

# 2025 RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

# SOUL & SYSTEM

THE POWER OF  
ARTIVISM IN  
DECOLONIZING  
IDENTITY

05.02.2025

15 Seminary Place, Room 4225,  
New Brunswick, NJ



Register Here!

## Check-In

9:00 AM to 9:55 AM

Doors open at 9:00 AM. Guest check in with registration and enjoy a continental breakfast.

## Opening

10:00 AM to 10:20 AM

An official welcome to the third annual Racial Justice Summit, hosted by the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice.

**Speakers:** **Dr. Carlos Decena**, Cross-Campus Director of the Office of Undergraduate Intellectual Life and Co-Creator of the RAJU program; **Ren Sevilla** and **Maria Loo**, Members of the 2024-2025 Student Advisory Board. Ren Sevilla is a Rutgers-New Brunswick senior majoring in Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Maria Loo is a Rutgers-Newark senior majoring in English & Political Science.

## Community Changemakers: 2024-2025 RAJU Fellows Panel

10:25 AM to 11:40 AM

The fall of 2022 marked the launch of the Inaugural Cohort of the **Fellows in Racial Justice Learning Community**, a tri-campus academic program for undergraduates committed to activism and advocacy. Those 12 groundbreaking trailblazers redefined what it means to drive change on campus. Now, as we continue the legacy of RAJU, the third cohort is ready to present their own social action projects. Follow and celebrate the groundbreaking projects of our 2024-2025 fellows as they share innovative approaches to justice through art, activism, and community engagement.

**Moderator:** **Jilary Guaman Calle**, 2024-2025 Student Advisory Board Chair and Rutgers-Newark senior majoring in Political Science with a double concentration in Women's & Gender Studies and Social Justice via the Honors Living Learning Community (HLLC) and the Honors College.

## 15 Minute Break

11:40 AM to 11:55 AM

Take a quick break to socialize, explore, rest, and recharge ahead of our keynote address!

## Keynote Address with Edel Rodriguez

11:55 AM to 12:55 PM

What does activism look like in today's world? How can we create expressive and inspiring art that propels today's generation to mobilize into a tangible movement? Edel Rodriguez, Cuban American artist, illustrator, and children's book author, will explore these questions through the lenses of culture and the media in our polarizing political landscape. With an unabashed history of creating earnest and provocative illustrations of political figures, Edel's keynote speech will delve into how the human experience intersects with the art he has created and its impact on how we view activism today, drawing on his personal experience as a bold artist, immigrant, and storyteller.

**Moderator:** **Azinwi Numfor**, 2024-2025 Student Advisory Board member and Rutgers-New Brunswick senior double majoring in Political Science and Public Policy.

## Lunch

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Guests will unwind and enjoy with an array of free food and drinks. Guests are highly encouraged to explore interactive pieces of the summit and network with each other and presenters during this time.

## ARTIVISM Workshop

1:50 PM to 2:50 PM

Tap into your creativity while exploring the social justice issues that matter most to you. The **ARTIVISM Workshop** is a space where personal expression meets activism. Led by a student art instructor, this interactive session will introduce new techniques and encourage you to create meaningful work that reflects your vision for change. No artistic experience is necessary—just bring your passion and let your creativity lead the way.

## The Power of Local Activism: Community Panel

3:00 PM to 3:55 PM

Guided by the invaluable insights of our dedicated community leaders, the focus of **Soul & System** explores the inextricable relationship between art and activism in challenging colonial narratives, reclaiming identity, and fostering mental well-being. As the remnants of colonial history persist today throughout the world, our panel holds space for an open dialogue that critically examines how communities reimagine themselves on the path of decolonization and fostering collective healing while working towards systemic change. Hear from a panel of leaders who are redefining identity, healing communities, and creating space for transformative justice through their work.

**Moderator:** **Grace Asare**, 2024-2025 Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Rutgers-Camden Honor's College senior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Legal Studies.

## Closing Remarks

3:55 PM to 4:00 PM

**2024-2025 Student Advisory Board** will give the evening's closing remarks. Thank you to everyone who has supported our mission to embrace community, take up space, and create a more equitable world for all.