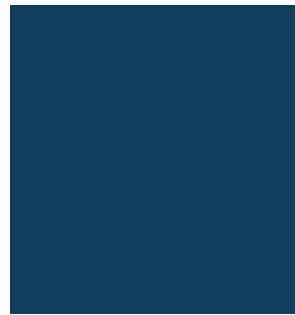


ANNUAL REVIEW 2019–2020



THE BERNARD AND AUDRE RAPOPORT CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



OUR MISSION

is to serve as a focal point for critical, interdisciplinary analysis and practice of human rights and social justice.

Letter from the Co-directors	1
Events	2
Student Opportunities	9
Spotlights	12
Publications	14
Staff	16
Affiliates	18
Supporters	20
The Year to Come	21

Letter from the Co-directors

More than any other time in our existence, 2020 brought new urgency to our mission. The COVID-19 pandemic along with the killing of George Floyd and ensuing calls to action by the movement for Black Lives laid bare the inequalities on which much of our work had focused earlier in the year.

We had begun the year in September with a conference on prison abolition (see pages 6-7), followed by two workshops on distribution, racial capitalism, and world-system theory (see pages 2-3). COVID-19 and renewed attention to police brutality both called for our sustained and deeper engagement with inequalities at every level.

Precipitated by an emerging project on the future of work and a partnership with Dell Medical School to study the disparate health impacts of COVID-19 on construction workers in Austin, we assembled a remarkable group of over thirty student researchers from UT, Northeastern, and Harvard. Over the course of the summer, teams developed case studies about COVID-19 “hotspots,” focusing on workers in the construction, care work, and food processing sectors in five different U.S. cities as well as on repatriated Pakistani workers from the Persian Gulf (see page 8).

As a part of our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, the Rapoport Center held two virtual public events this summer. In one, a panel from the abolition conference reconvened to consider some of the work it had discussed last September on jailhouse lawyering in light of calls for police abolition as well as COVID-19 (see page 7). We have extended an invitation to other panels to reconvene as well, particularly given that we can feature conversations virtually across geographic spaces.

Another event brought together advocates from two different Afro-Brazilian communities—1500 miles apart from each other—with members of the Austin Justice Coalition. Titled “Quilombo Lives Matter: Forging Transnational Anti-Racisms in the Age of Pandemic,” the speakers engaged in a bilingual, virtual conversation about the fight against white supremacy, violence, and territorial dispossession (see page 12).

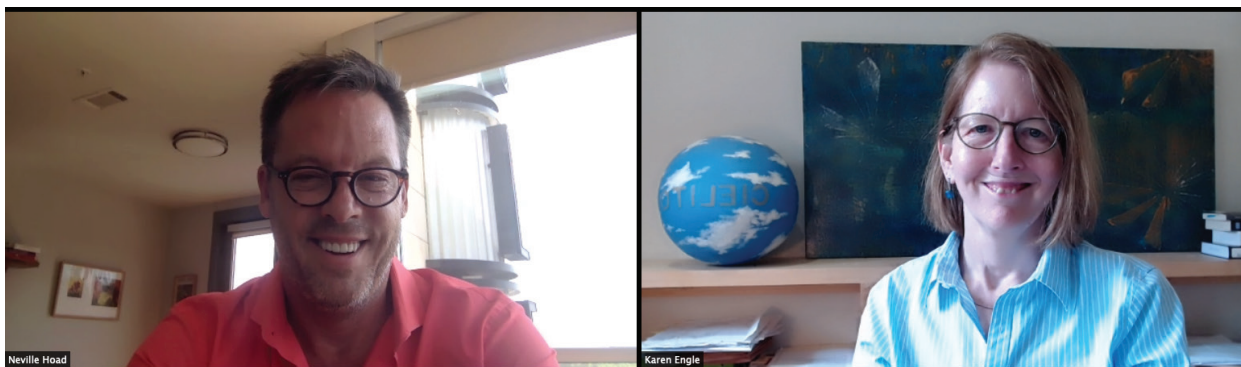
Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that the UT Office of the Vice President for Research awarded funding to the Center for a “pop-up institute” in 2021 entitled “Beyond the Future of Work: New Paradigms for Addressing Global Inequality” (see page 21). We are keen to begin that work with colleagues and students around campus.

Until last March, when the Center successfully moved its operations online, we could not have predicted that “Zoom” would become a word in our daily vocabulary. Online engagement has been a challenge, but it has also brought opportunities. Above all, we have increased the geographic spread of our collaborators and have been able to engage wider audiences in our online activities.

Wherever you are, we welcome you to our exciting line-up of virtual events this fall (see back page). As always, we thank you for your interest and support as the Rapoport Center continues to serve as a focal point for the critical, interdisciplinary analysis and practice of human rights and social justice.

Neville Hoad

Karen Engle



From left to right: Rapoport Center co-directors Neville Hoad (English) and Karen Engle (Law) during a September 2020 Zoom meeting.

Interdisciplinary Research Team Reframes the Issue of Inequality

Chatham, Massachusetts & Austin, Texas



Scenes from the Beyond Inequality Workshops. Clockwise from top left, and in order from left to right: Karen Engle and Helena Alviar; Nicole Burrowes, Pavithra Vasudevan, Vanja Hamzić, Marcelo Paixão, and Gowthaman Ranganathan; David Kennedy; Marcelo Paixão, Neville Hoad, E. Tendayi Achiume; and Jennifer Bair, Jennifer Gordon, and Bedour Alagraa.

Political leaders across the spectrum have called economic inequality the defining challenge of our time. In our work on inequality over the past five years, the Rapoport Center has discovered that much of the contemporary discourse on inequality elides historically entrenched patterns of accumulation, domination, and subordination based on racialized, gendered, and imperial hierarchies. In a new project on the “future of work,” we seek to find new modes of analysis beyond current conceptions of inequality.

Over the past year, we assembled an international and interdisciplinary team of leading scholars and practitioners from law, history, geography, sociology, and economics to intervene in contemporary discussions about the future of work. We began with the understanding that the dominant institutional and political discourses on the topic—with their overwhelming focus on what they see as new threats to wage-labor, primarily in the context of manufacturing—miss the extent to which informal and non-wage work have long characterized

much of the world’s population. That is, they fail to capture the historical and ongoing racial, gendered, and colonial patterns of accumulation and reproduction of power and wealth.

We are therefore engaging the methods of racial capitalism, world-systems theory, and distributional analysis to understand and challenge the legal drivers of the past, present, and future of work.

