

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2021–2022



THE BERNARD AND AUDRE  
**R A P O P O R T   C E N T E R**  
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.

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## Letter from the Co-directors

**F**rances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold’s picture frames this year’s Annual Review because her work inspired much of what we did over the past twelve months. Although she was no longer physically present with us, Sissy’s insights informed nearly every issue we addressed. And we think she would be pleased with the conversations we made happen, if not with the world events that precipitated them.

Perhaps most poignantly, when the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Sissy had already given the most appropriate response we could find: “I come to you today with as great a sense of grievance and injustice as of indignation, and with anguish as well as anger over the recent course of events...as regards the Constitutional right to abortion.” In Sissy’s prescient way, she had delivered those words in a speech in 1977 about how *Roe* had already been undermined by the exclusion of poor people’s access to abortion. That understanding guided our two-part webinar on post-*Roe* strategies for reproductive justice for Texans (see page 5).

Appropriately, the webinars represented the first of many projects of the Sissy Farenthold Fund for Peace and Social Justice. That Fund, created by Sissy’s extraordinarily generous family and friends around the country (see page 3), will support academic, advocacy, and creative work on issues to which Sissy was committed, including reproductive and sexual rights, environmental and climate justice, and peace.

We launched the Fund at Sissy’s stirring memorial service (see page 2). Part celebration, part service, and part political rally, we celebrated Sissy’s extraordinary life and vowed to continue her legacy. Award-winning Indian novelist and activist Arundhati Roy did just that in her packed Farenthold Lecture two days earlier. With characteristic brilliance and passion, Roy denounced the violence of ruling ethnic nationalism in India (see page 4).

We have provided you with a preview of some of the year, but in these pages you will read about much more: student research and advocacy on environmental and climate justice (see page 9); continuing efforts on the future of work and livelihoods, including a collaboration in South Africa (see pages 6-7); a film screening with a talkback by renowned human rights lawyer Nancy Hollander (see page 8); a weeklong visit by international environmental law expert and Brazilian High Court Justice Antonio Benjamin (see page 8); and writing prizes in honor of the late Zipporah Wiseman and the late Audre Rapoport (see page 11).

We could not do any of this work without our amazingly talented and committed staff and student team (see pages 12-13), our advisory boards (see page 13), our affiliated faculty (see pages 14-15), and our many generous donors (see pages 3, 16).

We enjoyed the opportunity to see many of you both in person and virtually this year and look forward to our continued encounters!

Neville Hoad      Karen Engle



Rapoport Center co-directors Neville Hoad and Karen Engle at the Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture in April 2022 (photo by Brian Birzer).

# Celebrating the Life of Sissy Farenthold (1926-2021)

“How will you carry forward the message of Sissy Farenthold?” US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee asked those who gathered to remember the remarkable life of the Honorable Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold, who passed away on September 26, 2021. The Rapoport Center had the honor of hosting Sissy’s memorial on April 22, 2022.

Sissy, one of very few women in her Texas Law class of 1949, devoted her life to social justice, beginning with her early career as a legal aid lawyer and an effective, if dissident, member of the Texas Legislature. After her galvanizing campaigns for Texas governor and US vice president, she later became the first chair of the National Women’s Political Caucus (NWPC). After leaving politics, Sissy served as the first woman president of Wells College and eventually returned to Texas, where she continued to advocate for peace, social justice, and human rights.

The memorial highlighted each of these aspects of Sissy’s career, as well as her devotion to her family which, as Sissy’s daughter-in-law Lisa Marsh Ryerson (also a former president of Wells College) put it, was “the center of her being.” The number of family members in the packed law school auditorium who are also Texas Law alumni or had worked with Sissy politically showed that her professional and personal lives were often intertwined. Genevieve Vaughan, Sissy’s cousin, recounted their getting arrested while protesting apartheid at the South African embassy in Houston. She added that “un-

derneath her politics, Sissy had the human virtues of integrity and care that are so badly needed in these times.”

Many spoke of Sissy as a role model. Curtis Graves talked about the lessons he learned from serving with Sissy in the Texas Legislature and of their work to expose the Sharpstown scandal. US Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia told how, growing up, she would hear on the news about Sissy’s representation of “the poor, the underrepresented, and the underdog” and would think “I want to do that someday.” Lulu Flores, who is a former president of the NWPC and will soon serve in the Texas Legislature, described Sissy as a “role model, Libra, lawyer, and feminist.” Sissy’s close friend Robert Leleux called her a “hero, friend, and mentor.”

In addition to celebrating Sissy’s life, speakers looked toward the future. Ryerson exhorted the audience to speak truth to power. “I accept Sissy’s call to never give up, to be the champions of true democracy, to lean forward into the headwinds and fight for justice for all,” she said.

Sissy’s son George E. Farenthold, II announced the establishment of the Sissy Farenthold Fund for Peace and Social Justice, which he and many other generous friends and family members have established at the Rapoport Center to continue the work of “the best mom ever” who “knew much was expected” of her and was determined to fulfill those expectations (see box on page 3). To see the recording of the memorial on YouTube, visit [www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter](http://www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter).

“I accept Sissy’s call to never give up, to be the champions of true democracy, to lean forward into the headwinds and fight for justice for all.”

– Lisa Marsh Ryerson



Left: memorial speakers from left to right, Karen Engle, George E. Farenthold, II, Lulu Flores, Curtis Graves, Genevieve Vaughan, Lisa Marsh Ryerson (photo by Alan Pogue); Top right: US Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; Bottom right: Robert Leleux (photos by Brian Birzer).





