

Stronger Cultures, Stronger Communities
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Our Latest Updates

For centuries, the historic Silk Road facilitated profound cultural exchange among diverse peoples through the sharing of ideas, art, and philosophies.

Polycultural Institute is the think-and-create tank of Silk Road Cultural Center. Our vision is to generate art and ideas that promote polyculturalism.

Building on the rich legacy of the historic Silk Road, we create opportunities for connectivity and collaboration within our increasingly polarized world.

Thinking Polyculturally

A One-Hour Community-Based Workshop

Facilitated by Jamil Khoury and Dr. Tasneem Mandviwala



Thinking Polyculturally introduces audiences to the concept of polyculturalism as a diversity worldview. We spark cultural curiosity and link polyculturalism to individual and collective experiences. The workshop encourages radical listening, introspection, and sharing of stories to create connectedness and deeper community-based knowledge.

We're partnering with **Catholic Theological Union, Chicago Theological Seminary, Ismaili Jamatkhana of Chicago,** and **Northeastern Illinois University** to further pilot the program.

We are also in the process of building curriculum for a four-part seminar expanding on these themes.



"What I find most exciting about facilitating these workshops is that it's a new experience every time--that is the richness and beauty of polyculturalism itself."

SRCC's Polycultural Educator,
Dr. Tasneem Mandviwala

A Lifelong Learner

Jamil's begins a PhD journey at the
European Graduate School



Class photo of Dr. Achille Mbembe's "Apartheid After South Africa," one of six courses Jamil (back center) completed this past summer. Photo courtesy of the European Graduate School.

As Founder and Director of Polycultural Institute, Jamil is committed to

building a new research and generative learning branch of Silk Road Cultural Center. This year he began a doctoral program in Philosophy, Art, & Social Thought at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, a unique academic sanctuary nestled within the majestic Swiss Alps.

Throughout his intensive residency, Jamil engaged with leading scholars, theorists, and creatives from around the world and took courses that spanned philosophy, aesthetics, psychoanalytic theory, Black Thought, and contemporary politics. The exchange of ideas and exposure to new perspectives were invaluable, as Jamil's goal is to synthesize decades of acquired knowledge as a cultural producer, artist, and community advocate. This graduate school endeavor aligns seamlessly with the new direction of Silk Road Cultural Center and Polycultural Institute in the years to come.

With a dissertation, we expect this to be a five to seven-year journey. In support of these efforts, a series of video podcasts, articles, and essays will be shared and discussed. Watch this space.

Bravo, Jamil!



Jamil participating in Frank Ruda's course "How to Lose It — Audacity, Fortitude, Courage for Apocalyptic Times." Photo courtesy of the European Graduate School.

"32 years ago, I completed a Master's Degree with the intent of someday pursuing a PhD. That someday is now, and I am thrilled to be a student at the European Graduate School with its world-class faculty, international student body, and beautiful campuses in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, and Valletta, Malta. Intellectually rigorous, academically imaginative, and artistically inspiring, EGS is tailor-made for working professionals like myself. It is a blessing and a joy to be back in graduate school!"

SRCC's Co-Founder, Jamil Khoury

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Support a Vision of the World that is Open, Willing, and Creative.

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