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# GIVING TUESDAY

Dear Friend,

#GivingTuesday is a time to celebrate that which we cherish most. This year we are so grateful for our community of storytellers who are helping to envision a more loving future during these turbulent times.

Your support enables Silk Road Rising to continue telling stories that matter. Please join us this #GivingTuesday in celebrating 18 years of changing the story as we look ahead to a year filled with artistic ambition and renewal.

To support our trailblazing work:

- Visit [Silk Road Rising](#) to make your donation today.
- Tell your family and friends why you support Silk Road Rising's mission.
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Together we can make this Silk Road Rising's best #GivingTuesday yet.

## Donate Now

"I'll always be grateful to Silk Road Rising, not only for the excellence of its programming but also for attracting a diverse, interesting and thoughtful audience"

"This company presents real issues to its audiences (including my students) in a way that's constructive, thought-provoking, and empathic."

"Every time I see a show at Silk Road Rising, I feel like a different person, because I've learned something new. And every story I see at Silk Road sticks with me, because these stories are told from the heart."



**Polycultural**  
Institute

**Excerpt from**

# *Polyculturalism*

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

### *Why We Need a Polycultural Institute*

The movements that coalesced around multiculturalism and diversity, equity, and inclusion are in need of a reboot, a “what’s now?” Not because the work of those movements is finished or passe, but because they’re in need of a new goal post that strengthens cultural connectivity and social cohesion. If we want to foster cultural interchange for mutual benefit and gain between African Americans and Asian Americans, between Indigenous Americans and Arab Americans, between Polish Americans and Mexican Americans, why not start by recognizing that those intersections already exist; they just need to be activated.

“White,” “Black,” “Latinx,” and “Asian” are socially constructed identities, rooted in asymmetrical power and assumed to be monolithic and fixed. Why not subvert those constructs by embracing the diversity and complexity within each identity category and the numerous ways they overlap, intersect, and change? Mixed heritage people know a thing or two about that. “Race” as a politically construed reality exacts grave suffering and injustice. When we dismantle “race” (admittedly, easier said than done) we enable cultures to actually flourish and evolve. In other words, polyculturalism helps deconstruct the constructs.

We need a Polycultural Institute because our social fabric is dangerously frayed, and the strongest antidote to polarization is human connectivity. We need it because American democracy is in serious peril. And because multiracial democracy is America's new fault line. Because the spectre of white minority rule is real. Because cultural interchange builds meaningful relationships and coalitional politics. Because we need to develop political

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education, the environment, affordable housing, and support for families.

Because the pursuit of racial and gender justice demands that we work for change within and between our cultures and communities. Because we want Americans to learn with and from people in other countries.

We need a Polycultural Institute because it's high time we celebrate the porosity and absorbency of our cultures, and because open interchange makes our cultures stronger and more dynamic. Cultural integrity is not defended by erecting and policing contrived boundaries between 'mine' and 'yours,' 'us' and 'them.' To the contrary, cultural confidence and knowledge increase exponentially when we engage each other. It's not about blending or diluting, it's about learning and evolving. A tall order for certain, but have you ever known us to shy away from ambition?

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**Support a Vision of America that is  
Welcoming, Polycultural, and  
Dynamic.**

**Support a Vision of Culture that is  
Open, Willing, and Creative.**

**Support Silk Road Rising and Donate  
Today**

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