

SJSU

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

2021 SUMMER

UPDATE



SJSU HRI SUMMER UPDATE 2021

DR. ANGELA DAVIS RETURNS TO LECTURE SERIES / 2021 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX / FIRST ANNUAL SPRING RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM + AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS / CANNABIS RECORD CLEARANCE / CLEAR ACT (AB 655) / PEOPLES BUDGET OF SAN JOSE AND REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY / NEW FALL 2021 SERIES / NEW PODCAST - FHS / NEW HRI ARCHIVES @ MLK LIBRARY

AUGUST 2021

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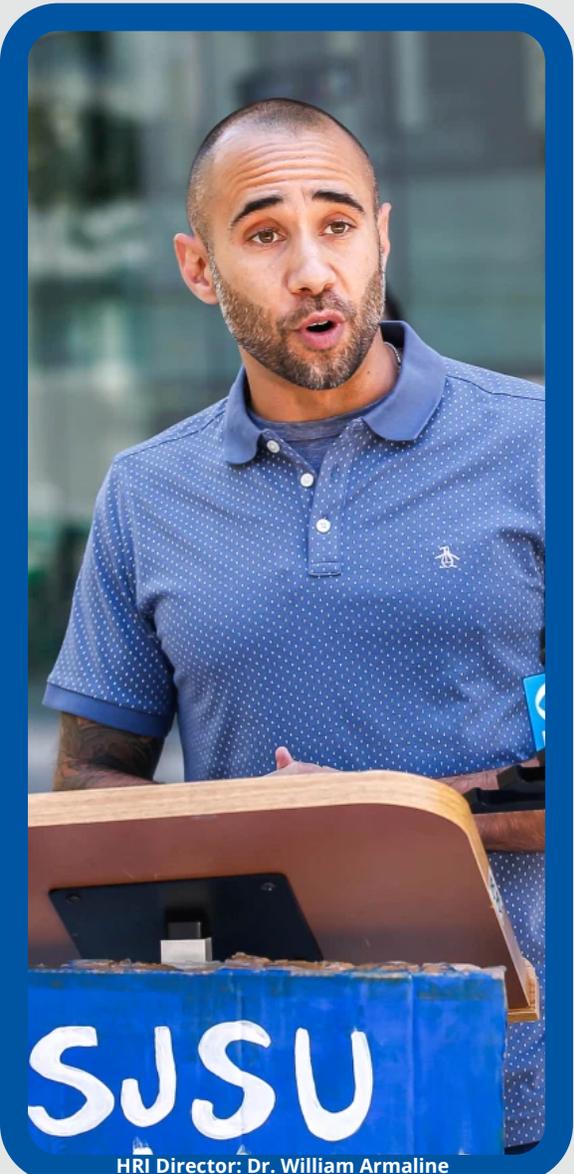
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



HRI Director: Dr. William Armaline

Photo Credit: Randy Vazquez / Bay Area News Group

Our 2020-21 academic year began in solidarity with one of the largest public protest movements (#BLM) in modern American history (cover image), inspiring much of our work in the months to follow. These activities included: (1) The **People's Budget of San José**—a research project to determine how people define and envision community safety for the city; (2) Co-Drafting the **San José Re-Imagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee [RiPS]** to inform local policing and criminal justice reform; (3) Joining the “**Care First Jail Last**” coalition (under SV DeBug) to build alternatives to incarceration in Santa Clara County; (4) Our **Annual Human Rights Lecture Series** that featured Dr. Angela Davis and other renowned scholars speaking to the #BLM rebellions and intersectional Black feminism in the 21st century; (5) Drafting the **California CLEAR Act (AB #655)**, with Asm. Ash Kalra to address the infiltration of law enforcement by violent militias and hate groups; (6) The appointment of HRI Director W. Armaline to the **CA State Racial and Identity Profiling Board [RIPA]**; and (7) Partnering with the California Attorney General's Office, the Last Prisoner Project, and Webber Wild Foundation to research and achieve **universal cannabis record clearance in California (2021-22 AY)**.

Beyond criminal justice reform, the SJSU HRI continues to engage on the local and national issues of housing/homelessness (**Social Housing panel**), COVID 19 and its broader implications, immigration/asylum/family separation, and structured inequalities (**2021 Silicon Valley Pain Index**).

