimination at various aspects of the community level and end racial inequalities at the national level.



OER Experiential Learning: Social Justice Activism in the classroom: Bronx Community College (BCC) – Fall 2018 – Spring 2019.

Part  
IV: REFERENCES  
Mentions in 3  
CUNY University's  
social media  
about  
Prof. Alapo and  
her OER projects  
at CUNY.

- BMCC Community is engaged in [#SocialActivism](#) inside and outside the classroom. [#ICYMI](#)  
[\[https://www.facebook.com/CUNY.BMCC/posts/10161381631790361\]](https://www.facebook.com/CUNY.BMCC/posts/10161381631790361)
- **Professor Uses the City as a Classroom**  
[\[https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/newsletters/05172018.html\]](https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/newsletters/05172018.html) (scroll down to middle of website).
- **Human Rights 2019 UN with BMCC students** - <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/ported/publicaffairs/atbmcc/12192019.html>
- **York 2019 Social Activism** - <https://www.york.cuny.edu/news/professor-promotes-socialactivism-in-the-classroom-at-york-college-cuny>
- **One book one college on Haiti and DR – in individual, culture and society:**  
<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/the-communicator-may-may-20.pdf>
- **OER / Service Learning WP page:** [Word Press Service Learning Blog](#)

Course page for POL 100: American Government and POL 110 Intro to Politics  
created on CUNY Academic Commons on “Civic Engagement 101”

[Civic Engagement 101 | Civic Engagement and Young  
People's Participation in a Democracy \(cuny.edu\)](#)

# Civic Engagement 101

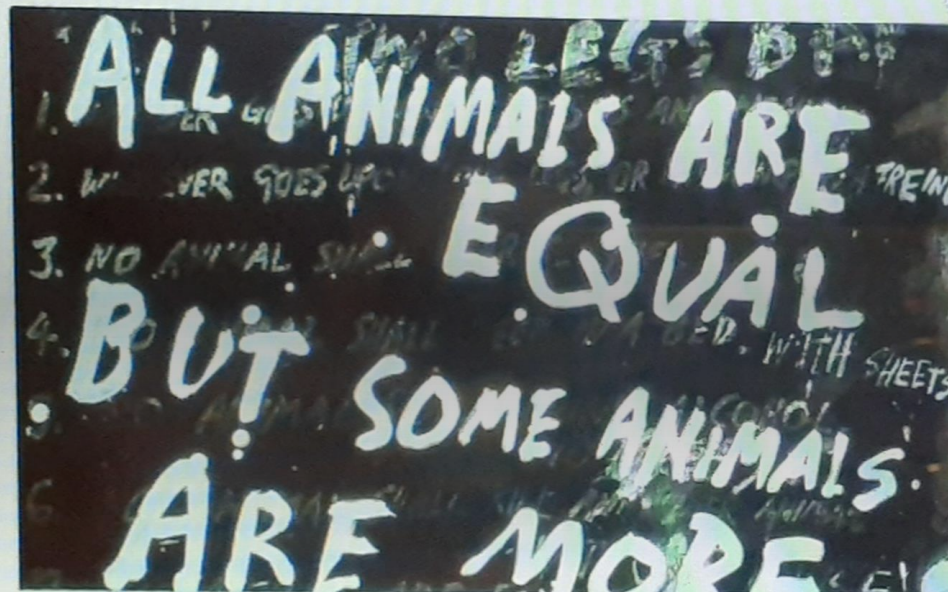
Civic Engagement and Young People's Participation in a Democracy

[HOME](#)

[POL 100 - AMERICAN GOVERNMENT](#)

[POL 110 - INTRO TO POLITICS](#)

Welcome to Civic Engagement 101 (for both my Intro to Politics - POL 110 and Intro to American Government POL 100 courses at BMCC!!!)

### RECENT POSTS

[\(no title\)](#)

[New Post!](#)

### RECENT COMMENTS

Paul L. Hebert on [New Post!](#)

**SOFT  
POWER**

# Some Voting resources

NYC Board of Elections: <https://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/home/home.shtml>

NYS Board of Elections:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/?fbclid=IwAR2YbOTdp6BLwrS4OoAJuhQVp9-kOzFubBdiy9fQ2cbpbdz-5oqF60YG37M>

League of Women Voters NYC: <https://my.lww.org/new-york/city-new-york>

15th Amendment Right to vote: <https://guides.loc.gov/15th-amendment>

For Voters - <https://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/voters/voters.shtml>

BOE Offices: <https://vote.nyc.ny.us/html/contact/offices.shtml>

A circular graphic with a red, white, and blue color scheme. The top and bottom sections are semi-circular and contain four white stars each. The central white area contains the text "VOTE NYC" in bold, sans-serif font. "VOTE" is in red and "NYC" is in blue. The graphic is set against a background of a brown and white pebbled texture.

**VOTE  
NYC**

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A glass bottle with a cork and a rolled-up scroll inside, floating on water. The bottle is tilted and the scroll is visible through the glass. The water is blue and has ripples around the bottle.

# Contact Info