With the co-sponsorship and collaboration of Harvard Law School’s Institute for Global Law

These case studies foreground the lived experiences of those on the margins of, if sometimes essential to, global capitalism

and Policy, the research team has held two workshops: first in Chatham, Massachusetts (October 30–November 1, 2019) and next at the University of Texas at Austin (February 14–16, 2020). At the first meeting, we read and discussed readings from the three different intellectual traditions we hope to deploy before turning in the second meeting to the discussion of short papers written by participants on

case studies from a variety of geographical locations. These case studies foreground the lived experiences of those on the margins of, if sometimes essential to, global capitalism. They demonstrate the precarity not only of workers but of work itself in sites ranging from quilombo territories in Northeastern Brazil and Jordanian apparel factories to dairy farms in Vermont and palm plantations in Colombia.

As we continue to bring together racial capitalism, world-systems theory, and distributional analysis to understand our case studies, we are keenly aware—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic—that we need to question the notions of productive value that guide many of the current strategies for responding to the crisis named “the future of work.” Both prognoses of and plans for the future of work need new imaginaries.

Thanks to support from the UT Vice President for Research for a Pop-Up Institute on “Beyond the Future of Work: New Paradigms for Addressing Global Inequality,” we will devote much of our work over the coming year to develop such imaginaries (see page 23).

PARTICIPANTS

E. Tendayi Achiume, *UCLA*

Bedour Alagaa, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

Helena Alviar, *Sciences Po, Paris*

Jennifer Bair, *University of Virginia*

Arnulf Becker Lorca, *Harvard*

Daniel Brinks, *UT, Government*

Nicole Burrowes, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

Dan Danielsen, *Northeastern University*

Dennis Davis, *High Court of Cape Town*

Karen Engle, *UT, Law; Rapoport Center*

Jorge Esquirol, *Florida International University*

Jorge González Jacome, *Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá*

Jennifer Gordon, *Fordham University*

Janet Halley, *Harvard University*

Vanja Hamzić, *SOAS University of London*

Neville Hoad, *UT, English; Rapoport Center*

Mónica Jiménez, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

Walter Johnson, *Harvard University*

David Kennedy, *Harvard University*

Duncan Kennedy, *Harvard University*

Minkah Makalani, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

Zinaida Miller, *Seton Hall University*

Vasuki Nesiah, *New York University*

Marcelo Paixão, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

K-Sue Park, *Georgetown University*

Keisha-Khan Perry, *Brown University*

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, *MIT*

Kerry Rittich, *University of Toronto*

Edward Shore, *UT; Rapoport Center*

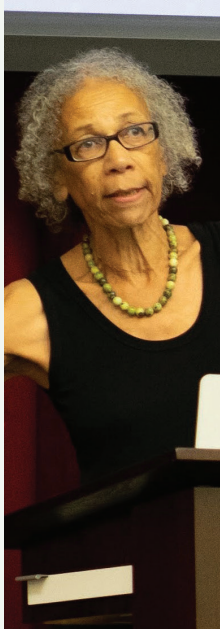
Chantal Thomas, *Cornell University*

Shirley Thompson, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies*

Pavithra Vasudevan, *UT, African and African Diaspora Studies; Women’s & Gender Studies*

Lucie White, *Harvard University*

Colloquium Investigates the Law, History, and Politics of Global Inequality



September 26, 2019
RUTH WILSON
GILMORE

"Meanwhile:
Making Abolition
Geographies"



October 14, 2019
LIBBY S. ADLER

"Tracing the Progress
of Gay Rights in
Political Economy"



October 28, 2019
KEISHA-KHAN PERRY

"Occupy Citizenship:
The Black Struggle
against Land Loss in
the Americas"



November 11, 2019
VASUKI NESIAH

"Economic
Empowerment in the
Global Periphery:
Leaning in to Credit,
Property, and
Entrepreneurship"



November 25, 2019
TEEMU RUSKOLA

"Inequality, China,
and Corporate Law"

During fall 2019, the Rapoport Center brought in leading scholars from law and the social sciences to explore the legal, historical, and political drivers of deeply entrenched economic inequality, within as well as across countries.

The colloquium was part of an interdisciplinary seminar co-taught at Texas Law by Professor Karen Engle (Law; Rapoport Center) and Dr. Edward Shore (Rapoport Center). Students engaged rigorously with global inequalities through the lens of three theoretical frameworks: racial capitalism, world-system theory, and distributional analysis. Their work was a part of the Rapoport Center's larger project on Beyond Inequality (see pages 2-3). Andrew Eckhous (Law) said he appreciated the seminar's in-depth discussions of "critical theories that are not only academically important but

also tell the story of how we got to where we are today."

Colloquium speakers invoked the seminar's theoretical frameworks as they addressed: prison abolition across diverse social justice movements and national boundaries (Gilmore); a gay rights "equality" agenda that excludes marginalized queer youth (Adler); Black women's activism battling land grabs in different sites

"I'm grateful that the seminar and colloquium introduced me to strategies and solutions that I once thought unattainable."—Natalie Oh (Law)

in the Americas (Perry); multi-agency credit schemes that leave Sri Lankan women in debt traps (Nesiah); and the role that Chinese law on corporations has played in widening the wealth gap (Ruskola).

After Professor Perry's presentation, Yoali Rodriguez (Latin American Studies) expressed gratitude for a forum in which "we can discuss environmental

racism, anti-Blackness, and racism in the Americas." Kalli McCoy (Law), who has worked in China, commented that Professor Ruskola raised "really relevant" questions, including "how China's focus on growth will impact inequality within the country and globally." Natalie Oh (Law) noted at the end of the series, "I'm grateful that the seminar and colloquium introduced me to strategies and solutions

that I once thought unattainable. I will use my law degree responsibly to combat inequality."

Seminar students developed their own exciting research projects, which they presented at a mini-conference at the end of the semester. These included papers on the distributional consequences of criminal law in the US and India; resistance to natural resource extraction in Guatemala and Bolivia; and migration policy in the US and Singapore.

“Never Be Complacent”: Michael Tigar Motivates Future Human Rights Lawyers

After graduating from law school, Michael Tigar headed to Washington, DC to begin his clerkship with US Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. He was already on the road when Justice Brennan rescinded the offer. Conservative lawmakers, columnists, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had raised an alarm about Tigar’s student activism. Although a major setback, Tigar was not diverted from his passion to be a lawyer working for social justice.

During a Rapoport Center “Careers in Human Rights Law” talk in February, Tigar shared this and many other stories with students at Texas Law, where he was once a professor. In addition to having an illustrious academic career, Tigar is a renowned human rights lawyer whose work spans civil rights, labor rights, free speech, and capital punishment. He has defended clients such as Angela Davis, Leonard Peltier, and the Charleston Five.

