RUTGERS
Center for Security, Race
and Rights

A Year of Resilience and Gratitude

Dear Friends,

There are momentous events in our lives that remind us of our mortality, our fragility. Those same events also test our resolve and resilience. The global COVID pandemic is that moment. Almost overnight, we faced the unfathomable—the sudden shutdown of our schools, houses of worship, businesses, and entire communal life.

Despite the many challenges, ranging from illness and death to unemployment and social isolation, we have come out stronger, more resilient. What we may have taken for granted is now rightfully a priority—family, friends, and good health.

At the Center for Security, Race and Rights (CSRR), we are fortunate to have a nimble team that allowed us to continue our work. We adapted to the nationwide closures by transitioning our **Transnational Rights and Security Lecture Series** online. We also launched national **Know Your Rights Workshops** to empower individuals on their rights in housing, education, and government accountability.

Through our virtual forum, CSRR reached more than 2000 people across the country and world who received rights training and learned from renowned scholars examining the linkages between global events and domestic racism.

Dr. Sherene Razack presented on how racialized Muslim bodies and gender are constructed by global white supremacy that sustains networks and ideas in the Global War on Terror. Professor Khaled Beydoun discussed how the War on Terror is exported to fuel Islamophobia in India and China. Attorney Azadeh Shahshahani offered a critical analysis of U.S. sanctions against Iran and the Muslim Ban through a human rights lens. Dr. Wendell Hassan Marsh presented on the genealogy of African Islamic modernity in Africa. Abukar Arman focused on the relationship between U.S. foreign policies and political violence in Somalia. And Dr. Khyati Joshi presented findings of her book "White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America."

Our final lecture featured Dr. Marc Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick for a talk on their book "Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics." The lively discussion brought to the forefront the contradictions in American liberal and progressive circles between stated values and inaction that fails to defend Palestinian human rights.

This past year tested our values. We all now see more clearly the gaping inequities in our society. At CSRR, we remain committed to continuing our mission to combat social injustice through education, advocacy, and knowledge production.

We thank you for joining us on this journey.

Transnational Rights and Security Lecture Series
Spring 2021

Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics
Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, Temple University &
Mitchell Plitnick (4/19/21)

Scholar Marc Lamont Hill and Israel-Palestine expert Mitchell Plitnick spotlight how holding fast to one-sided and unwaveringly pro-Israel policies reflects the truth-bending grip of authoritarianism on both Israel and the United States. Except for Palestine deftly argues that progressives and liberals who oppose regressive policies on immigration, racial justice, gender equality, LGBTQ rights, and other issues must extend these core principles to the oppression of Palestinians.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/ZdvCzG1Jyr8

Marc Lamont Hill

Mitchell Plitnick

A Genealogy of African Islamic Modernity
Dr. Wendell Hassan Marsh Rutgers,
University- Newark (4/5/2021)

African Islamic modernity is a discourse, a historical condition, and a project that highlights the entanglements of African racial identities, Islamic forms of life, and modernity as the globally hegemonic mode of social, economic, and political being. Professor Marsh examines the development of African Islamic Modernity in Senegal within broader global discourses that narrate the place of Blackness in modern Islam.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/41QMlTDtktc

Race and Empire: Legal Theory Within, Through, & Across National Borders
Professor Asli Bâli, University of California,
Los Angeles (3/10/21)

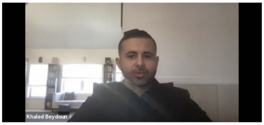
Professor Asli Bali

Critical examination of the regimes of humanitarian intervention, counterterrorism, and migration in the case of Libya, as part of the racial logics and imperial prerogatives in international governance regimes that manage bodies and territories at the periphery of the Global North.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/c-VVjqkxM8Q

Race, Women and the Global War on Terror
Dr. Sherene Razack, University of California, Los Angeles (2/15/2021)

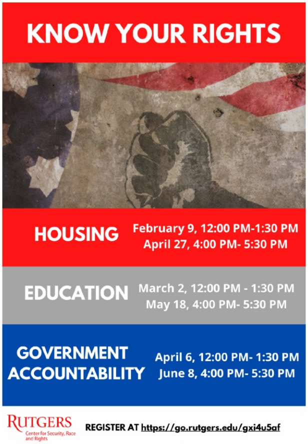
Discussion on how racialized Muslim bodies and gender are constructed by global white supremacy that produces and sustains networks, affinities and ideas in the Global War on Terror.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/jeBXTojSxOo

Exporting the War on Terror: Islamophobia in Asia
Professor Khaled Beydoun,
Wayne State University (1/27/2021)



Fireside chat between Professor Khaled Beydoun and Professor Sahar Aziz on the latest legal and political developments in the troubling rise of Global Islamophobia in India, China, and other Asian countries.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/tvkLwhSTxfM

Know Your Rights Community Workshops



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

HOUSING
February 9, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM
April 27, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

EDUCATION
March 2, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
May 18, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
April 6, 12:00 PM- 1:30 PM
June 8, 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM

RUTGERS Center for Security, Race and Rights

REGISTER AT https://go.rutgers.edu/gxi4u5af

CSRR.RUTGERS.EDU TWITTER @RUCSRR
FACEBOOK.COM/RUCSRR INSTAGRAM @RutgersCSRR

Between January to June 2021, the Center for Security, Race and Rights is hosting a series of Know Your Rights workshops focused on education, housing, and government accountability. To register for future workshops, click here.