Finally, we were thrilled to offer our first **Aris Anagnos Human Rights Scholarship for Graduate Research**, our first **Summer Faculty Research Grant**, and our first annual faculty, student, and community **Awards in Human Rights and Social Change** this year. These annual awards were part of a new annual **Spring Research Colloquium** with our colleagues at the Institute for the Study of Sport, Society, and Social Change [ISSSSC].



Please check out our website (www.sjsu.edu/hri) to learn more and INVEST IN THE HRI.



HIGHLIGHTS 2020-21

HRI LECTURE SERIES 2021

This three-part virtual event on the topic of Black Feminism and Socialism featured a live watch party of *Free Angela & All Political Prisoners*, a teach-in panel discussion featuring internationally known scholars (Drs. Barbara Ransby, Bettina Aptheker, and Neferti X.M. Tadiar) and a powerful keynote lecture by the legendary Dr. Angela Davis. A global audience of over 1700 people attended and participated in this year's series!

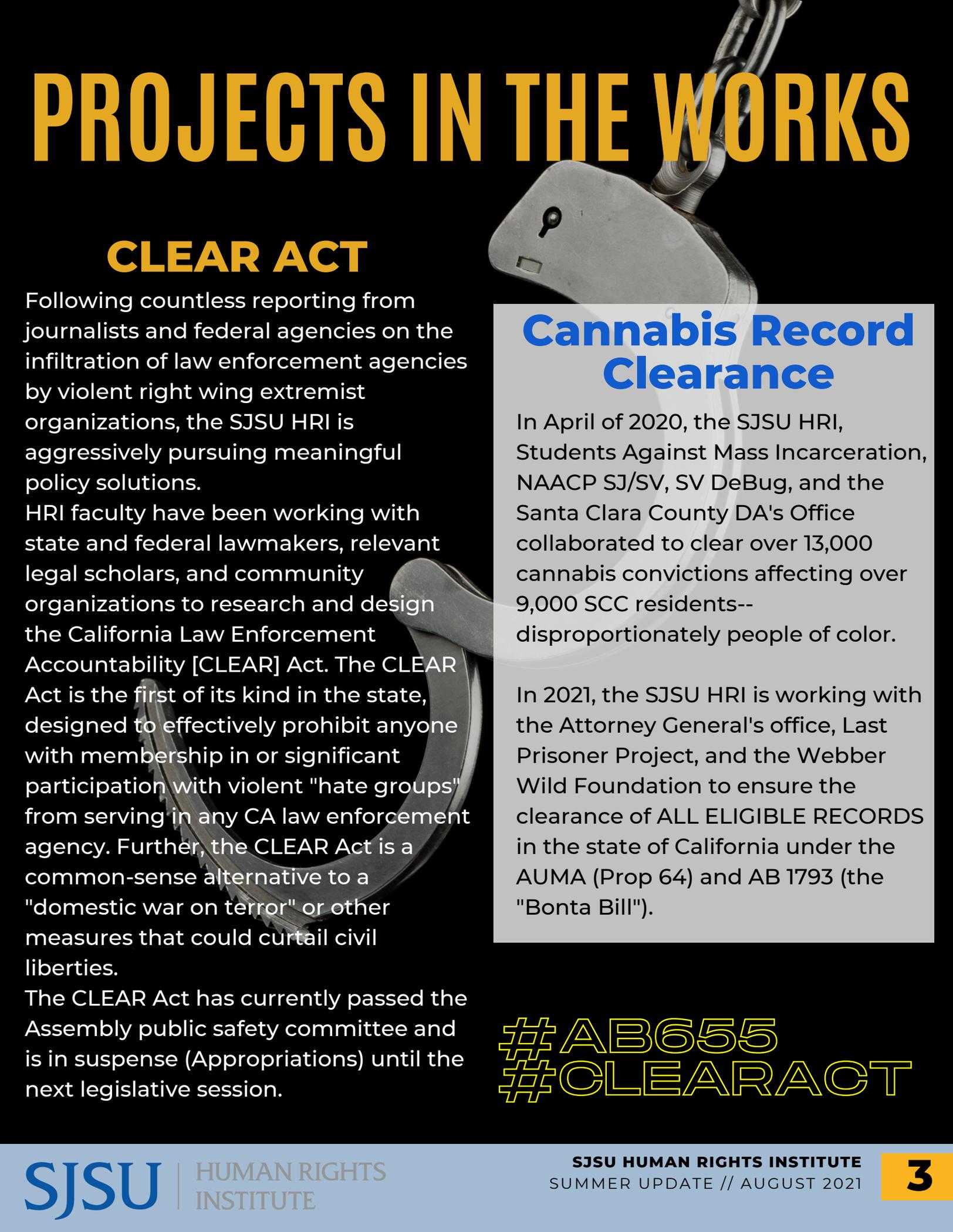


ISSSC Executive Director: Akilah Carter Francique

SJSU SPRING RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE: EQUITY IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

The HRI and ISSSC hosted SJSU's first annual *Spring Research Colloquium for Human Rights and Social Change* in April of 2021. The purpose of the colloquium is to engage scholars, students, and community organizations in research, reporting, and advocacy relating to human rights and social change. This year we featured a keynote talk on outreach to marginalized populations, showcased student research on COVID and other topics, and presented awards to students, faculty, and community partners.

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS



CLEAR ACT

Following countless reporting from journalists and federal agencies on the infiltration of law enforcement agencies by violent right wing extremist organizations, the SJSU HRI is aggressively pursuing meaningful policy solutions.

HRI faculty have been working with state and federal lawmakers, relevant legal scholars, and community organizations to research and design the California Law Enforcement Accountability [CLEAR] Act. The CLEAR Act is the first of its kind in the state, designed to effectively prohibit anyone with membership in or significant participation with violent "hate groups" from serving in any CA law enforcement agency. Further, the CLEAR Act is a common-sense alternative to a "domestic war on terror" or other measures that could curtail civil liberties.

The CLEAR Act has currently passed the Assembly public safety committee and is in suspense (Appropriations) until the next legislative session.

Cannabis Record Clearance

