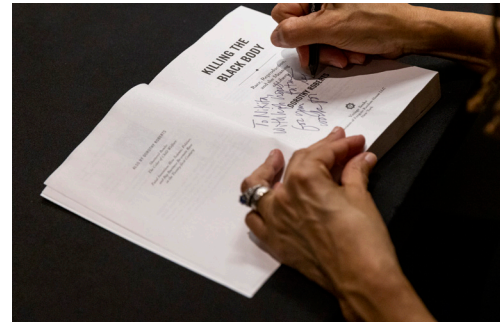


ANNUAL REVIEW 2022—2023



THE BERNARD AND AUDRE
RAPOPORT CENTER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE





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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Front cover: (clockwise from left to right) Ortal Isaac enjoying a staff happy hour; fieldwork in Manaus, Brazil (photo by Luciana Barretto Lemos); Monica M. Martinez during Center panel on e-carceration (photo by William Wayne Justice Center); Dorothy Roberts signing her book for Farenthold Lecture attendees (photo by Scott Dalton); Karen Engle collaborating in Australia with former Rapoport Center postdoctoral fellow, Julia Dehm (photo by Karen Engle).

Letter from the Co-directors

The past year focused on two new initiatives at the Rapoport Center. Applying many of the insights learned from our multi-year project on the contemporary and historical structural drivers of global inequality, we launched programs on reproductive justice and environmental justice. Both are made possible by generous donations to the Sissy Farenthold Fund for Peace and Social Justice.


The Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project (see pages 2-3) responds to the erosion of reproductive rights and the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes in Texas and beyond, as well as the enormous toll that these trends are already exacting on underserved and overcriminalized communities. This endeavor has required new investments in time, talent, and resources. Blake Rocap has directed the project over the course of the year, and we were delighted to welcome Cristina I. Ramirez in August as associate director. Our thinking on the project was greatly enhanced by Dorothy Roberts, a leading figure in the movement for reproductive justice and liberation, who delivered the annual Farenthold Lecture in February (see page 4). Roberts traced the historical roots of racialized family separation, from the era of slavery to the contemporary “family policing” system, illuminating the importance of applying a reproductive justice framework to pressing human rights challenges.

Our environmental and climate justice programming began with a colloquium that brought together scholars and community organizers to inform our analysis of ecological harm through discussion of conservation, food, housing, work, racial inequality, and reparations (see pages 6-7). Organized by Center Steering Committee member Professor Jason Cons (Anthropology), the series expanded our network of researchers, students, and advocates in environmental justice in Texas and worldwide. We also supported UT graduate students carrying out innovative, community-based fieldwork research with significant environmental justice implications (see page 9).

In and through these new projects and our other longstanding commitments, we have continued to serve as a focal point for human rights and social justice on campus. We have hosted events with writers and scholars from outside UT (see pages 5, 7-8) and provided a space for professional and graduate students and faculty to engage critically and closely with each other’s work (see page 8).

You will find in these pages evidence of the extraordinary care, commitment, collaborative ethos, and hard work of our affiliates, staff, and students. With expanded priorities and new ambitions, we are particularly thankful for our administrative and research team of Caroline Hahn, Cooper Christiancy, and Quinn Ouellette-Kray who not only keep these projects going but help train and support future generations of human rights scholars, lawyers, and activists (see page 12).

We are deeply grateful to the community of funders, donors, and partners who make these connections possible (see page 16). Your contributions support research, teaching, and advocacy which aim to produce enduring social and structural change. We look forward to your continued engagement in the year ahead (see page 17).

 Neville Hoad



Co-directors Karen Engle and Neville Hoad (photo by Wendy Schneider).



Frances Tarlton "Sissy" Farenthold (photo by Joseph Bailey, Jr.).

Sissy Farenthold Fund

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE DEFENSE PROJECT



Texas continues to be central to the battle over reproductive rights. With nearly all abortion banned in the state, government officials and private litigators alike are using multiple legal tools to stigmatize, surveil, and stoke fear among Texans. These bans are certain to have a disproportionate impact on poor and racialized communities that are already underserved and overcriminalized.

"The right to abortion has become a class issue, a race issue, a privacy issue ... But it is, above all, our issue."

– Sissy Farenthold

To meet this challenge, the Rapoport Center established the Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project, in consultation with community partners and reproductive justice scholars and advocates across the country (see page 13 for advisory board). The project provides resources for lawyers, the public, and reproductive justice and advocacy organizations who represent or support those who face criminal or other carceral consequences for pregnancy related outcomes. In addition, it tracks criminal charges, prosecutions, and civil suits in Texas related to pregnancy and abortion. Finally, it serves as a transnational hub for academic research and advocacy regarding the criminalization of pregnancy.

In its inaugural year, the project has made significant progress under the leadership of reproductive rights attorney and project director Blake Roca, Texas Law faculty members Karen Engle and Jennifer Laurin, and former public defender Cristina I. Ramirez, who joined as associate project director in August. In addition to hosting a May 2023 legal training (see next page), the project has collected the names of close to five hundred attorneys in Texas who are willing in some way to aid in the representation of those who might be charged and has sponsored or co-sponsored numerous public events on reproductive justice and the criminalization and decriminalization of pregnancy.