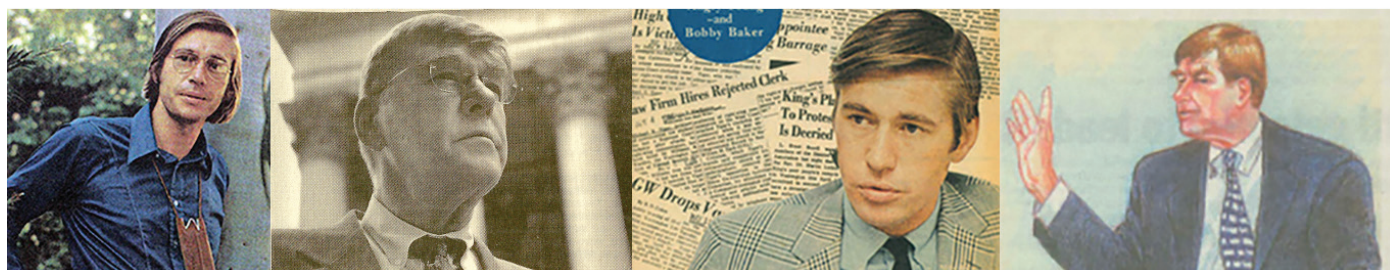
During the talk, Tigar described key moments in his career,

including how he and his law clinic students successfully sued the Pinochet regime in a US court for assassinations it orchestrated in Washington, DC. Tigar did not mention that he donated part of his legal fees from that lawsuit to establish the Letelier-Moffitt endowment, named for the victims, to fund UT law students for human rights work during the summers.

Tigar walked around the room as he spoke, asking students questions about their goals and concerns. Law student Billy Pavord later commented that “Michael Tigar was not only willing to share intensely personal moments of his career but took a real interest in every attendee’s current career path and ambitions.”

Rapoport Center Human Rights Scholar Ashley Berry (Law), who helped organize the event, recounted that “Tigar implored us to never be complacent. His talk will serve as an inspiration for all of us to use our legal education in the pursuit of social justice.”

The Michael Tigar Papers



Read Chief Justice Brennan’s handwritten apology note to Tigar—and more—in *The Michael Tigar Papers*: <https://law.utexas.edu/tigar/>

Graduate Affiliate Events Foster Interdisciplinary Exchange



Children from Kalalanwala, Punjab, taking selfies between interviews and conversations with Sarah Eleazar (photo courtesy of Eleazar).

A series of short “bullet” talks, happy hours, and sessions to workshop student papers provided opportunities for interdisciplinary exchange among the Center’s 75 graduate affiliates during the year. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the convening of the annual Graduate Affiliates Workshop, students and faculty met over Zoom to engage with each other’s work.

Iasmin Goes (PhD Candidate, Government) and Sarah Eleazar (PhD Candidate, Anthropology) both presented bullet talks on, respectively, petroleum governance in the global South and the social life of industrial pollutants in Punjab, Pakistan. Eleazar said she gained a great deal

from the feedback she received from the group of students and faculty who attended: “The bullet talks are a fantastic platform for graduate students to share their work with peers and leading scholars.”

In a virtual workshop session, Sam Lee (MA Candidate, Global Policy Studies) received comments from Professor

“The bullet talks are a fantastic platform for graduate students to share their work with peers and leading scholars.”
—Sarah Eleazar

Dan Brinks (Government) on his working paper about the struggles of the Ixil Maya peoples against hydroelectric projects in Guatemala. Brinks’ remarks were followed by input from other affiliated

faculty and graduate students. Reflecting on the session, Lee commented on its utility to his project: “Participants helped me craft a detailed approach to policy solutions.”

Ruth Wilson Gilmore Calls for Replacing Carceral Geographies with Abolitionist Geographies



Dr. Ruth Wilson Gilmore speaks to a packed audience in the Francis Auditorium at Texas Law (photo courtesy of KyeongJun Yang).

Internationally renowned activist and scholar Ruth Wilson Gilmore delivered the 2019 Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Endowed Lecture in Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights on September 26. Gilmore is Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and American Studies as well as Director of the Center for Place, Culture, and Politics at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She began her lecture, “Meanwhile: Making Abolition Geographies,” by thanking Sissy Farenthold “for being such a model for all of us in the struggles that we wage in our daily lives.”

Gilmore’s lecture to an audience of over 200 served as the keynote address for the Rapoport Center’s “Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform: From the Local to the Global” conference (see page 7). Gilmore shared her expansive vision of abolition as “a practical program of change rooted in how people sustain and improve their lives, cobbling together insights and strategies from disparate, connected struggles.” Abolitionists, Gilmore said, cannot be “purists.”

As a grassroots organizer during California’s late 1990s prison-building boom, Gilmore learned “to make power by making connections.” In addition to co-founding such groups as the California Prison Moratorium Project and Critical Resistance, she worked tirelessly to forge alliances among activists and groups advocating for racial justice, migrant and labor rights, environmental justice, and women’s rights.

Gilmore called for replacing “carceral geographies” with “abolitionist

geographies.” While the former aim to “solve” social problems with racist and dehumanizing systems of incarceration, the latter collaboratively transform systemic injustices such as unequal

“Abolition is about making the world, about changing the world.” —Ruth Wilson Gilmore

access to housing and health care.

Unlike abolition, Gilmore warned, prison reform often fuels carceral geographies. In the mid-2000s, for instance, some California legislators proposed a bill to build “gender responsive” prisons to make prison a more “pleasant experience.” As Gilmore pointed out, “life in a cage” is “violent and often traumatic,” never “pleasant.” Abolitionists quickly mobilized. Their efforts included smuggling petitions to women behind bars, resulting in a 25-foot banner—bearing 3,300 signatures—

dramatically unfurled at the legislative vote. The bill was defeated.

Gilmore made clear that prisons operate within the wider edifice of global racial capitalism. Abolition must

therefore engage with the racialized international division of labor such as links between Guantanamo and Rikers Island, and the relationship between the war on drugs at home and the war on terror abroad. Speaking across multiple constituencies, sometimes in different languages, is essential to progress.

In closing, Gilmore asked her audience to imagine a future in which lives are valued equally. Abolition, she said, “is about making the world, about changing the world.”



From left to right: Natalie Diaz, Neville Hoad, Roger Reeves, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Frances “Sissy” Farenthold, Dwayne Betts, Karen Engle, and David Leslie.

Farenthold Lecture Circle of Friends (\$5,000 or more)

Gayle & Mike DeGeurin
Patricia Dougherty
Karen Engle & Ana Almaguel
Jan Fox
Lisa Fuentes & Thomas Cohen
James Galbraith
Molly Gochman
Estate of Barabara Harlow
Brian & Karen Kelleher
Willy Kuehn*
Marta, Sissi & Jim Mattox
Eric & Carol Nelson
Dorothy Slater-Brown
Martha Claire Tompkins
American Income Life & National
Income Life of New York

*deceased

Activists and Scholars Think Globally about Prison Abolition and Human Rights



From left to right: Vanessa Thompson, Aparna Polavarapu, Kelly Gillespie, Ashley Farmer, and Zinaida Miller conclude their roundtable, "Time, Justice, and Abolition."