Top left: Eric Nelson (center) and other attendees join the memorial reception; Bottom left: Todd Smiley (right) greets Sissy's childhood friend Jeanne Adams (center) and Joan Adams (left) before the memorial (photos by Brian Birzer); Right: Sissy's cousins Ben F. Vaughan (left) and Genevieve Vaughan (right) at the reception (photo by Alan Pogue).

## THANKS FOR CONTINUING SISSY'S LEGACY!

**Sissy Farenthold Fund**  
FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



The Sissy Farenthold Fund for Peace and Social Justice supports academic, advocacy, and creative work on issues to which she was committed, including peace, environmental and climate justice, reproductive and sexual rights.

### FOUNDERS (\$10,000 or more)

American Income/  
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Dudley T. Dougherty  
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Lisa Fuentes &  
Tom Cohen  
Molly Gochman  
Jacob & Terese Hershey  
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Garry Mauro  
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Parten Foundation  
Lisa Marsh Ryerson  
Ben F. Vaughan  
Rachael & Ben Vaughan  
Foundation

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS (\$5,000—\$9,999)

Karen Engle & Ana Almaguel  
Dorothy Slater-Brown

Frances & Felix C. Tapp  
Martha Claire Tompkins

Daphne DuPont Vaughan

### ALLIES (\$1,000—\$4,999)

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Olive Hershey

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Theresa Clarke  
Susan Longley  
Carrin Patman  
Mary Esther Perry

James Phillips  
Paul Straubel

FOR ADDITIONAL DONORS, SEE PAGE 16.

Please join us in this endeavor. We are still accepting founding donations and pledges and welcome donations of any amount, whether one-time or recurring. To learn more, visit [law.utexas.edu/farenthold/Donate](http://law.utexas.edu/farenthold/Donate).

# Arundhati Roy Delivers the Annual Farenthold Lecture

**A**ward-winning author and critic Arundhati Roy dedicated her Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Endowed Lecture in Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights to activists jailed for protesting India’s Citizenship Amendment Act. Speaking to an audience of over 800 people gathered in the LBJ auditorium for the event, Roy forcefully maintained that “India is being undone” by “an artificially constructed ‘aggrieved Hindu majority’ that is being tutored to believe that they are the only deserving citizens.”

Roy used the occasion of the lecture to deliver a newly written essay, “Religious Nationalism, Dissent, and the Battle Between Myth and History,” which was subsequently published in *Literary Hub*. Bringing historical complexity to the contemporary moment in India, she insisted that “any single story of individual or community catastrophe and misfortune, however true it may be, should not be told in ways that erase the other stories...To flatten a messy history, to rob it of nuance, to weaponize it, will have dire consequences.” Her message ended urgently: “This battle will have to be waged by every single one of us. The blaze is at our door.”

After delivering the lecture, Roy read from some of her published fiction and

nonfiction as she engaged in conversation with LBJ School of Public Affairs professor Raj Patel and the audience about issues ranging from Indian politics and climate justice to the role of the writer as public intellectual.

The audience arrived eager to listen to Roy’s take on these urgent matters. She received a long applause even before she began, leading her to remark that “it’s rare that I arrive in a town and feel so welcomed and loved.” People stayed after the event, happily lining up for Roy to sign their copies of her books.

The event marked the 7th annual Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture, which is co-presented by the Rapoport Center and the Rothko Chapel. It aims to inspire audiences to think and act creatively in response to the greatest human rights challenges of the 21st century.

“It was moving to see Arundhati Roy receive such an embracing reception,” said Rapoport Center co-director Karen Engle. Noting that it was the first lecture Farenthold had not attended, having passed away last September, she continued: “I can’t imagine a better tribute in this moment to Sissy’s legacy.”

To see the recording of the lecture, which now has over 44,000 views on YouTube, visit [www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter](http://www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter).

## Farenthold Endowed 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 Barbara 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

“This battle will have to be waged by every single one of us. The blaze is at our door.”

– Arundhati Roy



Arundhati Roy delivers the Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture at the UT LBJ Auditorium in Austin, Texas (left); Rapoport Center co-directors Neville Hoad and Karen Engle and Rothko Chapel executive director David Leslie welcome Roy (top right); LBJ School of Public Affairs professor Raj Patel engages Roy in a conversation about her work and moderates the Q & A session (bottom right) (photos by Brian Birzer).



# Fighting for Reproductive Justice After the End of Roe



**Vanessa Fuentes**  
Austin City Council Member  
District 2



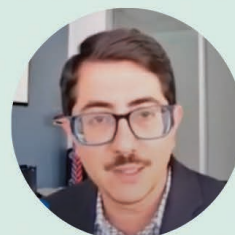
**Donna Howard**  
Texas Representative  
District 48



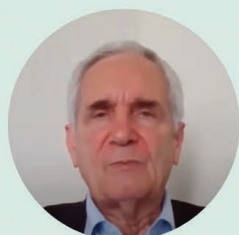
**Karen Engle**  
Co-director  
Rapoport Center



**Jennifer Ecklund**  
Attorney for Texas  
abortion funds



**José Garza**  
Travis County  
District Attorney



**Lloyd Doggett**  
US Congressman  
Texas District 35



**Rachel Rebouché**  
Dean  
Temple University  
Beasley School of Law



**Gabriela Torres**  
Undergraduate Intern  
Rapoport Center



**Marsha Jones**  
Executive Director  
The Afiya Center



**Rebeca Ramos Duarte**  
Executive Director  
GIRE - Mexico

Soon after the US Supreme Court eliminated the Constitutional right to abortion, the Rapoport Center sprang into action. Within weeks of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Center hosted a two-part webinar series titled "Strategies for Reproductive Justice in Texas after the End of *Roe v. Wade*: From the Local to the Global." The webinars were viewed live by well over 150 attendees.