This project is part of the larger Sissy Farenthold Fund for Peace and Social Justice, established by Sissy's many friends and colleagues after her passing in 2021. Sissy's lifelong commitment to reproductive justice is the inspiration for this work. Her comments about the lack of abortion access for those without resources, initially offered in the late 1970s, continue to ring true: "The right to abortion has become a class issue, a race issue, a privacy issue ... But it is, above all, our issue."

SISSY FARENTHOLD FUND FOR PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND JUSTICE JOBS

October 14, 2022

Panel participants:

Cici Coquillette, Legal Fellow at the Center for Reproductive Rights

Meghan McGuirk, Counsel & Associate Director of State Legislative Affairs at NARAL

Zoraima Pelaez, EJW Fellow at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project

Blake Roca, Rapoport Center; former Legislative Counsel at Avow and Legal Director at Jane's Due Process

Melissa Shube, Litigation Counsel at the Lawyering Project
Hosted by the Texas Law chapter of If/When/How

RACE-ING ROE AND WOKE WARRIORS: WEAPONIZING RACIAL JUSTICE AT THE SUPREME COURT

November 16, 2022

Address by Order of the Coif Distinguished Visitor

Melissa Murray, Frederick I. and Grace Stokes Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Birnbaum Women's Leadership Network at NYU School of Law

Hosted by the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law

EXTENDING THE GREEN WAVE: LESSONS FROM REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE MOVEMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA

February 18, 2023

Participants:

Melissa Ayala, Litigation and Documentation Coordinator at GIRE (Information Group on Reproductive Choice) in Mexico

Catalina Martínez Coral, Senior Regional Director for Latin America & the Caribbean for the Center for Reproductive Rights

Martha Rosenberg, Co-founder of the National Campaign for the Right to a Legal, Safe, and Free Abortion in Argentina
Hosted by Getting Radical in the South (GRITS)

THE CRISIS OF CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS

March 27, 2023

Talk by **Aziza Ahmed**, R. Gordon Butler Scholar in International Law and Co-Director of the BU Law Program in Reproductive Justice at the Boston University School of Law
Hosted by Texas Law chapter of If/When/How

Continuing Legal Education on Defending against the Criminalization of Pregnancy Outcomes

As part of the Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project's mission to serve as a training and resource hub for attorneys and advocates representing people criminally charged for abortion or pregnancy-related offenses, the project organized a training on May 20, 2023 at Texas Law with If/When/How, a national reproductive justice legal organization. Over fifty lawyers, faculty members, and advocates assembled to learn more about Texas criminal and civil law, as well as as other areas of the law, including immigration and child welfare/ family separation as they relate not only to the ability to access abortion but also to have children and raise them with dignity.

An opening roundtable of advocates and researchers set the tone for the day by balancing the dire situation of pregnancy criminalization with the proactive need for new legal and organizing strategies. The speakers emphasized that increased criminalization and decreased access to reproductive care are deeply connected to race, class, and location. But the current moment also provides an opportunity to build more just systems. As Marsha Jones (Afiya Center) remarked, "we do have an opportunity to get it right ... Roe wasn't good ... there were a lot of people left out."

The project's focus on the new and under-studied

intersections of criminal law and reproductive justice was reflected in the sessions designed for criminal defense attorneys led by Yveka Pierre (If/When/How). Pierre offered a multitude of helpful resources and legal strategies for attorneys defending those charged with pregnancy-related crimes.

Other sessions focused on relevant legal fields beyond criminal law. Project director Blake Rocap provided an update on the work of the Texas Legislature. Leila Blatt (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid) offered information

and resources on handling family separation and child removal proceedings. Professors Barbara Hines (Law) and Denise Gilman (Immigration Clinic) spoke of the "crimmigration" system that prevents many people from accessing reproductive healthcare. They also considered the treatment of pregnancy in immigration detention.

The day ended with attorneys Jennifer Ecklund and Elizabeth Myers (Thompson Coburn LLP) offering their perspectives on ongoing civil litigation in Texas, including a suit by Texas abortion funds

seeking to clarify their right to help people access legal abortion care outside of Texas. This engaging conclusion ended a fruitful day of training by emphasizing the power of coalition-building and collaboration for advancing reproductive justice.

"We do have an opportunity to get it right ... Roe wasn't good ... there were a lot of people left out."

– Marsha Jones



(From left to right) Marsha Jones, Cathy Torres, Heather Allison, Kari White, and Mahathi Vemireddy during a roundtable on the history, impact, and lived experiences of pregnancy criminalization (photo by Rapoport Center).

SPEAKERS

Heather Allison, Fund Texas Choice

Leila Blatt, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

Farah Diaz-Tello, If/When/How

Jennifer Ecklund, Thompson Coburn LLP

Karen Engle, Rapoport Center, Texas Law

Denise Gilman, Immigration Clinic, Texas Law

Barbara Hines, Texas Law (Retired)

Marsha Jones, Afiya Center

Jennifer Laurin, Texas Law

Elizabeth Myers, Thompson Coburn LLP

Yveka Pierre, If/When/How

Blake Rocap, Rapoport Center, Texas Law

Cathy Torres, Frontera Fund

Mahathi Vemireddy, Pregnancy Justice

Kari White, UT Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Dorothy Roberts on Choosing Reproductive Justice over Reproductive Slavery

Quoting Malcolm X's proclamation that "I have no mercy or compassion in me for a society that will crush people, and then penalize them for not being able to stand up under the weight," acclaimed scholar and activist Dorothy Roberts called for the abolition of contemporary reproductive slavery. As the eighth Frances Tarlton "Sissy" Farenthold Endowed Lecturer in Peace, Social Justice and Human Rights, Professor Roberts (Law and Sociology, University of Pennsylvania) presented "The Long Struggle to Abolish Reproductive Slavery," a powerful historical survey of racialized reproductive injustice, to a full house at the Rothko Chapel in Houston on February 15, 2023.



