

Reflection: The Fight for Racial Justice at The Connecticut Forum
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The Connecticut Forum, an organization that hosts unscripted panel discussions, hosted a live forum on the Racial Injustice in the United States featuring speakers Cathy Park Hong, Baratunde Thurston and Julian Castro. The speakers talked about the American Dream, immigrants' place in our country, and racism as a whole. I think that it was a very interesting, deep and real conversation which I really enjoyed. Julian Castro and Cathy Park Hong talked quite a bit about white people being involved in conversations of race and how white people feel in these conversations, one, they feel do not have the right to speak, and/or, two, there are right and wrong things to say in these conversations. I agree with both of these speakers because I, myself have felt this way of "I do not know what to say" being a cis-gendered white female and of the majority. Then Castro started talking about how these conversations should be open conversations where everyone is listening and taking in what others have to say, which then leads to great discussion. I think these conversations are essential to happen for discussing race to be normalized and not awkward, for many years I feel like there has been tension over this topic. I also feel when having these discussions we learn more about who we are as humans and why we do/done certain things. I feel like this has to do with the caste system where once you are born you are joined into a specific level in a social hierarchy based on your skin color. This panel discussion directly relates to the Global Studies themes-human rights and non-violence war. This is because race/human rights has to do with everyone being treated equally and not being accused of doing something because of their skin color which then could lead to violence. To continue to talk about violence, with that comes anger, and anger is not always bad thing, it can be used for optimism as one of the panelists states. The determination and rage people have for change, for a better, more peaceful and equal society.