In April of 2020, the SJSU HRI, Students Against Mass Incarceration, NAACP SJ/SV, SV DeBug, and the Santa Clara County DA's Office collaborated to clear over 13,000 cannabis convictions affecting over 9,000 SCC residents-- disproportionately people of color.

In 2021, the SJSU HRI is working with the Attorney General's office, Last Prisoner Project, and the Webber Wild Foundation to ensure the clearance of ALL ELIGIBLE RECORDS in the state of California under the AUMA (Prop 64) and AB 1793 (the "Bonta Bill").

#AB655
#CLEARACT

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

PEOPLE'S BUDGET OF SAN JOSÉ



Scan the QR Code or click the link below to access the survey

<https://tinyurl.com/2xwf8eyz>

#PEOPLESBUDGETSANJOSE

SJSU HRI faculty researchers teamed up with Sacred Heart Community Service and 30+ community organizations and public agencies to create the “People’s Budget of San José” [PBSJ] project, designed to collect residents' views on community safety and city spending. The project includes targeted focus groups and a general public survey. Focus groups (now complete) asked residents to discuss what they thought were the most pressing public needs and their definitions of “public safety.” Focus groups also offered public education on the city budget and budget process. The focus group report can now be found on our website. *Survey solicitation is happening now, and readers can access the survey in 7 languages via the link or QR code above.*

Once the survey is complete, the results of the PBSJ project will be made available to the public online via an accessible summary of findings. Results will also inform the Re-Imagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee in San José, as to provide a direct link to reform and policy design.

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Reimagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee

We joined partners in creating the Re-Imagining Public Safety Community Advisory Committee [RiPS] as a city body of community representatives and advisory experts to direct policing reforms in San José. The purpose of RiPS is to identify, research, develop, and advance:

- **Alternatives to policing.** Redirecting resources toward community-based programs and interventions that will significantly change, reduce, or eliminate the role of law enforcement in addressing social challenges.
- **Transformation of police policies and practices.** The body will explore what police policies require immediate reform, including but not limited to crowd control techniques, use of force policies, training, hiring, oversight, and disciplinary practices.
- **Increased police accountability and transparency to the public.**
- **Implementation strategies** to employ alternatives to policing, apply necessary policy reforms and increase public accountability/transparency in San José.