Dorothy Roberts delivering the Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture at The Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas (photo by Scott Dalton).

Roberts traced Black women's longstanding struggle against reproductive slavery, from a 1662 Virginia law determining that all children born to enslaved mothers would hold the racial and legal status of their mother regardless of their father's status, to the family separation by state "child welfare" systems today. She argued that the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision eliminating the nationwide right to abortion is part of this racialized history of legally coerced childbirth and economically coerced family separation. Roberts emphasized the urgent need for the reproductive justice framework, which "centers on creating a society that meets human needs without policing pregnancy and families."

After the lecture, Roberts engaged in lively conversation with Eleanor Klibanoff, women's health reporter at the Texas Tribune, including discussion of the implications of Roberts' work for Texas. The Rapoport Center's Sissy Farenthold Scholar in Reproductive Justice, Nikita Mhatre (Law), called the lecture the highlight of her year at the Rapoport Center: "Roberts' talk blended beautifully the connections between reproductive justice, racism, and the carceral state as well as the need to work intersectionally to achieve true and meaningful change."



Dorothy Roberts in conversation with Eleanor Klibanoff (photo by Scott Dalton).

The reproductive justice framework
 "centers on creating a society
 that meets human needs
 without policing pregnancy
 and families."
 – Dorothy Roberts



(Top) Dorothy Roberts signing books for attendees (photo by Scott Dalton); (bottom) Rapoport Center Spring 2023 undergraduate interns (from left to right) Jeremiah Baldwin, Lesly Chávez-Valencia, and Ikram Mohamed, and Human Rights Scholar Apurva Gunturu, at the livestream of the lecture they organized in Austin, Texas (photo by Rapoport Center).

Wendy Bach Discusses New Book on the Inequities of “Fetal Assault” Laws

As the state of Tennessee grappled with the opioid epidemic, its lawmakers and public officials chose to respond with criminal law: new legislation made it a crime for pregnant women to “transmit narcotics” to their fetus. Proponents of the legislation argued that charging new mothers with this offense would ensure that addicted persons and their children receive medical treatment and care they desperately need. A new book by Professor Wendy Bach (Law, University of Tennessee, Knoxville), *Prosecuting Poverty, Criminalizing Care*, explores what this law has meant for mothers and children, and the criminal justice system more broadly.

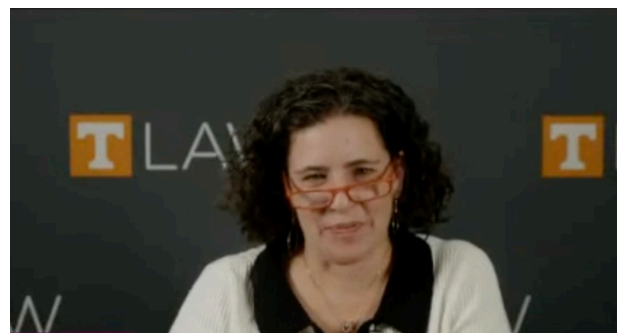
At a virtual book talk on November 29, 2022 hosted by the Rapoport Center’s Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project, Bach presented Tennessee’s prosecutions of the crime of “fetal assault” to illustrate that punitive

“For those who are poor, often Black and Brown, but also low-income and rural and white, our systems say that the only kind of care they deserve is care mixed with punishment.”

– Wendy Bach

systems and systems of support are often “effectively merged,” leading to substandard medical care and harsh punishments for pregnant women. Bach argued that “for those we’ve stigmatized, for those who are poor, often Black and Brown, but also low-income and rural and white, our systems say that the only kind of care they deserve is care mixed with

punishment.” In her response to the book at the talk, Professor Aziza Ahmed (Law, Boston University) emphasized that Bach’s book cuts through the rhetoric of individual “bad” decision-making to show the structural harms that lead to substance abuse and other over-criminalized behaviors.



Wendy Bach discussing her book via Zoom (photo by Rapoport Center).

Panelists Challenge the Turn Toward “E-Carceration”

New digital technologies are not just changing the way people communicate and collaborate—they are also being used by carceral systems to track and surveil. The Rapoport Center hosted an interdisciplinary panel on October 17, 2022, titled “Expanding Forms of Immigration Detention and E-Carceration,” in which panelists argued that while digital tracking technologies, such as smartphone apps and GPS ankle monitors, have been presented as “humane alternatives” to detention, in reality they perpetuate criminalization, surveillance, and stigmatization. The event was co-sponsored by the Immigration Clinic and William Wayne Justice Center.

