

# The Barbara Harlow Internship in Human Rights & Social Justice

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### Introduction

The motto of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice is “Partners for Change at the Intersection of Academics and Advocacy”. This motto exemplifies the Center’s unique approach to academia, because the Rapoport Center exhibits a commitment to interdisciplinary work, along with efforts of collaboration and engagement with marginalized communities outside the academy.

### Goals

I sought to work with the Rapoport Center because I wanted to explore the arena of human rights scholarship. Since the Center is within the University of Texas School of Law, along with the interdisciplinary studies of human rights, I specifically wanted to be involved with their projects that involve legal frameworks, as this aligned with my goal of learning more about the legal frameworks before going to law school.

### Experiences

As the Barbara Harlow intern, I compiled a bibliography of Barbara Harlow’s publications for a special issue of peer-reviewed academic journal *Race & Class*. I aided with the organization of the Center’s archives of the lawyer Michael Tigar. For the Rapoport Center’s upcoming Puerto Rico Symposium in Fall 2018, I assembled biographies for researchers and activists attending the event, and I researched Puerto Rican organizations in Houston, Austin, and San Antonio.

### Discoveries

The task of carrying on Barbara Harlow’s legacy through this internship taught me how the concept of narrative is an indispensable aspect of resistance and human rights scholarship. Storytelling is a way of preserving the memory of struggle that cannot be lost. This internship taught me that our goal in human rights scholarship should be to seek a deeply human understanding of the impact that oppression yields, which is something that Barbara Harlow’s work did so beautifully.



### Discussion

My work at the Rapoport Center allowed me to witness and be a part of the inner workings of truly interdisciplinary human rights research, and it exemplified the purpose of the BDP. It shaped my experience at UT because I got the chance to learn more about a variety of human rights issues through the practices of further developing my skills in writing and research. I got to learn by doing.

### Acknowledgements

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