From inside a cell, the night sky isn't the measure— that's why it's prison's vastness your eyes reflect after prison.

"Ghazal," Reginald Dwayne Betts
(from *Felon*, 2019)

The Rapoport Center's fifteenth annual conference began with readings by award-winning poets Natalie Diaz and Reginald Dwayne Betts, setting the scene for the intellectually stimulating and emotionally charged experience to follow. With his poem "Ghazal," Betts drew a rapt audience into the anguishing experience of carceral afterlife.

Keynoted by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (see page 6) and held at Texas Law on September 26–28, 2019, "Prison Abolition, Human Rights, and Penal Reform: From the Local to the Global" was co-sponsored by 18 centers and departments across campus. It brought together an unusually diverse line-up of speakers, both national and international, that included activists, scholars, artists, human rights advocates, lawyers, students, community organizers, and formerly incarcerated individuals. Conference topics ranged from the relationship between reform and abolition, and the possibility of new imaginaries for understanding and responding

"The abolition conference was life-changing and eye-opening" —Rushi Shah

to harm, to the concrete issues of racial and trans injustice, overcriminalization, diversion programs, and immigrant detention.

UT Dallas graduate Sarah Whipple noted that "conversations about prison abolition usually focus around the same questions, like what we should do in case of violent crime. In this conference, we had a chance to address these questions but also move beyond them

and examine what abolition might look like for individuals and society."

Throughout the conference, speakers shared their personal investment in creating a more just and humane world. Hari Ziyad, artist and editor, described their quest to unravel generations' worth of institutional injustices, and the long racial histories embedded in the very word "abolition." "For me," Ziyad said, "abolition is an ancestral project."



Annette Price asks a question from the audience, following Ruth Wilson Gilmore's keynote address.

Speakers also addressed the emotional costs of dedication to abolition as a cause and a quotidian practice. Claudia Muñoz, co-director of Grassroots Leadership, said "you need to be willing to be in constant conflict with the world and just take care of yourself along the way."

In the first of what we hope will be many sequels to the conference, the "Legal Empowerment as Abolition" panel reconvened virtually on August 4, 2020 to revisit some of the issues it initially explored in light of COVID-19 and protests following George Floyd's murder. The webinar highlighted the critical importance of engaging jailhouse lawyers—and incarcerated people generally—in racial justice movements. Rushi Shah, a recent UT graduate who is pursuing a JD at Harvard Law School and a PhD in Computer Science at Princeton University, explained that he joined the webinar because "the abolition conference was life-changing and eye-opening."

ORGANIZERS, KEYNOTE, & ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS*

Reginald Dwayne Betts
Yale Law School (PhD
Candidate)

Ofelia Ortiz Cuevas
University of California,
Davis

Jamil Dakwar
American Civil Liberties
Union

Natalie Diaz
Arizona State University

Karen Engle
UT, Law; Rapoport Center

Ashley Farmer
UT, African and African
Diaspora Studies

Kelly Gillespie
University of the Western
Cape, Cape Town

Ruth Wilson Gilmore
City University of New York

Neville Hoad
UT, English

Sarah Lamble
Birkbeck University of
London, England

Marisol LeBrón
UT, Mexican American and
Latina/o Studies

David Leslie
Rothko Chapel

Kate Levine
Yeshiva University

Zinaida Miller
Seton Hall University

Claudia Muñoz
Grassroots Leadership

Vasuki Nesiah
New York University

Aparna Polavarapu
University of South
Carolina School of Law

Annette Price
Grassroots Leadership

Roger Reeves
UT, English

Vanessa Thompson
Goethe Universität
Frankfurt, Germany

Hari Ziyad
RaceBaitr

*For a list of all participants
and panelists, please visit our
website.

The deadly and debilitating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic can be felt in every community and country around the world, but it is not experienced equally. In the United States, low-income, often undocumented Black and brown workers in the construction, food, and care sectors are particularly susceptible to contracting and developing serious illness from coronavirus.

How have these racialized, low-paying, and already dangerous jobs come to be deemed “essential” during the pandemic?

In summer 2020, Rapoport Center co-directors, Professor Karen Engle (Law) and Professor Neville Hoad (English), together with professors Dan Danielsen (Northeastern Law School) and Lucie White (Harvard Law School), sought to answer that question. They assembled a team of more than 30 researchers—Rapoport summer interns and fellows; law students and recent law graduates from Northeastern; law, graduate, and undergraduate students from Harvard—to develop case studies about COVID-19 “hot-spots”: on

construction workers in Austin, Texas, the Bay Area, California, and Pakistani construction workers repatriated from the United Arab Emirates; food processing workers in Gainesville, Georgia; people engaged in food and care work in Immokalee, Florida; and care workers in Chelsea, Massachusetts.

Teams investigated the economic, political, historical, and legal drivers

“This project was critical to bolstering our understanding of why health pandemics, and in turn, other ‘natural’ events, affect certain communities more than others.”

—Cynthia Ahmed (Harvard Law School)

of racial and ethnic inequality—such as law and regulations about immigration and migration, worker safety, fair labor standards, health care, and social provisioning—that negatively affect worker bargaining power, lived experience, and health outcomes. The case studies also considered structural factors that make certain work “essential,” such as urban growth policies in Austin that displace low-income Latinx populations while relying on them to provide labor for that growth.

Interviews with key workers and advocates kept the researchers focused on specific forms of precarity.

For student researcher Cynthia Ahmed (Harvard Law School), “this project was critical to bolstering our understanding of why health pandemics, and in turn, other ‘natural’ events, affect certain communities more than others. It expanded my knowledge of the

intersectionality of social inequality, racial capitalism, local and national politics, and the American food system.”

As teams shared
their findings during

a two-part invitational webinar in late July, a unifying insight emerged. The economic insecurity of affected workers was structurally established well before the pandemic emerged as an exacerbating circumstance. Yet the pandemic makes it urgent that we propose better legal and political interventions, not simply to address COVID-19 but also to enhance workers' wellbeing and political power by promoting necessary structural changes.

