

SJSU | HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



#POWER #BLM
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SJSU HRI SUMMER UPDATE 2020

SJSU HRI AND GLOBAL (#BLM) REBELLION / LOCAL AND NATIONAL ANTI-RACIST POLICY DESIGN /
#SILICONVALLEYPAININDEX AND HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING /
RECORD CLEARANCE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

#BLM IN SAN JOSE



Above: Raj Jayadev of Silicon Valley DeBug addresses a public Die-In (Co-sponsored by SJSU HRI, NAACP, and more), 06/05/20. Signs from the same crowd are presented below. All photos by Robert Bain.

Perhaps never has the work of the SJSU Human Rights Institute been so important, as a global rebellion against police violence and the #BlackLivesMatter movement erupt in cities all over the world--including San Jose--and the public grapples with an overlapping global health pandemic and national economic crisis. The SJSU HRI serves the public in part through *praxis*: informing solutions to social problems in partnership with community stakeholders.



This summer, our faculty and students can be found on the front line of debates on racist police violence in California--in classrooms, public forums, and on the streets.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Criminal Justice Reform and Anti-Racism

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.**

CLEAR Act and Racial Justice Act

In direct response to a mountain of evidence--including FBI and DOJ reports--demonstrating **the infiltration of law enforcement agencies by violent fascist and/or white nationalist organizations**, the SJSU HRI researched and designed the **CLEAR Act** in partnership with bill author/sponsor CA Assemblyman Ash Kalra. The CLEAR Act **prohibits law enforcement membership or affiliation with such organizations at threat of termination and lifetime ban from service in California.** The CLEAR Act will be reintroduced with **The Racial Justice Act**, another bill being informed by the HRI in partnership with Assembly Member Kalra later this fall. The Racial Justice Act **provides an appeal process for those who can prove racial discrimination played a role in their conviction or sentencing in California.**

PEACE Act (US House Bill)

SJSU HRI faculty worked with U.S. Congressman Ro Khanna in 2019 to develop the **PEACE Act** - to **align federal police use of force standards with international law.** The PEACE Act is **now part of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020** (new House Bill in response to #BLM rebellions).

San Jose Scholarship Fund

To answer the call from endless community members and organizations, the SJSU HRI designed and proposed a new **San Jose (city) Scholarship Fund.** The Fund is a demonstration of divestment and reinvestment approaches police reform. With only 1% of SJPd's current take of city General Funds (\$4.61M) the SJ Scholarship Fund **can cover tuition and fees for 1200 local students to attend SJSU (400), SJCC (400), and EVC (400) every year.**

#SiliconValleyPainIndex

The #SiliconValleyPainIndex is an annual report meant to measure inequality and human rights practice in Santa Clara County. **This year's report focuses on racism and wealth inequality, in step with the #BLM movement.** See the full index, infographic, and extensive media coverage **on the SJSU HRI website.**

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William.Armaline@SJSU.edu

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