In a discussion moderated by Professor Elissa Steglich (Immigration Clinic), Dr. Carolina Sanchez Boe (Aarhus University, Denmark) and Professor Denise Gilman (Immigration Clinic) explained that hundreds of thousands of migrants in the United States are currently subjected to digital surveillance

“Being monitored, you are dispossessed of your time and become your own jailer.”

– Carolina Sanchez Boe

by the government and private contractors. Sanchez Boe argued that indefinite digital detention perpetuates distinct negative effects—such as stigmatization, insecurity, and intrusion. Sanchez Boe summarized the feelings of those she interviewed: “Being monitored, you are dispossessed of your time and become your own jailer.”

Professors Becky Pettit (Sociology) and Monica M. Martinez (History) considered e-carceration as part of broader race and class inequities within criminal courts and policing. Martinez presented her award-winning archival research into the history of racial violence in Texas against Mexicans and Mexican Americans, emphasizing that entrenched “cultures of violence” shape policing policy and practice.

With digital technologies expanding the capacity for surveillance by both government and private actors, panelists pushed for an understanding of e-carceration that fully considers intersectional experiences.



Panelists (from left to right) Denise Gilman, Carolina Sanchez Boe, Monica M. Martinez, and Becky Pettit, and moderator Elissa Steglich (photo by William Wayne Justice Center).

panelists pushed for an understanding of e-carceration that fully considers intersectional experiences.

Environmental and Climate Justice: From

CULTURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLOQUIUM

RACE, HOUSING, AND JUSTICE IN THE WAKE OF WINTER STORM URI

January 30, 2023

Panelists:

Taniquewa Brewster, Member, Mount Carmel Tenants Association
Mose Buchele, Senior Correspondent, KUT
João Paulo Connolly, Organizing Director, Austin Justice Coalition
Shoshana Krieger, Project Director, Building and Strengthening Tenant Action (BASTA)
Mayra Lopez Lucio, Climate Rights & Labor Rights Organizer

RESISTING REPARATIONS: THE EVASION OF HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE REGIME

February 13, 2023

Julia Dehm, Senior Lecturer, La Trobe Law School
Respondent: **Cooper Christianity**, Postgraduate Fellow, Rapoport Center, Texas Law

THE SNOW LEOPARD AND THE GOAT: POLITICS OF CONSERVATION IN THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS

February 27, 2023

Shafqat Hussain, George and Martha Kellner Chair, South Asian Studies, Trinity College
Respondent: **Kamran Asdar Ali**, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, UT Austin

SACRED FIRES, HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS, AND PLANNING TORONTO PARKS

March 20, 2023

Heather Dorries, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Planning and the Centre for Indigenous Studies, University of Toronto
Respondent: **Miriam Solis**, Assistant Professor, Community and Regional Planning, UT Austin

FOOD AND JUSTICE AMIDST MULTIPLE CRISES

March 27, 2023

Panelists:

Doris Brown, Co-director, West Street Recovery
Ben Hirsch, Co-director, West Street Recovery
Erin Lentz, Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Austin
Carolina Mueller, Coalition Manager, National Young Farmers Coalition
Raj Patel, Research Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Austin
Alex Racelis, Assistant Professor, School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences, UT Rio Grande Valley

SOCIAL SECURITY, INJURY, AND AGRARIAN FUTURES IN NICARAGUA'S SUGARCANE ZONE

April 3, 2023

Alex Nading, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University
Respondent: **Ashanté Reese**, Assistant Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, UT Austin

As attendees gathered for a January 2023 panel on the legacy of Winter Storm Uri—the ice storm that devastated Texas and killed at least 246 people in 2021—another winter storm was brewing outside. At this opening event of the Rapoport Center's Spring 2023 colloquium, "Cultures of Environmental Justice," panelists from Austin-based tenants' and workers' organizations insisted that the call for environmental justice is also a call for racial and housing justice. Many described community-based mutual aid efforts required to respond to the staggeringly unequal access to resources during Winter Storm Uri.

Environmental justice framed the ensuing events, which

"Colonialism, capitalism, and catastrophic climate change are structurally, and not just contingently, linked."

– Julia Dehm

covered reparations, homelessness, conservation, food access, and labor. Professor Julia Dehm (Law, La Trobe University, Australia) argued that understanding historical responsibility for climate change and reparative interventions are critical for changing the international climate regime. Dehm was explicit about the links between climate justice and other forms transnational justice: "colonialism, capitalism, and catastrophic climate change are structurally and not just contingently linked." Professor Heather Dorries (Geography and Planning, University of Toronto) demonstrated the contradictory politics of reconciliation in Canada. While space is symbolically marked in Toronto parks for Indigenous ceremonies, (continued on next page)



A packed house during "Race, Housing, and Justice in the Wake of Winter Storm Uri" (photo by Rapoport Center).

CO-SPONSORS

Planet Texas 2050
Department of Anthropology
The South Asia Institute
Native American & Indigenous Studies
Department of Geography & the Environment
Department of Community and Regional Planning
LLILAS-Benson

Austin to the Himalayas

(continued from previous page) Indigenous homeless populations are forcibly removed from their shelters in the same parks. Professor Shafqat Hussain (South Asian Studies, Trinity College) presented his fieldwork on snow leopard conservation in the Himalayas of Northern Pakistan, painting a picture of human-environment interaction under the stress of a changing climate. A roundtable discussion considered food production within Texas communities, ecosystems, and global supply chains, with UT researchers in conversation with organizers from the National Young Farmers Coalition and West Street Recovery of Houston. In the concluding talk, Professor Alex Nading (Anthropology, Cornell University) considered the relationship between chronic kidney disease and historical and contemporary plantation labor regimes in Nicaragua.

