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The Gift of Kind Words



Stories about Silk Road Rising from supporters like you will help us increase our impact and reach. GreatNonprofits.org – the #1 source of nonprofit stories and reviews – is celebrating highly regarded nonprofits with their 2021 Top-Rated List.

Help us raise visibility and obtain a Top-Rated status by posting a brief story about your experiences with Silk Road Rising. We are in need of more 4+ star ratings by this Sunday (October 31) so that we can earn this accolade for 2021.

Share Your Silk Road Rising Story



Polycultural Institute

Excerpt from

The Case for Polyculturalism

**A new essay-in-progress
by Jamil Khoury**

In the October 14, 2021 e-newsletter, I credited historians Robin D. G. Kelly and Vijay Prashad with having coined the term “polyculturalism,” a semantic intervention for which many of us are grateful. I do think it important to note that the terms “polyculturalism” and “interculturalism” are virtually synonymous, in that they both refer to cultural interchange and resistance to cultural siloing or segregating. That said, Kelly and Prashad arguably ascribe an overtly political meaning to “poly” in that its desired effect is to spur coalitional politics that advance progressive change, culturally, politically, and socially.

They also adopt an oppositional stance toward multiculturalism, which they understand as codifying cultures into “fixed, discrete entities” and as perpetuating many of the racist and sexist assumptions that an emphasis on cultural difference often justifies or tolerates. In other words, multiculturalism obscures the fluid and evolving nature of culture that is nurtured through interchange and that it reifies differences at the expense of seeking common ground. For Kelly and Prashad, cultural energy,

between cultures, including the many cultures that live within us as individuals.

In a future excerpt, I plan to address some of my own criticisms of multiculturalism, criticisms I know many of you share. But I need to assert that perhaps unlike our cherished scholars, I don't view polyculturalism as a replacement for multiculturalism, nor do I view the two ideas as being in binarius conflict. As I see it, the two ideas work in tandem, in a synergistic, symbiotic, sometimes contentious relationship. The two ideas need each other. Besides, as co-founder of Silk Road Rising, for me to throw multiculturalism under the bus would be an act of laughable hypocrisy. This company would not exist without the theory and practices of multiculturalism. However, I do believe that polyculturalism completes, furthers, and betters multiculturalism. Multiculturalism without polyculturalism betrays key cultural possibilities and political potency.

Community Spotlight



Short LGBTQ+ Films from Pakistan

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PrideArts and Aks International Minorities Festival will present a 90-minute collection of LGBTQ+ short films from Pakistan. This particular collection will be available for streaming from November 1 through 8 for \$12.

[Purchase a Ticket Here](#)

The festival includes:

BHANG by Imran Sajid

DASTAK by Fazal Ahmad

DEAR DAD by Ibrahim Azmat Rana

FAIRY MALCOLM by Fawad Khan

FOUR FIFTY-FIVE ML. by Mahnoor Zaidi

HAPPY MARRIAGE by Sana Jafri

HIJR by Vicky Zhuang Yi-Yin

IT'S A BOY? by Marya Javed

MAGAR by Sabeeh Ahmad

NEXT SCENE by Sunil Shanker

NO BELOVED by Salman Alam Khan

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