Pilgrim's Pride
 JBS Subsidiary (Brazil)
 3rd largest employer in Gainesville
 Complete vertical integration from hatchery to frozen products
 1 million birds/ week

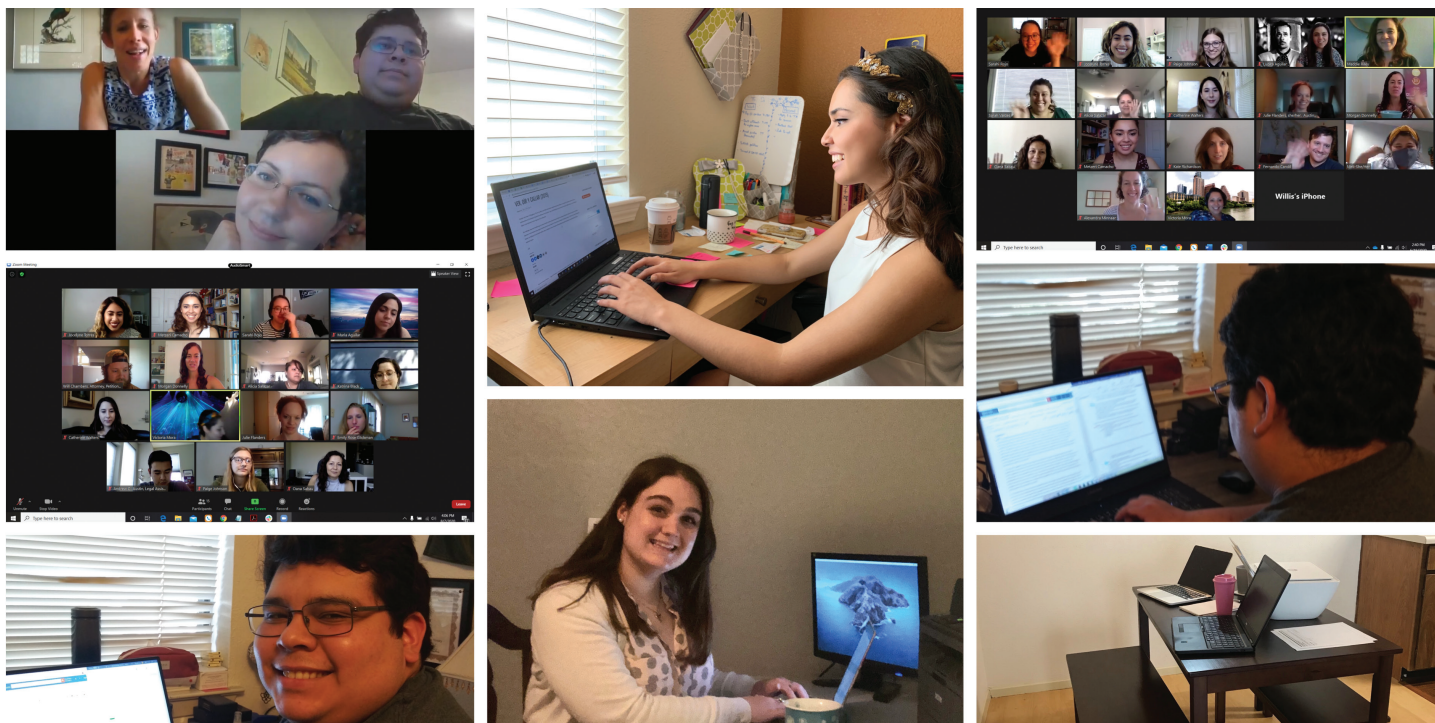


Mar-Jac Poultry
 Locally owned, regional operations
 9th largest employer in town
 Complete vertical integration
 2 million birds/ week



Neither reportedly shuttered or slowed down





A selection of photos from our summer fellows' remote internships highlight the importance of Zoom meetings, creative work-from-home set-ups, and remarkable adaptability (photos courtesy of Teniente, Camacho, Schulz, and Miller).

Human Rights Fellows

We supported six law students as they interned remotely with human rights organizations and institutions around the world this summer. With teams in Mauritius, the Netherlands, central Texas, and beyond, students worked to promote social justice, protect the rights of refugees and asylees, and explore the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, immigration policy, and human rights. Although we have all had to adjust how we work on these issues in the midst of a pandemic, our fellows' passion and commitment continues to demonstrate that what starts here can change the world.

"I worked alongside a number of other legal interns in parts of Europe, Asia, and within the US, and learned a great deal from individuals who have worked in international humanitarian law as prosecutors and other court staff," said Kirsten Kumar, who worked for the appeals team of the Office of the Prosecutor at the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. "My experience exceeded any expectations I had for a remote internship and affirmed my goal to pursue a career in this field."

METZERI CAMACHO, Law
Orlando Letelier and Ronni
Karpen Moffitt Endowed
Presidential Scholar
*Refugee and Immigration Center
for Education and Legal Services*
Austin, Texas

KIRSTEN KUMAR, Law
*International Residual
Mechanism for Criminal
Tribunals*
The Hague, The Netherlands

KRISTIN SCHULZ, Law
Tahirih Justice Center
Houston, Texas

JOSUE TENIENTE, Law
Equal Justice Center
Austin, Texas

Fieldwork Grants

As part of our project on human rights and inequality, we awarded grants to support summer fieldwork by four PhD candidates from across campus. They will pursue important social justice research in sites ranging from Miami, Florida to Delhi, India.

Samuel Law's project (Anthropology), for example, seeks to expand understandings of responses to urban precarity by investigating a grassroots social movement in Mexico. "As rapid urbanization outstrips the capacity of existing urban infrastructure, many find themselves living precarious lives in urban peripheries, particularly in the megacities of the Global South," he explains. "My research explores how the construction of autonomous communities is pursued as a strategy by the urban poor to confront conditions of precarity." Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these awards will be deferred until a time when the grantees are able to travel to conduct their fieldwork.

ALISON COFFEY, SOCIOLOGY
*"Climate adaptation, flood risk,
and inequality in Miami, Florida"*
Miami-Dade County, Florida

UPASANA GARNAIK, SOCIOLOGY
*"Navigating the Legal Terrain:
Property Rights of Women in
Urban India"*
Delhi, India

SAMUEL LAW, ANTHROPOLOGY
*"Constructing Urban Autonomy:
Communal Responses to Inequality
in Mexico City's Peripheries"*
Tlahuac, Iztapalapa and Iztacalco,
Mexico City, Mexico

TIANA WILSON, HISTORY
*"Liberation for All: Recovering the
Lasting Legacy of the Third World
Women's Alliance"*
Northampton, Massachusetts

2020 Charles Moyer Human Rights Fellow

The Charles Moyer Human Rights Fellowship honors the life and work of Charles Moyer, whose professional career has been devoted to the international protection of human rights, and who was the first Secretary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Center has awarded the fellowship annually since 2012 through the generous donation of Scott Hendler and Lulu Flores (JD '80; BA '77) of Hendler Lyons Flores, an international plaintiffs' trial firm based in Austin, Texas.



SAMANTHA ACUÑA, Law
American Civil Liberties Union of Texas
Houston, Texas

Samantha Acuña (JD) interned this summer with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas. Under the remote supervision of a Brownsville-based staff attorney, Samantha worked primarily on issues concerning immigrants' and protestors' rights, including legal and policy analysis of executive orders issued in the wake of early summer protests. At Texas Law, Samantha is Communications Director and Banquet Co-Chair on the board of the Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Association. She participated in the "Pro Bono in January" trip during her 1L year and will serve on the leadership team for the program in her second year. After law school, Samantha hopes to pursue a career in human rights law.