The colloquium and its corresponding seminar, coordinated and taught by Rapoport Center Steering Committee member Professor Jason Cons (Anthropology), was co-sponsored by centers and departments across campus (see previous page). Though the speakers discussed environmental and climate justice with a global perspective, all agreed on the importance of localized coalition-building and resource sharing. While in January, Austin faced another devastating ice storm, the city was struck by a historic heatwave just five months later—driving home that in a rapidly changing climate, environmental justice is a life-or-death issue.

Recordings of the colloquium events are available at youtube.com/@rapoportcenter.



(Left) João Paulo Connolly discussing Winter Storm Uri; (middle) “Food and Justice” panelists (from left to right) Carolina Mueller, Raj Patel, and Doris Brown; (right) Heather Dorries during her talk (photos by Rapoport Center).

Can Constitutions Protect Water and Respect Indigenous Knowledge? Lessons from Chile

“Can we really depart from existing constitutional frameworks and incorporate diverse understandings of Nature?” asked Professor Amaya Alvez in her talk at the Rapoport Center on March 21, 2023. An associate professor of law at the University of Concepción in Chile and an elected member of the 2021-2022 Chilean Constitutional Convention, Alvez sought to answer this question in her lecture, “Water, Ancestral Knowledge, and the Chilean Constitution.”

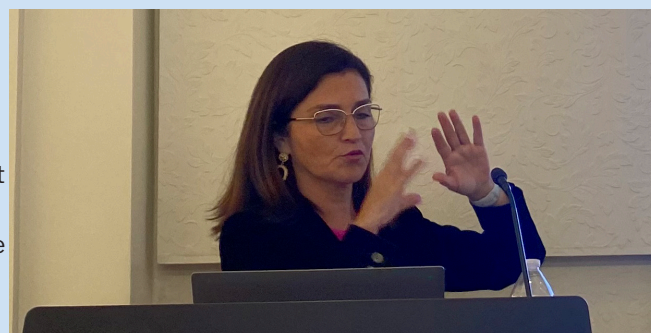
Alvez identified multiple ways that Latin American constitutions have—and have not—protected natural ecosystems.

Using Chile as a case study and drawing on insights from her experience of the Constitutional Convention, Alvez argued that the law fails to protect water resources, advancing extractive models of development that sideline and dispossess Indigenous peoples. With regard to Chilean Constitutional processes, she reflected: “I am really skeptical if we can do a different economic system than a neoliberal or extractivist one because I don’t think the Constitution has the tools to transform the economic system. I wish it could.”

The event was co-sponsored by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies and the Department of Government. Professor Ran Hirschl (Government and Law) and Chilean PhD student Guillermo Perez (Government) provided responses. Hirschl lauded the complexity and sophistication of Alvez’s argument, complimenting the “ratio of ideas to ink” in her accompanying paper. Perez called Alvez’s approach “innovative” and commented that her scholarship would “refresh the conversation” around the “very old” debate about how best to protect natural resources using legal tools.

“Can we really depart from existing constitutional frameworks and incorporate diverse understandings of Nature?”

– Amaya Alvez



Amaya Alvez delivering her lecture at Texas Law (photo by Rapoport Center).

Graduate Workshop Promotes Interdisciplinary Exchange Among UT Faculty and Grad Students

One of the Rapoport Center's greatest strengths is its community of affiliates. Over 150 faculty members and 90 graduate students are affiliated with the Center. Affiliates contribute to Rapoport Center programming, edit the Working Paper Series, and support one another through an extensive network of academic exchange and mentorship.

On April 7, 2023, over 20 students and faculty respondents convened for the Center's Interdisciplinary Graduate Workshop to discuss papers submitted by seven UT graduate and professional students. In an innovative twist, students presented one another's papers, giving everyone a rare chance to hear their work described and discussed from the perspectives of those not as familiar with the material. To further prompt seeing their scholarship in a new light, students were matched with faculty

respondents from different disciplines and focus areas.

Students and faculty alike celebrated the opportunity to break through academic silos. Participants joined from the LBJ School, the iSchool, the Law School, and the College of Liberal Arts, and they represented a wide range of

disciplines, from English to Law to Community and Regional Planning.

"I received incredibly helpful feedback from both faculty and fellow graduate students,"

"I received incredibly helpful feedback from both faculty and fellow graduate students."

– María Ximena Dávila

said participant and PhD student Maria Ximena Dávila (Sociology). Dávila highlighted the workshop's format as "a standout feature" and shared that the feedback she received led to a new draft of her paper, which recently received the Elise Boulding Student Paper Award from the Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section of the American Sociological Association.

Award-winning Novelist Sinan Antoon Presents New Book on the Iraqi Diaspora



Co-director Neville Hoad (left) and Sinan Antoon (right) during the Q&A (photo by Rapoport Center).