The SJSU HRI will fill an advisory seat on the body, slated to start in August of 2021.

New SJSU HRI Immigrant Narrative Archives

The SJSU Human Rights Institute in collaboration with archivists at the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library** is developing a special archive and repository for human rights-related documents and audio-visual content. The repository will collect, preserve and distribute materials resulting from the work of the SJSU HRI, affiliated scholars, and partner organizations. Our inaugural collection is **Little Kabul Stories**, a series of oral histories with Afghan-American residents in the Little Kabul neighborhood in Fremont, California.

Social Housing Panel

A panel of San José community organizers from First Community Housing, South Bay Community Land Trust, Coalition of Housers, and our own Human Rights Institute have come together in July to discuss the implementation of social housing projects in our communities. Through analysis of successful international social housing and critiques of our current system, the **Social Housing Panel** presented paths to move forward in achieving housing justice in San José.

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Silicon Valley Pain Index 2021

First produced in 2020, the **2021 Silicon Valley Pain Index (SVPI)** report updates prior findings and illustrates a stunning increase in inequalities over the past year, as communities weathered a global rebellion against racist police violence, the global COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine rollout, and an economic downturn producing high unemployment rates in the face of still rising housing costs.

While our community was shocked at the incredibly high levels of racial discrimination and income and wealth inequality detailed in the 2020 SVPI, the **2021 Silicon Valley Pain Index** shows how the level of inequality during this pandemic has gone from bad to horrific. As the 2021 SVPI shows, most all “pain” indicators have worsened, as hunger, housing insecurity, homelessness, high school dropout rates, income inequality, and wealth inequality have all increased.

SVPI Author **Dr. Scott Myers-Lipton**
Photo Credit: Vicente Vera / San Jose Spotlight

SJSU Director of Advocacy for Racial Justice **Jahmal Williams**
Photo Credit: Anda Chu / Bay Area News Group

2021 SILICON VALLEY PAIN INDEX

Inequality Soars by Race and Social Class under COVID-19

0	Number of San José police officers prosecuted since 2015, despite 19 fatal encounters with residents (15 people of color).
1	Number of Apple executives and senior management that are African American (out of 123).
2	Percent of Google employees that are Latinx women.
16	Percent of households with a net worth of \$1 million and above, owning 81% of the net wealth.
21	Percent of households that are food insecure, which is 4 times the level before the pandemic.

28

Percent of Vietnamese Americans who got COVID-19 among Asian Americans, even though 19% of this population.

197

Number of people who died on the streets, up 22%.

427

Number of affordable housing units completed since San José established 2018 goal of building 10,000 units by 2022.

40,381

Average per capita income in dollars for African Americans, down 1%.

197,050

Number of households facing risk of eviction or mortgage nonpayment.

571 Billion

Net worth in dollars of top 10 richest Silicon Valley moguls (all White men), up 130%.

Full report available:
www.sjsu.edu/hri

Twitter: @SJSUHumanRights
@SVpainindex

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Care First, Jail Last Coalition

SJSU HRI faculty wrote one of the two policy guiding reports on jail conditions in Santa Clara County following the brutal murder of Michael Tyree in 2015. Both of these reports detailed horrific conditions and treatment that clearly violated the Constitutional and Human Rights of inmates, including but not limited to an unsanitary environment, routine abuse by guards, and lack of access to needed medical care or contact with the outside world. Following these reports, three hunger strikes held by prisoners supported by their families and communities were staged over approximately five years to continue fighting for jail reform. Meanwhile, the SCC Board of Supervisors was on a path to build a new jail facility in addition to much-needed improvements to existing jail facilities in response to suits and legal decisions since Tyree's murder.

Under the leadership of our partners at Silicon Valley DeBug, we are now working closely with a system impacted families and communities to build fully functional, viable alternatives to incarceration (jail) in Santa Clara County. In a stunning victory, the coalition seems to have stopped plans to build a new jail in SCC, and will now work with partners in a community-driven study session (August - September 2021) by the SCC Board of Supervisors to explore non-carceral alternatives to a new jail.