"Strategies for Reproductive Justice" also inaugurated the new Sissy Farenthold Fund for Social Justice and Peace, which seemed fitting given that Farenthold recognized in 1977 that abortion access for poor women was already significantly restricted. Her linkage between this lack of access and other forms of injustice inspired the webinars and will animate future Fund activities.

Professor (now Dean) Rachel Rebouché, of Temple University Beasley School of Law, spoke at both webinars to identify the many legal uncertainties unleashed by *Dobbs*, particularly regarding interstate jurisdiction. With this context, the first webinar convened elected officials to discuss ave-

nues available to them at the local, state, and federal level. The second included attorneys and community advocates to discuss present and future challenges for those who might pursue abortions with assistance from outside Texas.

The webinars demonstrated the promises and limits of local protection for abortion rights. Both City Council member Vanessa Fuentes and Travis County District Attorney José Garza discussed their efforts within their progressive jurisdictions to deprioritize or refuse the criminalization of abortion, while Texas Representative Donna Howard described an uphill battle at the Texas Legislature to prevent even further abortion-restrictive legislation. Suggesting that a response at the federal level might be the only way to limit state legislators and the Supreme Court, US Congressman Lloyd Doggett averred that "nothing short of legislation... will fill the appalling void created by this

recent Supreme Court decision."

Several speakers considered how the *Dobbs* decision would exacerbate longstanding inequalities. Marsha Jones, Executive Director of The Afiya Center, called particular attention to the racialized impacts of reproductive health restrictions. "Black women's fight for bodily autonomy is not new," she emphasized. "We have to start with race, we have to start with gender, we have to start with equity." Social movements will be critical to any change, Mexican attorney Rebeca Ramos Duarte, Executive Director of GIRE, reminded the audience, discussing the green handkerchief movement in Latin America.

"The time for creative problem solving is upon us in the most dire circumstances," said Jennifer Ecklund, an attorney for many abortion funds in Texas. Through the Sissy Farenthold Fund, the Rapoport Center aims to play an important role in that problem-solving. The webinars can be viewed at [law.utexas.edu/humanrights/events/strategies-for-reproductive-justice-in-texas-after-the-end-of-roe-v-wade-from-the-local-to-the-global/](http://law.utexas.edu/humanrights/events/strategies-for-reproductive-justice-in-texas-after-the-end-of-roe-v-wade-from-the-local-to-the-global/).

"We have to start with race, we have to start with gender, we have to start with equity."

– Marsha Jones

# Scholars Discuss Worker Precarity in the Age of Pandemic

In Fall 2021, the Rapoport Center hosted “Inequality, Labor, and Human Rights: The Future of Work in an Age of Pandemic.” Leading scholars of law, sociology, geography, and political theory examined the future of work, in light of deeply entrenched historical and ongoing inequality within and across countries. The semester-long colloquium aimed to achieve a better understanding of the impact of labor valuation on racialized and gendered domination and accumulation and to generate more equitable imaginaries of work and livelihood.

Jennifer Bair (Sociology, University of Virginia) opened the series by connecting the decline of labor’s share of income over the past three decades to the proliferation of global value chains and the intertwined dynamics of fissuring and financialization. Subsequent talks spanned a wide range of theoretical and empirical topics. Yiran Zhang (Law, Harvard University) presented her counter-intuitive research on the relative bargaining

power held by informal Filipina domestic workers in China, while Carrie Freshour (Geography, University of Washington) described the transformation of the poultry industry in the US South and the disciplinary uses of time against Black workers it has entailed. David Kennedy (Law, Harvard University) argued that US approaches to political economy are constrained by limited understandings of the world system and an inability to

“We must think more broadly and deeply about what kind of work we value.”

– Alyssa Battistoni

understand law’s constitutive role in distribution.

Alyssa Battistoni (Political Science, Barnard College) closed the speaker series with a proposal for seeing care work as a “green job,” contending that simply shifting jobs from fossil fuels to so-called green energy “is not a viable long-term strategy for either economic or ecological sustainability.” With words

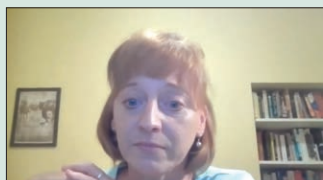
that summarized the emphasis of the colloquium as a whole, she concluded that “we must think more broadly and deeply about what kind of work we value.”

The public colloquium was also part of a seminar taught by Professor Karen Engle and Rapoport Center postdoctoral fellow Nina Ebner, in which students from Texas Law and the LBJ School engaged with the work of the speakers through oral and written feedback.

They also wrote their own research papers and presented them in a mini-conference. Student research topics ranged from “hero pay” for essential workers

and state minimum wage requirements to the impacts of international trade and migration policy on worker precarity.

Recordings of the colloquium events, which also included responses from UT faculty, are available at [www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter](http://www.youtube.com/c/rapoportcenter).