2020 Berta Cáceres Human Rights Fellow

The Berta Cáceres Human Rights Fellowship honors the life and work of Berta Cáceres, an indigenous Honduran activist who fought for environmental justice and indigenous rights until her assassination in March 2016. Cáceres was the coordinator of the *Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras* (COPINH), and was a member of the Lenca community, an indigenous population currently facing multiple threats to their land and territories from resource extraction and state infrastructure programs. Tragically, Cáceres was assassinated by gunmen in her hometown in March 2016 after being threatened for opposing a hydroelectric project on indigenous lands.



GRACE MILLER, Law
Dentons
Port Louis, Mauritius

This summer, Grace Miller (JD) interned with Dentons in Port Louis, Mauritius. While working remotely, Grace performed legal research and developed educational materials and memos related to the ongoing case of the Chagossian people, who were forcibly removed from their homes on the Chagos Archipelago in the 1960s and 1970s. At Texas Law, Grace has participated in "Pro Bono in January," the Women's Law Caucus, and the Public Interest Law Association. In her second year, she will serve as Vice President of Community Outreach and Development for the Christian Legal Society. After law school, Grace hopes to pursue a career in public interest.

CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS



Spring 2020 clinic student Sidonia Mitchell prepares a mass mailing to send 387 questionnaires to prison inmates.

REPORTED that Austin has one of the highest rates of police shootings of people who suffer from mental health issues.

RECOMMENDED, together with the Austin Community Law Center, that the Austin Police Department provide training to raise officers' awareness of people with psychosocial disabilities.

PREPARED a memo to support litigation to challenge the constitutionality of Chapter 45.103 of the Texas Family Code, both facially and as applied to transgender persons. This section prohibits transgender persons from

legally changing their names to comport with their genders while incarcerated and within two years after their release.

MORE INFORMATION can be found on the Clinic's website: <https://law.utexas.edu/clinics/human-rights/>

"The Human Rights Clinic gave me practical experience that I could not have gained any other way, including exposure to different forms of advocacy and the opportunity to lead a project in collaboration with partner organizations."
Sidonia Mitchell (Law)

IMMIGRATION



Students Francis Wellin and Anna Roberson at an action to raise awareness about the "Remain in Mexico" program.

WON protection for six asylum seekers from Cameroon, Honduras, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, including for all three members of a Honduran family that had been separated as a result of new border policies. Also, won special visas for abused and neglected children and for victims of crimes and human trafficking.

REPRESENTED several women in custody hearings before the Immigration Court and secured their release from immigration detention. One woman was successfully released just as the COVID-19 lockdown began.

ENGAGED in advocacy challenging policies that blockaded the border

against refugees, including the infamous "Remain in Mexico" program that leaves asylum seekers trapped in dangerous cities in northern Mexico, while they undergo proceedings in US Immigration Courts along the border.

COMMENTED on proposed regulations that would gut asylum and reported to the UN Rapporteur on Migrants' Rights regarding human rights violations continuing in family detention centers.

"Taking the Immigration Clinic has been the most fulfilling experience I have had as a law student."
Jill Applegate (Law)

CIVIL RIGHTS



Students give a presentation to homeowners in Channelview, Texas, regarding how to protect their neighborhood from commercial encroachment that violates their deed restrictions.

SETTLED a civil rights lawsuit for family members whose father died in a Texas county jail after suffering a hip fracture. In this case, the family alleged that he had failed to receive adequate emergency medical care.

SETTLED a civil rights lawsuit brought by a mother who was arrested, prosecuted, and acquitted in retaliation for complaints made to her school district about the treatment of her child with special needs.

COMMENTED on US Department of Housing and Urban Development's proposal to withdraw regulations requiring local entities to affirmatively further fair housing.

TESTIFIED before the Travis County Commissioners Court on how to improve procedures for bail setting at magistration, to prevent wealth-based pretrial detention.

RESEARCHED avenues for legal challenges to critical infrastructure laws that target peaceful protests, including environmental justice protest activities.

"I know that I will carry the tools I gained with me in the Civil Rights Clinic into my career as an attorney."
Katherine Moody (Law)

OPPORTUNITIES

Research and Advocacy: Defending Quilombola Land Rights and Livelihoods in Brazil

By Edward Shore, Postdoctoral Fellow

In August 2019, Professor Karen Engle (Law; Rapoport Center) and I traveled to Brazil to assess threats to the lands and livelihoods of quilombos. The Afro-Brazilian communities are composed of quilombolas, who descend from formerly enslaved peoples; they have their own historical trajectories, land tenure practices, and forms of resistance to oppression.

Although the 1988 Brazilian constitution guarantees collective land rights for quilombos, fewer than two dozen communities, out of an estimated six thousand quilombos, possess title to the full amount of land they claim. Current Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has vowed never to cede “another centimeter” of land to quilombos and indigenous communities.

With the indispensable help of Davi Pereira Júnior, a member of the Itamatatuiá quilombo in Alcântara, Maranhão and a UT doctoral candidate (Latin American Studies), we spent two weeks in Brasília and in the states of São Paulo and Maranhão. We met with quilombolas, NGO advocates, university faculty, and government officials. We heard about Bolsonaro’s support for development projects—including highways and ecotourism in the Atlantic Forest and a space launch center in Alcântara—that threaten the autonomy and agroecological activities of quilombos. We also learned how

quilombolas are internationalizing their struggle by invoking human rights law and building global alliances.

Our time with these communities revealed the fundamental importance of territorial rights for the maintenance and reproduction of quilombola livelihoods and identities. In São Paulo’s Ribeira Valley, restrictions on swidden (rotational) agriculture prevent farmers—even those with land titles—from planting the rice, beans, and cassava necessary for their livelihood and food sovereignty. Unable

Our time with these communities revealed the fundamental importance of territorial rights for the maintenance and reproduction of quilombola livelihoods and identities.

to work the land, many quilombolas, especially young people, are forced to leave their communities in search of jobs.

In Alcântara, a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) between Brazil and the US threatens to displace thousands of quilombolas from their ancestral lands. The agreement will lead to the expansion of the Alcântara Space Launch Center, blocking access to fishing along the coast. This would devastate the livelihood and economy of quilombola communities throughout the region.

Upon our return to Austin, we co-authored an op-ed for *The Hill* opposing the expansion of the Alcântara Space Launch Center and

collaborated with members of the Movement of Peoples Threatened by the Alcântara Space Base (MABE) and the Washington Office on Latin America to lobby members of the US Congress to oppose the TSA and other bilateral agreements with Brazil. This has become especially important since the Bolsonaro government unveiled plans for the removal of quilombola communities in March 2020.