COVID-19 Inequities Study

The COVID-19 Inequities Study addresses the critical issue of the impacts of COVID-19 and disparities during the COVID-19 pandemic among young adults in California. The research builds on a course-based undergraduate research study conducted in fall 2020. The research team, consisting of five undergraduate students, one graduate student, and two faculty members, is analyzing the data and disseminating the results regarding mental health impacts of the pandemic, occupational hazards, sources that people trust to deliver accurate information about vaccination, and willingness to obtain a vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

This work serves a dual purpose in the effort to reduce inequities in health. First and foremost, the data can inform policy-makers and service delivery organizations' to efforts to address health disparities. Second, through providing research opportunities to undergraduate students at SJSU, we have an opportunity to inspire historically underrepresented students to pursue post-graduate research in public health and medical sociology. To date, work conducted on this study will be presented during the American Public Health Association annual meeting in October and shared during a new annual event in November titled *Transforming Communities: A Movement to Racial Justice*.

Check out the new blog "Wellness During COVID-19"

2021 FALL SERIES

The SJSU HRI will contribute to a new annual SJSU program focusing on structural inequalities and anti-racism, coming in November of 2021. This year's program, Transforming Communities: A Movement to Racial Justice, will feature two events below on the impacts of COVID and new technologies on racial and other inequalities.

Racial Inequality and the COVID Pandemic

This panel and public educational forum will feature some of the most widely respected medical and public health experts in the state of California in a conversation on the complex relationship between structured inequalities and the often differential outcomes and experiences now being reported from the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion will also address the backlash against medical experts during the pandemic and how we might find more equitable, human rights protective approaches to public health crises.



The New Human Rights Frontier: Artificial Intelligence and Data Privacy

Artificial intelligence [AI] and data privacy represent critical new frontiers in the field of human rights. AI systems are used by police departments to surveil communities, by human resources departments to vet job candidates, and most recently by the medical industry to aid in the diagnosis of COVID-19. While these technologies can be useful, if left unchecked and unregulated, they can exacerbate structural inequality as mechanisms of exploitation, surveillance, discrimination, and social control. Silicon Valley is home to many of the “Big 9” tech companies that are competing in the global race for the advancement and market dominance of AI, communications, and data security technologies. As perhaps demonstrated in recent Congressional hearings, these companies and their owners participate in media monopolization and have a considerable influence on the public’s access to information.

In Fall 2021, this curriculum and lecture series will engage students, faculty, and community members to learn more about the mis-uses of emergent technologies like AI, how to address these problems as human rights crises, and ways to push for the use of technology in service to the public, according to human rights standards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 Human Rights Lecture Series

Confronting US Militarism: Security in the 21st Century

In 2020 the U.S. spent more (\$778B) on its military than the next eleven countries combined--39% of total military spending in the world. Further, the U.S. maintains approximately 800 bases around the world in over 70 countries, and remains the biggest arms dealer on Earth, now making dangerous shifts back to nuclear arms development. Meanwhile, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists warns that the world is "90 seconds to midnight"--closer to a nuclear apocalypse than ever in history. And the chances for such a conflict are exacerbated by another certain threat to species survival in the impacts of **climate change**--widespread resource, refugee, and ecological crises. The 2021 Bulletin notes: "The existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate change have intensified in recent years because of a threat multiplier: the continuing corruption of the information ecosphere on which democracy and public decision-making depend." The 2022 Human Rights Lecture Series will answer the call for a better "information ecosphere" on U.S. militarism and what our faculty have called "overlapping threats to human survival."

This year's HR Lecture Series will feature Congressman Ro Khanna and other law makers, area experts, activists, and human rights scholars in a discussion on the dangers of unchecked U.S. militarism and what a sustainable vision of "Security" might look like for the 21st century. Follow us on social media for updates in fall 2021!

For Humans' Sake Podcast

For Humans' Sake is a new podcast that explores the important human rights issues of the day through engaging journalistic stories and interviews with experts, activists, and policymakers.

Based at the San José State University Human Rights Institute in Silicon Valley, the podcast covers a wide range of human rights issues including topics at the intersection of human rights and technology.



2020-21 AWARD WINNERS



SJSU HRI 2021 ARIS ANAGNOS GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

The Aris Anagnos Graduate Student Scholarship for Human Rights Research is a new, annual scholarship from the SJSU HRI meant to support graduate research in the field of human rights. The scholarship honors the Greek anti-fascist and American Civil and Human Rights activist, Aris Anagnos through funding courageous human rights research. This year's winner, Anamaria Arias-Ixta, a Graduate Student in the Department of Justice Studies, will conduct a study of femicide along the U.S. - Mexico border through interviews with impacted families and social workers in border communities.