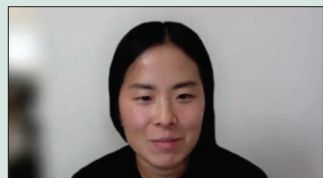
## “FINANCIALIZATION, FISSURING, AND THE FUTURE OF WORK”

Jennifer Bair, Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology, University of Virginia



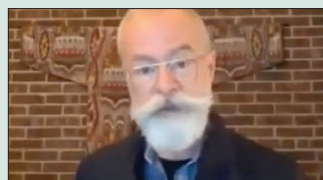
## “RETHINKING THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS: THE HETERODOX CASE OF INFORMAL FILIPINA WORKERS IN CHINA”

Yiran Zhang, S.J.D. Candidate at Harvard Law School



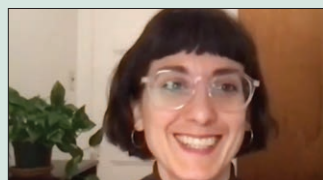
## “FROM CHICKEN TO BROILER: UNRAVELING THE SNARL OF CENTURIES”

Carrie Freshour, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, University of Washington



## “THROUGH A GLASS DARKLY: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND THE GREAT DISPARITIES”

David Kennedy, Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School



## “CLIMATE FUTURES AND THE FUTURE OF WORK: RETHINKING ‘GREEN JOBS,’ REVALUING CARE WORK”

Alyssa Battistoni, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Barnard College



# Futures of Work, Land, and Livelihoods: South Africa in Comparative Perspective



Roundtable speakers (from left to right): Tembeka Ngcukaitobi (South African Law Reform Commission), Anthony Black (UCT), Pat Horn (WIEGO), Eddie Webster (University of the Witwatersrand).

Unemployment hovers around 43% in South Africa, with the conventional wisdom foregrounding economic growth as the solution to this problem. Yet, economic growth is virtually stagnant. Rather than raising the tide for all, increased growth would merely map onto existing racialized and gendered inequalities. The state has dismally failed to create income-generating work or otherwise provide access to land and sustainable livelihoods.

To understand the conceptual and material contours of inequality and chronic poverty in South Africa and to build a network of stakeholders from various disciplines and advocacy backgrounds that might together generate more innovative responses, the Rapoport Center partnered with the Labour, Development and Governance Research Unit at the University of Cape Town (UCT) for a year-long project supported by a seed grant from Texas Global at UT Austin. It culminated in a workshop—“Labor, Land and Livelihoods

in Crisis: New Conversations on the Future of Work”—held at the UCT law school on June 11 and 12, 2022.

The public opening roundtable of the event set the stage for provocative discussions throughout on the promises and pitfalls of a range of strategies: promoting new forms of land (re)distribution and reparations; attempting to grow and organize the

matter how tempting they may be.”

The roundtable was followed by three workshop sessions on topics that participants had been meeting about over the year: under/unemployment, livelihoods and land reform, and new forms of worker organization. For the worker organization session, a number of representatives of US worker centers and unions joined via Zoom to provide comparative perspectives.

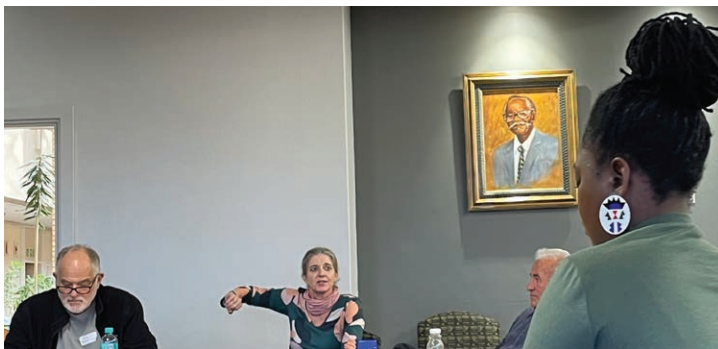
The faculty organizing committees from UT and UCT are seeking funding to develop a follow-up proposal for a social compact on employment

and sustainable livelihoods. “This project was the highlight of my year at the Rapoport Center,” said postdoctoral fellow Nina Ebner, who led the coordination of the project with a comparative perspective from her work with maquiladoras in Mexico. “I look forward to staying involved, not only to continue the work in South Africa but because of how it enriches my own research on this side of the world.”

“Short term solutions are not the answer, no matter how tempting they may be.”

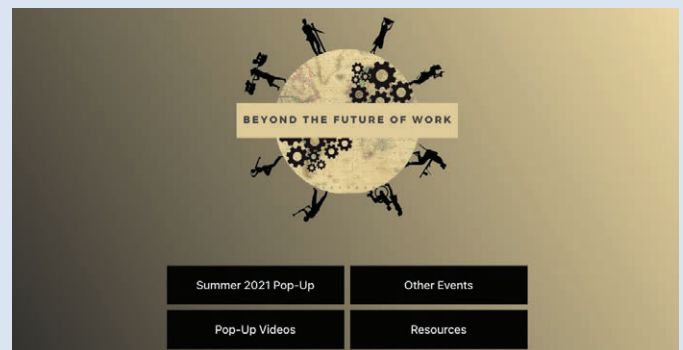
– Tembeka Ngcukaitobi

informal sector; prioritizing employment-intensive growth; and trying to apply formal worker organization to informal, casual, and even unpaid social reproductive labor. Perhaps Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, author of *Land Matters*, a book about failed land reform in South Africa, best summed up the need for discussing both causes and solutions in deep historical context, insisting: “Short term solutions are not the answer, no



UCT organizers Shane Godfrey and Debbie Collier, with participants Ben Cousins (Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies) and Busi Sibeko (South African Parliamentary Budget Office).