In July 2020, we hosted a bilingual conversation among members of MABE, the Articulation and Advisory Team to Rural Black Communities of the Ribeira Valley, and the Austin Justice Coalition (AJC). “Quilombola Lives Matter: Forging Transnational Anti-

Racisms in the Age of Pandemic” provided a unique opportunity for participants to discuss the struggles faced by Afro-descendant communities during the pandemic, including insecure land tenure and the absence of adequate public health policies in both countries.

Reflecting on the conversation, quilombola advocate Rafaela Miranda Santos (EACONE) reiterated the importance of such events and spaces to build solidarity that traverses borders: “Although we are so diverse culturally and geographically, our oppressors are very similar if we consider that violence and discrimination are systemic and historical.”



Karen Engle (far left), Edward Shore (fourth from left), and Davi Pereira Júnior (fifth from left) meet with members of the Centro de Cultura Negra in São Luis in August 2019.



From left to right, top to bottom: “Quilombola Lives Matter” webinar participants Shore, João Paulo Connolly (AJC), Rafaela Miranda (EACONE), Rodrigo Marinho (EACONE), Danilo Serejo (MABE), Pereira, and Gaubrielle Pritchard (AJC).

Alumni Spotlight: Yasmin Yavar



Yasmin Yavar, JD '04, who interned at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica as a human rights fellow in 2003, is today a Senior Staff Attorney at the Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA), established by the American Bar Association. This Houston-based legal resource center provides trainings, technical assistance, and collaboration for those working to advance the rights of children seeking protection.

Reflecting on her experiences as a human rights fellow during her final year in law school, Yavar credits this "wonderful opportunity to intern abroad" with "cementing an idea already in my head—that I would focus my legal career on immigration law." Yavar says of her time at the court: "There, I saw

how incredibly important it is for governments to recognize the wrongs they have committed, no matter how long ago, and to work to ensure that those wrongs are never committed again."

Since graduating from Texas Law in 2004, Yavar's legal career has focused on non-profit immigration work and, more specifically, deportation defense and children's immigration law. She has worked at both the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project in Harlingen and Kids in Need of Defense in Houston.

In late 2015, Yavar became one of the first staff members at CILA, founded in response to the thousands of children from Central America fleeing violence and abuse in their home countries and seeking humanitarian protections offered under US law. Yavar works with a small, expert team to empower advocates with the tools

Yavar's 2003 internship at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights "cement[ed] an idea already in my head—that I would focus my legal career on immigration law."

needed to guide children through this complex legal territory: "I love what I do!" Between her work at CILA and raising three young girls, Yavar says she has her "hands full, for now." Eventually, she hopes to work abroad again, or perhaps run for public office.



From left to right: Houston-based alumna Yasmin Yavar (not pictured) joined Rapoport Center co-director Karen Engle and other Houston-area alumni—Patrick Aana, JD '11, Alice Bailey, JD '08, Caroline Carter, JD '11, and Melvin Huang, JD '10—in January 2020, for the first of our alumni pop-up reunion events.

Can Human Rights Effectively Intervene in Economic Inequality?



Dramatic inequalities in income and wealth adversely affect human rights on a global scale. These inequalities determine who profits from human rights violations as well as who bears the cost of and suffers from ongoing harm. How might human rights, in turn, provide useful tools for ameliorating economic inequality?

inequality—including debt, colonialism, and the ecological impact of growth—as well as the promises and pitfalls of human rights law and movements in addressing that inequality. Despite a number of differences, the authors agree that human rights efforts must attend to the distributional consequences of globalized markets. As Radhika Balakrishnan (Rutgers University) and James Heintz (University of

“The extreme degree of inequality in today’s global economy is an inescapable facet of the economic environment within which human rights are realized.”

—Radhika Balakrishnan and James Heintz

Massachusetts at Amherst) state in their essay, “The extreme degree of inequality in today’s global economy is an inescapable facet of the economic environment within which human rights are realized.”

The contributors share a sense of outrage about the scandal of inequality in our historical moment and a commitment to imagining paths toward a more egalitarian and just world. The dossier demonstrates the continued need for engaged and ongoing conversations about the multiple forms of economic inequality and the potential roles—and pitfalls—of human rights in addressing them.

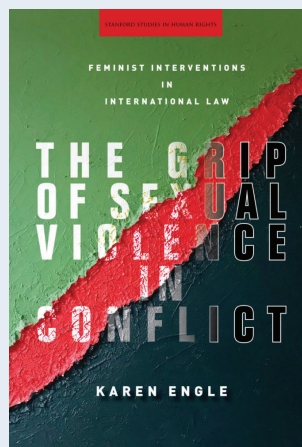
For a full list of contributors and essay titles, and to read the dossier, please visit humanityjournal.org/issue-10-3/

Conversely, might they sometimes exacerbate it?

A February 2020 dossier in the journal *Humanity* tackles these and other challenging questions. Titled “Human Rights and Economic Inequality,” the collection grew out of a Rapoport Center Conference in 2016 organized by the editors of the dossier: Daniel Brinks (Government), Julia Dehm (La Trobe School of Law; former Rapoport Center post-doctoral fellow), and Karen Engle (Law). It includes articles by scholars and advocates from and engaged with a range of disciplines including law, economics, anthropology, and literature, all over the world.

Contributors to the dossier consider a number of different drivers and symptoms of global economic

Engle’s New Book Challenges Women’s Rights Advocates’ Treatment of Sexual Violence in Conflict



In April 2020, Stanford University Press published Professor Karen Engle’s latest book, *The Grip of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Feminist Interventions in International Law*, as part of its Studies in Human Rights series. Engle’s monograph traces three decades of feminist engagement with international law and institutions with a focus on how and why both feminist activism and international law became “gripped” by the issue of sexual violence in conflict. In the process, she

argues, they have facilitated, if not deployed, essentialized ethnic and gendered images of victims and their communities to support criminal and sometimes militarized responses to sexual violence in conflict. Those responses have had both symbolic and distributive effects as they have displaced feminist attention at best, and contributed at worst, to economic maldistribution, imperialism, and—relatedly—some of the structural causes of the very armed conflicts in which they intervene.

Audre Rapoport Prize Winner Uses Decolonial Methods to Rethink Black Masculinities in the United States

Congratulations to **Shireen Jalali-Yazdi**, recipient of the 2019 Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on Gender and Human Rights. A panel of international scholars selected Jalali-Yazdi's "Colonized Masculinities and Femicide in the United States: How Conditions of Coloniality Socialize Femicidal Men" as the winning paper among submissions from around the world.

The \$1,000 prize is made possible by a donation from University of Texas linguistics professor Robert King. It honors the work of Audre Rapoport (1923-2016), who advocated for women in the United States and internationally, particularly on issues of reproductive health.