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq, Iraqi-American poet and novelist Professor Sinan Antoon visited UT on April 6, 2023 for a public reading from his new novel, *Khuzama* (in English, *Lavender*), on the eve of its publication. *Khuzama* offers a timely meditation on the enduring wounds of the invasion, which Antoon explores through the multigenerational experiences of members of the Iraqi diaspora living in the United States. The novel's characters are Iraqi expatriates who grapple with their memories of war and their homelands as they commingle with other marginalized and displaced groups.

The reading sparked a conversation on the destruction wrought by the invasion and decades-long war, as well as the ability of

creative writing to render

visible the more human and intimate effects of US imperialism. Antoon recalled his own formative memory of sheltering in a basement in Baghdad as US planes bombed his city for two months in 1991—and then coming to the United States and watching aerial footage of the same bombings on CNN. He realized that the first live-TV war was "the first war from the perspective of the bombers, and that our experiences as civilians were completely not present at all."

Antoon, an associate professor at New York University's Gallatin School, has published numerous acclaimed and widely translated novels, articles, and collections of poetry in Arabic and English. His work explores the impact of war on everyday life, labor, and family. Antoon's visit was co-sponsored by the Arab-American Education Foundation.

The US invasion of Iraq was "the first war from the perspective of the bombers, and ... our experiences as civilians were completely not present at all."

– Sinan Antoon

Fieldwork Grantees

The Rapoport Center is proud to have supported the community-based research of six PhD candidates who are learning from communities around the world about their efforts to combat various forms of inequality.



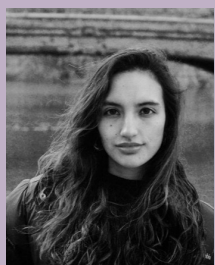
“RETHINKING WATER PLANNING THROUGH INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATORY WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON”

Luciana Barretto Lemos (Latin American Studies) conducted research in Manaus, Brazil on the ways that traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices pertaining to water might better inform decision-making processes and resource planning in the Amazon. She met with community leaders, non-governmental organizations, fellow researchers, and public officials in Manaus to set the foundation for her doctoral dissertation.



“RIGHT TO THE WATERSCAPE: (RE)PRODUCTION OF URBAN SOCIONATURE THROUGH EVERYDAY PLANNING PRACTICES IN CHATTOGRAM, BANGLADESH”

Samira Bashir (Community and Regional Planning) traveled to Chattogram, Bangladesh, with the aim of better understanding the impact of complex power dynamics defined by class, gender, religion, and caste on the rights to shape waterscapes. She worked with members of long-established waterfront fisher communities that are marginalized and excluded from planning processes. In addition to interviewing and building rapport with community members, Bashir also engaged in archival research.



“RIVER, BODY, CRISIS: REPRODUCTIVE VIOLENCE AND TOXIC LANDSCAPES IN MONTES DE MARÍA, COLOMBIA”

María Ximena Dávila (Sociology) carried out fieldwork with women’s community groups in Montes de María, Colombia who are working to preserve rivers as sources of vital and material well-being and respond to the gendered harms produced by water contamination. The fieldwork, including extensive interviews, was key to Dávila’s efforts to trace the relationship among multiple forms of violence—environmental, economic, and humanitarian—and social reproduction and reproductive (in)justice.



“ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE MANUFACTURING AT MULTIPLE STAGES OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN”

Jordan French (Civil, Architectural, & Environmental Engineering) spent time in Robstown, Texas, which is the site of a planned Tesla lithium refinery. French’s work is part of a larger project by UT Austin’s Rapid, Equitable, & Sustainable Energy Transitions (RESET) Lab, which partners with community organizations to monitor and analyze environmental harms of Tesla’s Texas operations. This summer, French installed monitors for measuring air quality, conducted permit analysis, and made vital connections with community advocates.



“SUBJECTIVE CARTOGRAPHIES: TRANSMIGRANT VENEZUELAN WOMEN OF COLOR AND PLACE-MAKING ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER”

Yenibel Ruiz Mirabal (Spanish & Portuguese) traveled to the US-Mexico border region to study the experiences of women of color who cross borders irregularly and in precarious situations. Specifically, she conducted a series of oral history interviews with Venezuelan migrant women of color with the aim of emphasizing their voice and agency as a means to challenge dehumanizing narratives advanced by media, government, and academia.



“MAPPING DECOLONIAL HOPE: LESSONS OF LIBERATION FROM YUIMĀRU AND SHIMĀ FOODWAYS”

Alice Kurima Newberry (Anthropology) spent time in Okinawa, Japan to study the concept of *yuimāru*, which is frequently translated as “mutual aid,” but Newberry defines it as “the soul of radical care and decolonial hope.” Pulling from Indigenous methodologies, ethnography, and participatory research, Newberry spent her time in the field learning care practices related to *yuimāru* and making connections with scholars and members of the community.

Alum Spotlight

Texas Law graduate and Rapoport Center alum Kallie Dale-Ramos ('15)

works as a Supervising Attorney at the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) in Helena. In this role, she oversees the Montana Eviction Intervention Project, which facilitates access to housing justice for low-income tenants, and she also works with the Montana Health Justice Partnership, a program that uses a health justice framework to provide a wide range of legal services to Montanans.



Kallie Dale-Ramos (photo courtesy of Dale-Ramos).

“The Rapoport Center gives you an opportunity to think bigger about what you can do.”