## New Website on “Beyond the Future of Work” Project



The Rapoport Center’s new Beyond the Future of Work website is an interactive, living repository of the Center’s research and programming aimed at generating new imaginaries of work, livelihood, and value. Visit us at [beyondthefutureofwork.rapoportcenter.org/](https://beyondthefutureofwork.rapoportcenter.org/).

## Brazilian Justice Antonio Benjamin Proposes New Legal Concepts to Combat Deforestation

“Can the Law Save Tropical Forests?” was the title of the lecture delivered by Brazilian National High Court Justice Antonio Benjamin, a leading international environmental law scholar and former long-time Texas Law visiting professor. He spoke to a broad-based audience in the Eidman Court Room on April 13, 2022. The talk capped Justice Benjamin’s week-long visit to UT as a visiting resource professor, co-sponsored by the Rapoport Center, the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), the LLILAS Benson Brazil Center, and Planet Texas 2050. In his lecture connecting environmental protection and human rights, Justice Benjamin discussed the extensive history of forest regulation, arguing that all forests are not equal, deforestation is not caused by impoverished communities, and neither the law nor market forces can solve everything. “If you are in doubt, protect nature,” he said as he highlighted the need for new legal concepts to shift political landscapes away from deforestation. “It was an honor to partner with the Rapoport Center,” said Professor Adela Pineda Franco, director of LLILAS. “It was an important opportunity to integrate research and policy by considering the connections between human rights and environmental justice.”

“If you are in doubt, protect nature.”  
– Justice Antonio Benjamin



Justice Antonio Benjamin with Kim Heilbrun and Professor David Rabban after delivering his lecture at Texas Law.

## Human Rights Litigator Talks Representation of Guantanamo Detainees, Portrayal in Blockbuster Film

The Rapoport Center and the Human Rights Law Society were honored to host internationally-recognized human rights lawyer Nancy Hollander to discuss her illustrious career. In preparation for the February 23 event, audience members watched the 2021 film *The Mauritanian*, an account of how Hollander (portrayed by Jodie Foster) secured the release of Mohamedou Ould Slahi, long-time Guantanamo detainee and author of *Guantánamo Diary*.

Rapoport Center human rights scholar Grayson Myers began the discussion by asking Hollander about the making of the film. Hollander noted that when she and Slahi visited the Guantanamo prison set, they were so shocked by its accuracy that they were frightened by the actors playing guards.

Hollander and Professor Ranjana Natarajan, director of the Civil Rights Clinic, next discussed their shared experiences representing clients held and tortured at Guantanamo, which Hollander said encouraged her to make new connections between domestic police violations and CIA and military-conducted torture. Rapoport Center co-director Karen Engle closed the event by engaging with Hollander about her litigation on behalf of another Guantanamo client before international courts, which Hollander said had helped her gain the client’s trust.

“Nancy Hollander exceeded my already high expectations,” said Myers. Referencing Hollander’s parting call for law students to “go out there and do good...lawyers can do miracles,” she continued: “I left even more empowered to bring justice into the lives of those who the rest of the world discounts.”



Human rights lawyer Nancy Hollander discusses her career.

“Go out there and do good...  
lawyers can do miracles.”  
– Nancy Hollander





Graduate students receiving summer fieldwork grants (from left to right): Elybeth Alcantar, Md Robayt Khondoker, Stephanie Childress, Jaime Hsu.

## Fieldwork Grantees

The Rapoport Center supported the work of four PhD candidates engaging in research on the gendered and racialized dimensions of inequalities in work and livelihoods, primarily in the context of natural resource governance.

**Elybeth Alcantar** (Geography and the Environment) traveled to the Mixteca Alta region of Oaxaca, Mexico to study how Mixtec communities are creating their own projects to defend knowledge, ecologies, and Indigenous sovereignty in the wake of the Nochixtlán conflict of 2016.

**Md Robayt Khondoker** (Anthropology) engaged in ethnographic work in the Sundarbans region of Bangladesh, the largest remaining mangrove forest in the world. Khondoker's project studies the political tensions around reintegration and the everyday lives of former armed groups, known as Dakats, who have returned to their communities. Those communities have been impacted by an unprecedented number of both infrastructure projects and conservation interventions

**Stephanie Childress** (American Studies) visited community archives and conducted oral history interviews with residents and workers at wind farm construction sites in Texas for her project, "Violence and Inequality in the Transition from Oil to Green Energy." Concerned with local conflicts generated from the construction of new wind projects that correlate to histories of labor disputes and racial violence during the region's oil booms in the early 20th century, Childress's fieldwork focused on resident's memories of energy production, especially with regard to labor relations, energy inequalities, landowner rights, and cultures of violence and exclusion.

**Jaime Hsu** (Sociology) conducted research in a rural industrial town on the Texas coast for a project entitled "Caring for Toxins: Gendered Care in Chronic Pollution." Building on feminist and environmental sociology, Hsu foregrounded women's experiences, specifically how they made sense of care work for their families and communities, to study the gendered processes that may shape how individuals think about or experience industrial pollution related to the oil and petrochemical industries.