The Rapoport Center published Jalali-Yazdi's paper as part of its Working Paper Series (see box, this page). In "Colonized Masculinities," Jalali-Yazdi brings a feminist decolonial intersectional approach to illuminate the structural causes of what she identifies as "femicide" in African American communities. While femicide is a term often used by human rights advocates outside the United States, she argues that it provides an apt lens for undermining culturalist and racial explanations for intercommunal violence by men against women, arguing that "the colonial conditions faced by African American men"—including mass incarceration, police militarization and brutality, and racial residential segregation—have "contributed to the construction of femicidal masculinities."

Shireen Jalali-Yazdi is a recent graduate of the Dual BA Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po in Paris, where she majored in Social Science and Human Rights with concentrations in Law and Women's and Gender Studies. She is grateful to Professor Inga Winkler (Columbia) for providing research guidance and for teaching the Human Rights Senior Seminar that inspired the paper. Jalali-Yazdi is currently a litigation paralegal at Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz in New York.



Working Paper Series Fosters Critical and Interdisciplinary Dialogue

Colonized Masculinities and Femicide in the United States: How Conditions of Coloniality Socialize Femicidal Men

by Shireen Jalali-Yazdi

This paper argues that the colonial conditions faced by African American men have contributed to the construction of femicidal masculinities.

The Only Panthers Left: An Intellectual History of the Angola 3

by Holly Genovese

This paper examines the legacy and intellectual contributions of the Angola 3 to the Black Radical Tradition and contemporary understanding of the Black Panther Party.

Now is (not yet) the Winter of Our Discontent: The Unfulfilled Promise of Economic and Social Rights in the Fight Against Economic Inequality

by Caroline Omari Lichuma

In the wake of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the author argues that a human rights approach advocating economic and social rights (or ESRs) is capable of mitigating economic inequality worldwide.

Fostering the Inclusion of Disabled Students in Higher Education in South Africa: Some Reflections

by Serges Djoyou Kamga

This paper examines South African policies that aim to ensure higher education access for students with disabilities and the uneven enforcement of such measures at various institutions.

To read and comment on these or previous papers, please visit our updated website at <https://law.utexas.edu/humanrights/project-type/working-paper-series/>

STAFF



KAREN ENGLE is Minerva House Drysdale Regents Chair in Law and founder and co-director of the Rapoport Center. Engle publishes and lectures extensively on international law and human rights, with focuses on indigenous and Afro-descendant rights in the Americas, gender, and international criminal justice.



ARIEL A. TRAVIS was assistant director of the Rapoport Center from 2018–2020, where she supervised fellowship and internship programs, managed the daily operations of the Center, and oversaw strategic projects and initiatives. She holds an MA in Global Affairs from Yale University and has experience representing asylum seekers in Turkey.



NEVILLE HOAD is associate professor of English and co-director of the Rapoport Center. He is also faculty affiliate of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for African and African American Studies. His research focuses on African and Victorian literature, queer theory, and the history of sexuality.



SARAH ELIASON is assistant director of the Rapoport Center, where she manages daily operations, supervises fellowship and internship programs, and oversees strategic projects. She was previously the Administrative Associate from 2015–2020. She holds an MA in International Relations from Baylor University.



SABRINA BARTON is administrative associate at the Rapoport Center, where she supports staff, supervises grant proposals, and assists with publications and communications. Before entering the nonprofit sector, she taught in the English Department at UT Austin. Barton holds a PhD in English from Cornell University.



MISHAL KHAN is postdoctoral fellow at the Rapoport Center, working on several projects on inequality, human rights, and the future of work. Mishal holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago and a BA in international studies from Macalester College. Her research focuses on histories of labor regulation after the abolition of slavery in South Asia and the British Empire.



ARIEL DULITZKY is clinical professor of law and the director of the Human Rights Clinic. He also directs the Rapoport Center's internship program. Dulitzky is an expert on the inter-American human rights system and has published on human rights, racial discrimination, and the rule of law in Latin America.



EDWARD SHORE was postdoctoral fellow at the Rapoport Center in 2019–2020, where he worked on a multiyear project on inequality and human rights. Shore holds a PhD in Latin American history from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in history from Boston College. His research focuses on quilombola communities and their struggle for land rights in Brazil.

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THE YEAR TO COME

UT Academics, Artists, and Practitioners Look Beyond the Future of Work



2021 Pop-Up Institute participants. For the full list of principal investigators and participating researchers, please visit our website.

The Office of the Vice President for Research at the University of Texas has awarded funding to a group of UT Faculty, led by Rapoport Center co-directors Karen Engle and Neville Hoad, for a 2021 Pop-Up Institute on “Beyond the Future of Work: New Paradigms for Addressing Global Inequality.”

The Institute includes faculty from six colleges—Law, Liberal Arts, the LBJ School, Fine Arts, Communications, and the Dell Medical School—who together aim to develop new conceptual tools and forms of expression to imagine alternative worlds of work and livelihood. During the academic year, the team will meet regularly and host lectures (see box, this page), performances, and art exhibitions. In summer 2021, the activities will culminate in a month-long burst of intensive, collaborative work to finalize a book manuscript, develop a public-facing website, plan future artistic collaborations, and more.

The Rapoport Center has already laid the foundation for some of this work by convening workshops with scholars from UT and other institutions to explore the methods of racial capitalism, world-system theory, and distributional analysis, as applied to debates about the future of work and workers (see pages 2-3).

Sixth Annual Farenthold Endowed Lecture

October 1, 2020

Charles M. Blow

New York Times Columnist, Author of *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

Fall 2020 Speaker Series | Inequality, Labor, and Human Rights: The Future of Work in the Age of Pandemic*

Monday, September 21

Aaron Benanav

Postdoctoral Researcher, Humboldt University, Berlin

Monday, October 5

Prabha Kotiswaran

Professor of Law & Social Justice, King's College London

Co-sponsored by the South Asia Institute

Monday, October 19

Adelle Blackett

Professor of Law, Canada Research Chair in Transnational Labor Law and Development, McGill University

Monday, November 2

Juan De Lara

Associate Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity, Founding Director of the Center for Latinx and Latin American Studies, University of Southern California

Co-sponsored by LILLAS Benson

Monday, November 16

Jean Comaroff

Alfred North Whitehead Professor of African and American Studies and of Anthropology, Oppenheimer Research Fellow, Harvard University

John Comaroff

Hugh K. Foster Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology; Oppenheimer Research Fellow, Harvard University

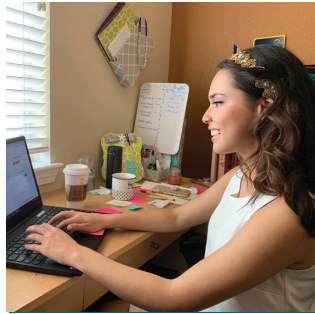
**Part of our Pop-Up Institute, supported by the Office of the Vice President for Research (see this page).*

Sarah Eliason, Sabrina Barton, and Sarah Eleazar prepared this Annual Review.



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