You Are Invited
May 16th and 17th

New York University’s
Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity
and the Transformation of Schools
sponsors

Brown: 60 and Beyond

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A two-day conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic Brown v. Board of Education ruling that separating children in public schools on the basis of race was unconstitutional. The ruling signaled the end of legalized racial segregation in U.S. schools.

Featuring:
Gary Orfield
Richard Rothstein
Farai Chideya
Anna Deavere Smith
Russlynn Ali
Rudy Crew
Michael Rebell
Ron Woo
Jeff Duncan-Andrade
And Others

Through dialog and debate, the conference hopes to illuminate the impact of Brown on the course of civil rights in the United States, and prime new perspectives on educational equality. This two-day event will feature scholars, practitioners, activists, educators, and students as they tackle the questions:

- Has progress been made in eliminating racial barriers and expanding racial equality through education since this historic ruling?
- School integration in the 21st Century: Is it a goal still worth pursuing?
May 16th Focus: The Current State of Race and Education in the U.S.
A robust discussion by scholars of note.

- Keynote addresses delivered by Gary Orfield, Professor of Education, Law, Political Science and Urban Planning; Co-Director, Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles at UCLA, and Richard Rothstein, a research associate of the Economic Policy Institute and senior fellow of the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the University of California (Berkeley) School of Law

- Convening scholars present reflections and research on variations on this theme. Each scholar will be ‘answered’ in turn by a colleague, public school educator, or student presenting an opposing point of view. Presenters include but are not limited to Ernest Morrell, Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Maisha and Tory Winn, Lisa Stulberg, Antwi Akom, Edward Fergus, Kim Sweet, Zakiyah Ansari and Khary Lazare White.

- The evening features a book launch of Schooling for Resilience (2014), coauthored by Edward Fergus, Pedro Noguera, and Margary Martin. Following the reception and book launch, Farai Chideya will moderate a viewing of the Unequal Education: Failing Our Children. A year in the life of two seventh graders reveals the stark contrast in resources and opportunities offered by each of their schools. Located in the same Bronx school district only a few miles apart, they represent two distinct neighborhoods that are socially and economically worlds apart – the middle class Riverdale and the struggling community of South Fordham. Unequal Education bears witness to the equity gap in the New York City schools – a tragedy of national proportion. Created by New York City youth producers at the Educational Video Center, this acclaimed documentary premiered nationally in 1992 on the PBS series, “Listening to America with Bill Moyers.” The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on the film’s relevance featuring Michael Rebell, Deborah Meier, Rudy Crew.

May 17th Focus: School Integration in the 21st Century: Is it a goal still worth pursuing?
Involving the students and decision-makers of tomorrow.

- Part One: Student Teach-In featuring interactive and engaging activities aimed at elucidating the history of Brown for participating high school students. The teach-in will be facilitated by teachers, community based organizations, and NYU-based organizations. The activities will be designed to deepen students’ understanding of issues surrounding the Brown decision and to give them an opportunity to discuss their own thoughts and experiences.

- Part Two: Debate moderated by Anna Deavere Smith and presented to a jury of 10-12 high school students, chosen from NYC and other school districts. Expert debaters include: Attorney Ted Shaw, retired Executive Director of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Russylnn Ali, Former Assistant Secretary of Education in the Office of Civil Rights, Amy Stuart Wells, Teachers College, David Banks, Eagle Academy, Jeff Duncan-Andrade, San Francisco State.

- Part Three: Ruling and brief Q&A with the audience. Dr. Pedro Noguera, Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education and Co-director of the institute for the study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan settings introduces the civil rights pioneer Reverend Jesse Jackson (invited, not confirmed), who will give closing remarks.