## Human Rights Fellows

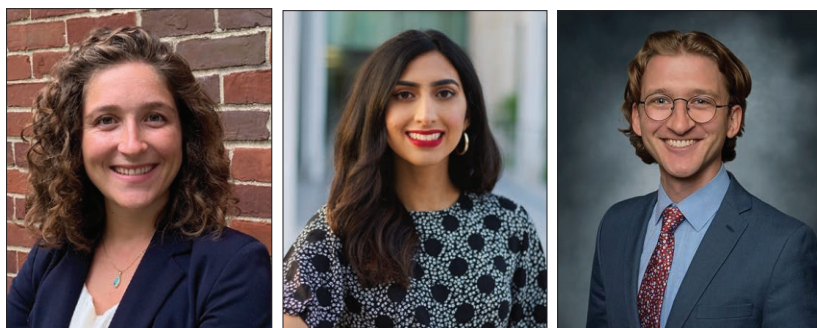
The Rapoport Center awarded three named fellowships to fund law students working on human rights and social justice.

**Nina Colombotos** received the Charles Moyer Human Rights Fellowship to intern in Austin at the Workers Defense Project, with whom the Rapoport Center has partnered on a number of projects. Colombotos remarked of her experience, "I've learned a great deal from the organizers, attorneys, and workers themselves who are committed to fighting for better working conditions for immigrant construction workers."

**Duriba Khan** and **Carson Smith** both received an Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Karpen Moffitt Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law for their summer work. Khan interned at Reprieve US in Washington, D.C. and worked on the defense of six Guantanamo detainees. Khan said, "This experience helped me actualize my passion for national security law, and I hope to make a career out of it in the future."

Smith interned at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in San Antonio. Speaking about his time there, he remarked: "Working at MALDEF taught me the unique contributions a non-profit can make in voting rights litigation when otherwise powerful entities refuse to pay attention to the constituencies that matter."

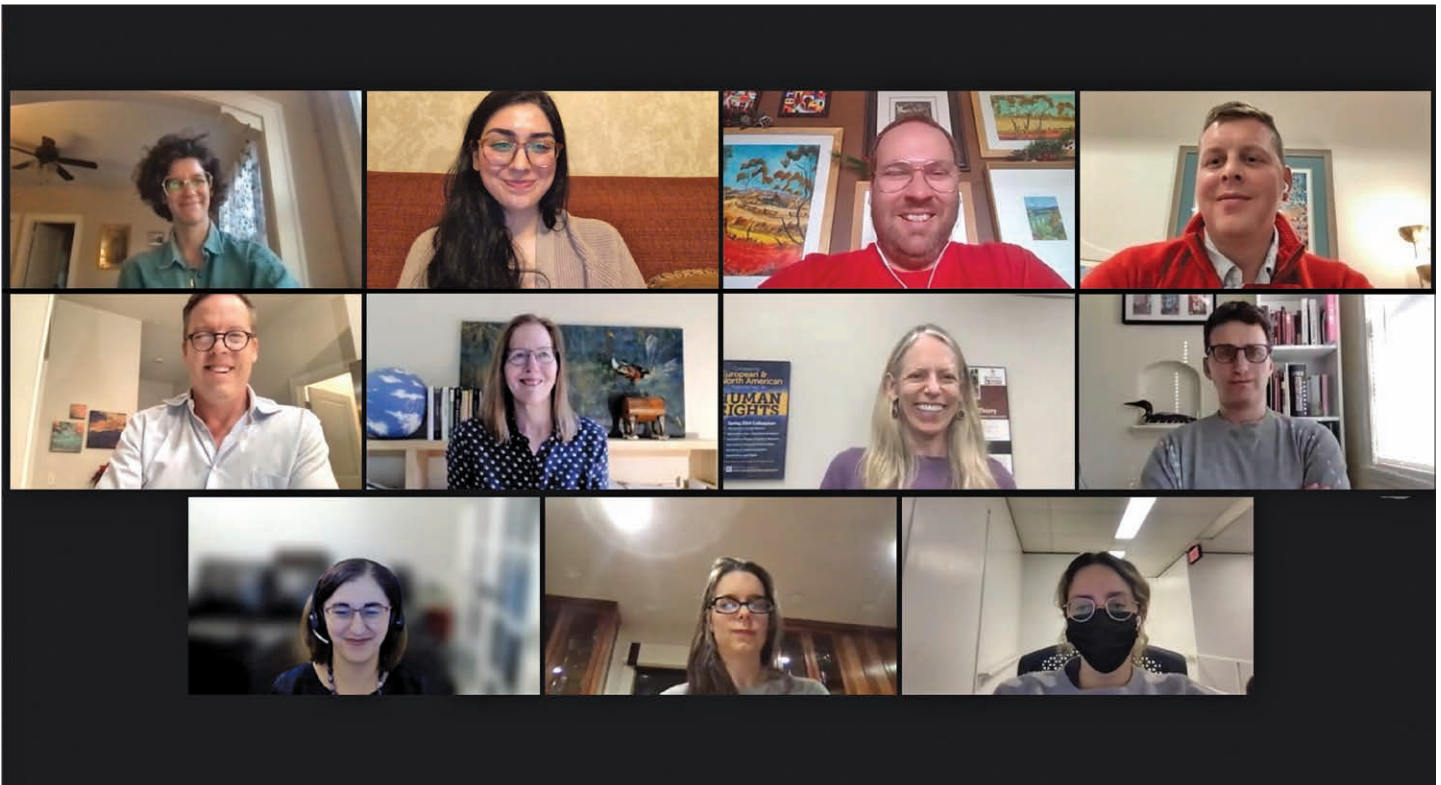
The Charles Moyer Human Rights Fellowship is made possible by the generous donation of Scott Hendler and Lulu Flores in honor of human rights advocate Charles Moyer, who was the first Secretary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt Endowed Presidential Scholarship was established by Michael Tigar to commemorate the former Chilean diplomat and the Institute for Policy Studies intern who were assassinated in Washington D.C. in 1976 by two Chilean secret service agents.