– Kallie Dale-Ramos

Soon after graduating from Texas Law, Dale-Ramos received a postgraduate public service fellowship to launch the MLSA's Health Justice Partnership. She credits her time as a Human Rights Scholar at the Center as key to securing this fellowship. In recognition of her leadership at MLSA, Dale-Ramos received the Centennial Access to Justice Award from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense in 2020. Dale-Ramos later joined the Indian Law Resource Center, where she helped secure a \$20 million grant for a project on registering Indigenous lands in Peru. Last year, she returned to MLSA to take on her current position.

As a first-year student at Texas Law, Dale-Ramos was drawn to the Rapoport Center because of her experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, her academic focus on critical race studies, and her commitment to public service. She says her time at the Center—as a Scholar and an editor of the Working Paper Series—fostered her interests in immigration and international human rights advocacy. In Dale-Ramos' words, “I went to law school because I wanted to help people, and the Center gave me an opportunity to see all the different ways I could do that.”

Dale-Ramos called the Rapoport Center her most important community on the UT campus. She hopes that other students can find what she found at the Center—a supportive, collaborative home for like-minded students, faculty, and staff. “The Rapoport Center gives you an opportunity to think bigger about what you can do,” she said.

Human Rights Fellows

The Rapoport Center awarded three named fellowships to fund law students working in human rights and social justice in Summer 2023.

Rowan Gossett received the Charles Moyer Human Rights Fellowship to intern with the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP) in Portland, Oregon, where she contributed to ongoing litigation, supported policy advocacy, and conducted intakes with Spanish-speaking workers.

Katherine Spry and **Natalia Arizmendi** both received the Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Karpen Moffitt Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law. Spry worked in Tucson, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico as an intern for the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, providing direct services for immigrants on both sides of the US-Mexico border. Arizmendi interned at the *Observatorio para la Equidad de Las Mujeres* (Observatory for Women's Equality) in Colombia, where she supported research and advocacy projects aimed at advancing women's rights and autonomy.

These fellowships facilitated transformational professional experiences for Texas Law students. As Gossett reflected, “through my internship with NWJP, I saw firsthand how litigation, policy advocacy, and community outreach are all essential pieces of the puzzle when it comes to representing low-wage workers and giving them the tools to organize themselves.”

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 in Law was established by Michael Tigar to commemorate the former Chilean diplomat and the Institute for Policy Studies intern who in 1976 were assassinated in Washington, DC by two Chilean secret service agents.



Law students receiving summer funding (from left to right) Rowan Gossett, Katherine Spry, and Natalia Arizmendi.

Zipporah B. Wiseman Writing Prize Winners Analyze Historical and Textual Methods in the Reading of Constitutionalism



Emma Brush (photo courtesy of Brush).

Congratulations to Emma Brush (JD/PhD, Stanford) and Timothy Lundy (PhD, Columbia), who won first and second place, respectively, of 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) established the prize in 2021 in honor of her important work at the intersection of legal and literary studies.

In her paper titled “Plain Reading the Constitution: Frederick Douglass, Textualism, and the Pursuit of Racial

Justice,” Brush offers what she identifies as Frederick Douglass’ “plain reading” of the US Constitution as a counter to current Supreme Court textualism, which she contends often uses racist originalism and color-blind constitutionalism to legitimate or ignore racial injustices. A member of the judging panel commented that Brush’s piece is “well written, erudite, and embeds itself within a broader context that makes plain the stakes.”

Lundy’s submission, “Ordinary Subjects of Tyranny: Practical Constitutionalism and Public Judgement in the Political Thought of George Buchanan,” argues that the development of classical democratic political thought owes much to the poetic work of leading sixteenth-century Scottish intellectual George Buchanan.

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

Audre Rapoport Writing Prize Winners Critically Examine Judicial Representations of Gender in India and Europe

Congratulations to Arti Gupta for winning the Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on Gender and Human Rights. The annual prize was originally funded by the late Texas linguistics professor Robert King to honor Audre Rapoport (1923-2016) and her deep commitments to gender justice. Gupta’s winning paper, lauded by one of the judges for its “critical, radical edge and sophistication,” is titled “The Unhappy Marriage of ‘Queerness’ and ‘Culture’: The Present Implications of Fixating on the Past.” The paper argues against the totalizing historical accounts that are used in contemporary dueling narratives in Indian law and politics that name either “homosexuality” or “homophobia” as colonial impositions. Gupta wrote the paper as a law student at the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, from which she graduated in 2022. It was later published in the *Australian Feminist Law Journal*.

The paper was published in the Rapoport Center’s Working Paper Series (see box).



Arti Gupta (photo courtesy of Gupta).

Working Paper Series

“Plain Reading the Constitution: Frederick Douglass, Textualism, and the Pursuit of Racial Justice”

by Emma Brush

“Ordinary Subjects of Tyranny: Practical Constitutionalism and Public Judgement in the Political Thought of George Buchanan”

by Timothy Lundy

“The Unhappy Marriage of ‘Queerness’ and ‘Culture’: The Present Implications of Fixating on the Past”

by Arti Gupta

“The Legal Impact of COVID-19 on Women’s International Human Rights: Analyzing the #NiUnaMenos Movement in Latin America”

by Fabiola Gretzinger

“A Discriminatory Education Policy that Further Excludes the Oppressed from Academia: The Case of the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) for SC-ST Scholars in India”

by Ashok Danavath

To read and comment on these or previous papers, visit rapoportcenter.org/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. She is also a faculty affiliate of Women's and Gender Studies and Latin American Studies. She publishes and teaches on international and regional human rights law, with special attention to their racialized and gendered interaction with criminal, labor, anti-discrimination, and property law.