SJSU HRI SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT

Michael Dao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at SJSU. As a two-time alum of SJSU (B.S. - Kinesiology, 2010; M.A. - Kinesiology, 2013) he is overjoyed to be at an institution that serves first-generation university students. He teaches classes in the sociology of sport, history of sport and physical education, and international movement in a global context. As an educator, he is committed to disrupting oppressive systems related by providing scholarly and analytical resources for students to use in their lives and apply in their communities. Dr. Dao is the first recipient of the SJSU HRI Summer Faculty Research Grant (2021), for research as part of the People's Budget of San José project, focusing on Vietnamese community voices. He hopes to bring more awareness to perceptions of community safety and policing from the large Vietnamese community in San José.

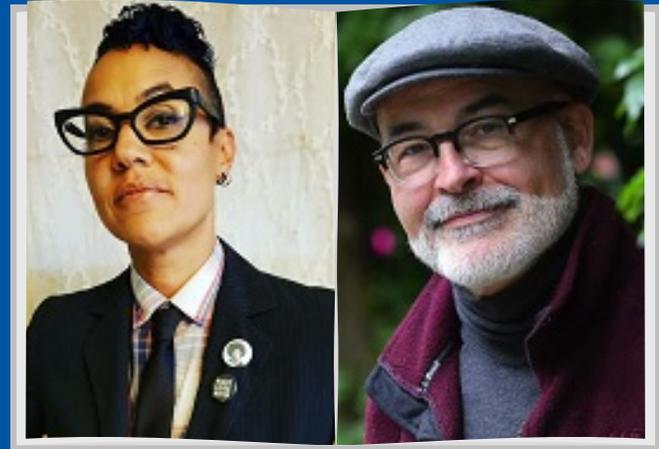


2020-21 AWARD WINNERS

SJSU SPRING RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

COMMUNITY AWARD

Former Chairs Dmitra Smith and Jerry Threet, Sonoma County Human Rights Commission for Human Rights Advocacy + Co-Authoring the CLEAR Act



FACULTY AWARD

Halima Kazem-Stojanovic for her contributions to building Human Rights as a vibrant field at San José State University

STUDENT AWARD

Anthony Ghiardi for his research presentation on "Anti-Asian Hate During the COVID-19 Pandemic"



The SJSU HRI would not be possible without the support of remarkable partners or the generosity of our sponsors. We thank you!

Community Partners

- *NAACP San José/Silicon Valley*
- *Silicon Valley DeBug*
- *Assembly Member Ash Kalra's office (CLEAR Act)*
- *Sacred Heart Community Service*
- *Racial Equity Action Leadership [REAL] Coalition, SCC*

SJSU Partners

- *Inst. for the Study of Sport, Society, and Social Change [ISSSSC]*
- *MOSAIC Cross-Cultural Center*
- *Cesar Chavez Community Action Center*
- *The BLOC*
- *Depts. of Justice Studies, Journalism/Mass Comm., AfAm Studies, History, Poli. Sci., and Sociology/Int. Social Science*
- *SJSU Veterans Resource Center*
- *College of Social Sciences*
- *College of Health and Human Sciences*
- *Ethnic Studies Collaborative*
- *Director of Advocacy for Racial Justice*
- *MLK Library, Special Collections*

Community Sponsors

- *Webber Wild Foundation*
- *The Strongpoint Foundation*
- *Heising-Simons Foundation*
- *The Anagnos family*

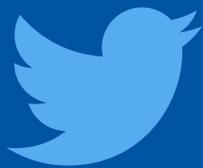
INVEST IN OUR WORK

All monetary contributions will directly support our work, including these specific projects:

- The popular 2021 Human Rights Lecture Series
- The People's Budget of San Jose and local criminal justice reform
- Scholarship opportunities for SJSU students
- SJSU HRI Immigrant Narrative Archives
- Policy projects like the CLEAR Act
- The development of the For Humans' Sake Podcast and Human Rights News Network
- Cannabis Record Clearance and Equity Programs



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