Law students receiving summer funding (from left to right): Nina Colombotos, Duriba Khan, Carson Smith.



# Alumni Meet for Virtual Happy Hour



Alumni from around the world joined a Rapoport Center virtual happy hour on December 9, 2021. Alumnus Jeremy Freeman (2004-2006), who has been an attorney in the Office of the Legal Adviser of the US State Department since 2009, was the featured speaker. Former postdoctoral fellow Lucas Lixinski (now law professor at UNSW in Sydney) and former undergraduate intern Sofia Bonilla (now studying international relations at Columbia University) organized the event. From left to right: Nina Ebner, Guneez Ibrahim, Lucas Lixinski, Jeremy Freeman, Neville Hoad, Karen Engle, Sabrina Barton, Gregory Krauss, Maka Hutson, Desiree LeClercq, Sofia Bonilla.

## Alumni Spotlight: Court Lee



Former undergraduate intern Court Lee with Sissy Farenthold (photo courtesy of Lee)

Former Rapoport Center undergraduate intern Court M. Lee (BA UT, JD Georgetown) is currently a senior program associate at the Vera Institute for Justice, working to establish universal representation programs across the country to provide publicly funded legal counsel to people facing deportation proceedings. Court is also a community organizer, primarily working with LGBTQIA+ youth in Queens, NY to build community solidarity and safety support systems among queer Filipinos and their elders. Previously, Court was a public defender in the Bronx. Court says that their experience interning with the Center in 2011 as an undergraduate at UT Austin has influenced their career, observing that “the values I learned at the Rapoport Center helped to ground me within a humanitarian framework and to center those most impacted in everything I do.”

Court was inspired to intern with the Center because of their interest in global human rights work and their experience

as a child of immigrant parents born in Houston. Court played a significant role in launching the online exhibits of the Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Papers, inventorying hundreds of pages of Sissy’s documents on human rights, feminist, and peace movements. Court had the opportunity to get to know Sissy personally and uplifts Sissy’s activism in their own human rights journey. Court notes that Sissy’s legacy shows how creating a more just world requires a global approach and consistent life-long commitment.

“The values I learned at the Rapoport Center helped to ground me within a humanitarian framework.”  
— Court Lee

Court continues to follow the Center and is excited about the opportunities for future interns: “I am proud and happy to see the ways in which the ideology and praxis at the Center has evolved over time and continues to connect the progressive movement with the day-to-day lived realities of people across the world.”

# Zipporah B. Wiseman Prize Winner Looks at Restitution in Post-Holocaust Germany

**C**ongratulations to **Laura Petersen** (Law, Melbourne) and **Rajgopal Saikumar** (English, NYU), who won first and second place, respectively, for the annual Zipporah B. Wiseman Prize for Scholarship on Law, Literature, and Justice. Friends and colleagues of long-time Texas Law Professor Zipporah Wiseman (1930-2021) from around the country established the prize in honor of her important work at the intersection of law and literature.

Petersen's paper, "An Ethos of Restitution: Walter Schwarz and the Gloss," explores the work of Dr. Walter Schwarz, a Jewish lawyer active in settling restitution claims in post-WWII Germany. His writings in the professional journal of restitution are in the form of "glosses" — short, rhetorical commentaries that often take literary forms and appear in the margins alongside neutrally worded case notes. Petersen demonstrates that Schwarz uses the gloss, literally situated in the margins of law, as a genre that can return a human dimension to what had become a rigid and bureaucratic process.

The nationwide panel of judges that selected Petersen's paper expressed delight by its high quality. One commented that it is "truly fascinating as an exercise in excavation" and "its discussion of 'glossing' is both off-beat and illuminating." Texas Law faculty members agreed, and invited Petersen to present the paper at a virtual faculty colloquium co-sponsored by the Rapoport Center. Frederick Wiseman presented opening remarks and Professor Sandy Levinson served as a respondent.

Petersen recently finished her PhD at the Institute for International Law and the Humanities at the Melbourne Law School (Australia), where she is now a visiting scholar.

Both papers were published in the Rapoport Center's Working Paper Series (see sidebar).



Laura Petersen

## Working Paper Series

### **An Ethos of Restitution: Walter Schwarz and the Gloss**

by Laura Petersen

### **Duty to Disobey: Modernism, Autonomy, and Dissidence in the Global 1930**

by Rajgopal Saikumar

### **Between Intra-Group Vulnerability and Inter-Group Vulnerability: Bridging the Gaps in the Theoretical Scholarship on Internal Minorities**

by Miriam Zucker

### **A Clean Slate for No One: The Need for Automatic Expungement Policies**

by Michael Hiestand

### **Precarity Capitalism and the Global Value Chain in Beef: The Plight of Meat-packing Workers at JBS Greeley**

by John Fossum

To read and comment on these or previous papers, visit [law.utexas.edu/human-rights/projecttype/working-paper-series/](http://law.utexas.edu/human-rights/projecttype/working-paper-series/).

# Miriam Zucker Wins Audre Rapoport Prize with Essay on Intra-Group and Inter-Group Vulnerability

**C**ongratulations to **Miriam Zucker** (University of Toronto) for winning the 2021 Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on Gender and Human Rights. The annual prize was established by Texas linguistics professor Robert King to honor the pioneering work and commitments of Audre Newman Rapoport (1923-2016).