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



BLAKE ROCAP is project director of the Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project. He has worked on issues of abortion access in Texas for more than 20 years as volunteer attorney, board member, legal director of Jane's Due Process, and as legislative counsel for Avow, formerly NARAL Pro-Choice Texas.



CRISTINA I. RAMIREZ is associate project director of the Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project. Cristina joined the Center in August 2023, after 10 years of experience as a public defender in both New York and Texas. She received a BS from the University of Texas at Austin and a JD from Boston University School of Law.



COOPER CHRISTIANCY is postgraduate fellow at the Rapoport Center, researching and coordinating projects in the Sissy Farenthold Fund priority areas of environmental justice, peace, and reproductive and sexual justice. He received a JD with concentrations in international law and human rights from the University of Minnesota Law School.



CAROLINE HAHN is senior program coordinator at the Rapoport Center. She oversees programmatic and day-to-day operations; coordinates events and communications; and manages funding and grant initiatives, reporting, and outreach. Caroline received a master's degree in public affairs and certificate in nonprofit studies from the LBJ School in 2022.



QUINN OUELLETTE-KRAY is administrative associate at the Rapoport Center, where she provides support for the Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project as well as assists with the day-to-day operations of the Center. Quinn received her master's degree in geography from Georgia State University.



ARIEL DULITZKY is clinical professor of law and the director of the Human Rights Clinic. He also oversees the Rapoport Center's summer fellowship program. He 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.

SISSY FARENTHOLD SCHOLARS IN REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

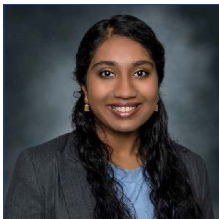


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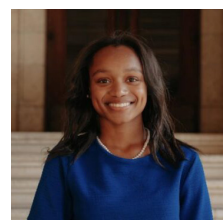
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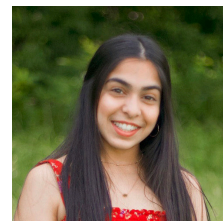
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THE YEAR TO COME

Kathryn Bond Stockton
Sissy Farenthold Endowed Lecture
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 5:30 p.m.



Kathryn Bond Stockton (photo courtesy of Stockton).

Kathryn Bond Stockton, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Utah, will deliver the ninth annual Frances Tarlton “Sissy” Farenthold Endowed Lecture in Peace, Social Justice, and Human Rights. Her lecture is titled “I Was a Queer Child and So Were You: Toward Social and Cultural Transformation.” A collaboration between the Rapoport Center and the Rothko Chapel in Houston, the Center will host the event in Austin this year at Texas Law.

A renowned scholar and educator, Stockton’s research explores intersections of gender, race, and class in contemporary life. The most recent of her acclaimed books are *Gender(s)* (MIT Press, 2023) and *Making Out* (NYU Press, 2019).

Before and After Chile 1973: Recovering a More Just Future

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

A roundtable discussion with **Arnulf Becker Lorca** (Chair in Public International Law, European University Institute), **María Diemar** (Mapuche Activist and Member of Chile Adoption), **John Dinges** (Godfrey Lowell Cabot Professor Emeritus, Columbia Journalism School), **Alina Namuncura Rodenkirchen** (Mapuche Activist and Member of Hijos y Madres del Silencio), and **Carola Zuleta** (Administrator, Corporación Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi).

The Politics of Precarity and Patterns of Autocracy in Europe

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Albena Azmanova, Professor of Political and Social Science, University of Kent

Novelist Fatin Abbas: Reading from *Ghost Season*

Thursday, November 30, 2023, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Fatin Abbas, Lecturer, Comparative Media Studies/Writing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fall 2023 Colloquium Reproductive Justice, Criminal Law, and the Carceral State

This speaker series considers the criminalization of reproduction—historical and contemporary, local and global—largely through the lens of reproductive justice.

All colloquium events will be held at 4:00 p.m. in the Sheffield Massey Room (TNH 2.111) at the University of Texas School of Law.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AND ABORTION PILLS

Monday, September 11

Rachel Rebouché

Dean and James E. Beasley Professor of Law Temple University Beasley School of Law

DIGITAL BODIES AND BORDERS

Monday, September 25

Cynthia Conti-Cook

Technology Fellow, Ford Foundation

FLOATING LUNGS: THE LAW AND SCIENCE OF PREGNANCY-RELATED PROSECUTIONS

Monday, October 9

Aziza Ahmed

Professor of Law and N. Neal Pike Scholar, Boston University School of Law; Co-Director, BU Program on Reproductive Justice

PATIENT OR PRISONER

Monday, October 23

Ji Seon Song

Assistant Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine School of Law

POLICING ABORTION: ABORTION, CRIMINALIZATION, AND ABOLITION AS A NEW WAY FORWARD

Monday, November 6

Priscilla Ocen

Professor of Law, LMU Loyola Law School

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