Zucker's winning paper, "Between Intra-Group Vulnerability and Inter-Group Vulnerability: Bridging the Gaps in the Theoretical Scholarship on Internal Minorities," uses ethnographic data from personal interviews to center the migrant and refugee experience. Rather than emphasizing smugglers as the primary source of violence, her research implicates securitization processes, state bureaucracies, and anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling humanitarian projects, all of which relegate migrants to a "right-less" zone of economic, political, and

social vulnerability.

Miriam Zucker wrote the paper as an SJD candidate at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, where she graduated from in June 2021. She is currently an Adjunct Professor and a visiting research fellow at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

Her paper was published in the Rapoport Center's Working Paper Series (see sidebar).



Miriam Zucker



# STAFF



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



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.



COOPER CHRISTIANCY is postgraduate fellow working on the Center's human rights projects. He earned a JD with concentrations in international law and human rights from the University of Minnesota Law School. He joins the Rapoport Center from the Promise Institute for Human Rights at the UCLA School of Law, where he served as the Research and Advocacy Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism.



CAROLINE HAHN is program coordinator at the Rapoport Center. She recently graduated with an MPAff and certificate in nonprofit studies from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, where she worked with the RGK Center for Philanthropy and Community Service on strategic planning and research related to digital technology policy and social justice philanthropy.



JACOB BLAS was program coordinator at the Rapoport Center in 2022, where he coordinated events, communications, internships, fundraising, and supported the Center's daily operations. He holds a BA from UT Austin in Mexican American & Latina/o Studies and Rhetoric & Writing. Blas is a Fall 2022 intern with the White House Internship Program in Washington D.C.



NINA EBNER was postdoctoral fellow in 2021-2022, working on the Center's future of work and livelihoods project. She holds a PhD in Geography from the University of British Columbia. Ebner is an Urban Studies Foundation postdoctoral research fellow with the Colegio de México's Centro de Estudios Demográficos Urbanos y Ambientales (CEDUA) in Mexico City.



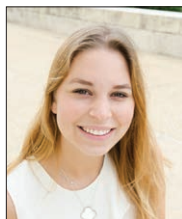
ARIEL DULITZKY is clinical professor of law and the director of the Human Rights Clinic. He also directs the Rapoport Center's fellowship program. Dulitzky is an expert on the inter-American human rights system and has published on human rights, racial discrimination, and the rule of law in Latin America.



SABRINA BARTON was administrative and development associate at the Rapoport Center, where she coordinated grant-writing and fundraising initiatives and assisted with publications and communications. Barton holds a PhD in English from Cornell University. She is currently an independent screenwriter in Austin.



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Law (JD)

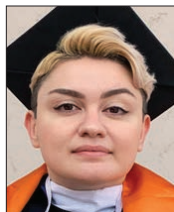


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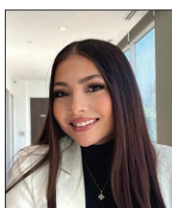
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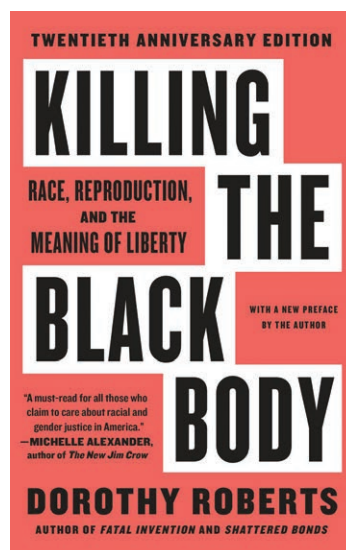
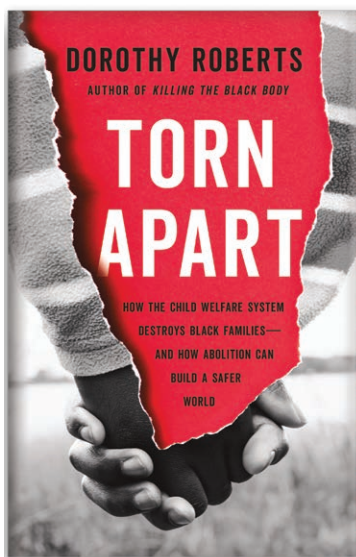
\* Sissy Farenthold Fund  
† Zipporah B. Wiseman Prize  
‡ Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture

# THE YEAR TO COME



Photo of Professor Dorothy Roberts.

We are delighted to announce that acclaimed reproductive justice scholar Professor Dorothy Roberts will deliver the 8th Annual Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Endowed Lecture in Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights. The lecture will take place on February 15, 2023 at the Rothko Chapel in Houston. Roberts is the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. She is also founding director of the Penn Program on Race, Science & Society in the Center for Africana Studies. Professor Roberts is an influential and incisive critic of contemporary issues in health, social justice, and bioethics, especially as they relate to race, class, and gender. Her books include *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World* (2022), *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century* (2011), *Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare* (2002), and *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (1997).



## 2022-2023 Events

Join our mailing list to learn about upcoming events: [law.utexas.edu/humanrights/mailling-list/](http://law.utexas.edu/humanrights/mailling-list/).

Stay tuned for information about our annual colloquium, which will be held in Spring 2023. The biweekly speaker series, **Cultures of Environmental Justice: Rights, Movements, Communities**, will feature scholars from around the world engaged in environmental justice.



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