Teaching Race and Racism in Law School

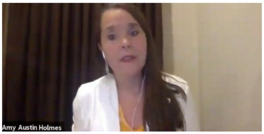
TEACHING RACE IN
LAW SCHOOLS

Click here for an Annotated Bibliography

Transnational Rights and Security Lecture Series
Fall 2020

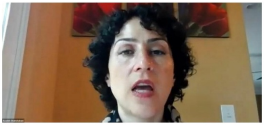
White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America,
Dr. Khyati Joshi, Fairleigh Dickinson University (9/9/2020)

In White Christian Privilege, Dr. Joshi traces Christianity's influence on the American experiment from before the founding of the Republic to the social movement of today. Mapping the way through centuries of slavery, westward expansion, immigration, and citizenship laws, she also reveals the ways Christian privilege in the United States has always been entangled with notions of White supremacy.
Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGNqmrcvjlw&t=5s



Coups and Revolutions: Mass Mobilization, the Egyptian Military, and the U.S. From Mubarak to Sisi
Professor Amy Austin Holmes, Harvard Kennedy School – Belfer Center (9/23/2020)

In 2011, Egypt witnessed more protests than any other country in the world. Counter to the received narrative, Amy Austin Holmes argues that the ousting of Mubarak in 2011 did not represent the culmination of a revolution or the beginning of a transition, but rather the beginning of a revolutionary process that would unfold in three waves, followed by two waves of counterrevolution. This book offers the first analysis of both the revolution and counterrevolution in Egypt from January 2011 until June 2018.
Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyGvbEeA53U



From Sanctions to the Muslim Ban: The Impact of U.S. Policies Affecting Iran and Iranian-Americans
Azadeh Shahshahani (10/5/2020)

This lecture focuses on the harm the U.S. sanctions as well as the Muslim Ban have caused Iranians and Iranian-Americans, and ways in which the public can help put an end to US threats of aggression and sanctions as well as work towards repealing the Muslim Ban and other discriminatory policies.
Watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuZuFTNCkDg

Abukar Arman

How Counterterrorism Drives U.S. Foreign Policy in Somalia
Abukar Arman (10/28/2020)

The United States is home to over 200,000 Somali refugees most of whom fled civil war in Somalia. Their Black, Muslim, and immigrant identities puts them in the crosshairs of America's racialized counterterrorism regime; resulting in the surveillance, investigation, and prosecution of Somali American communities across the country. These domestic factors converge with US foreign policy that effectively criminalizes political opposition to imperial and militarized U.S. actions in Somalia.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/6eGrgmBCp7o

CSRR Fellow Spotlight

Pati Candelario

My time as a law fellow at the Center for Security, Race and Rights has been the most meaningful experience of my law school career. I have grown as a scholar, professional, and advocate through my yearlong fellowship. The academic component of the fellowship has challenged me to think critically and produce high-quality work products. My legal research and analytical skills have improved drastically, and I feel confident that I can tackle any challenge presented to me as I begin my legal career. Professionally, CSRR has been instrumental to my growth— from Professor (and CSRR Director) Aziz's one-to-one mentorship to the close relationships with other fellows. I gained more than just a professional experience, but also a network of hard-working, brilliant people. And finally, the advocacy component exposed me to a world (quite literally as CSRR has global reach) of interested organizers, community members, and students who are eager to make a change and help CSRR fulfill its mission statement. It has been a great honor and privilege to contribute to this important work.

Joseph M. Carr

I had the privilege of serving as a law fellow for the Rutgers Center for Security, Race & Rights under the supervision of the Center's founding Director and Professor of Law, Sahar F. Aziz. Through this opportunity, I perfected my legal research and writing skills, improved my understanding of how the criminal justice system functions, and learned to work on a professional team with colleagues. By working on the Center's first public policy report, I spent countless hours researching and writing memorandum on areas of the law unknown to me. Through this research, I gained an invaluable understanding of how the criminal justice system has changed post-9/11. Finally – and possibly the most important – I worked on a team of lawyers, professors, faculty, undergraduates, and fellow law students from across the United States. Each individual added a unique component to our team's success. Indeed, the team during my fellowship made me a better young professional. In short, serving as a law fellow for the Center for Security, Race & Rights will forever be one of the best decisions I made during my law school career.

Sameer Ali

This past year has been a truly remarkable one; directly observing and receiving mentorship from Professor Sahar Aziz has contributed significantly to my growth not only as a student and a professional, but also as an individual one day hoping to fight the systemic injustices faced by our communities. From conducting research on how to connect with, and reach the communities we are trying to serve, to working alongside the wonderful team at the Center and picking up general tasks that came about- it has been nothing short of a pleasure seeing our efforts come to fruition when we see how many people are coming across our material, attending our events, and the overall pertinent impact that the CSRR has had in the Legal and Public Policy fields. As my year as a Public Policy Fellow comes to an end, I want to thank the team of bright and dedicated individuals I worked alongside with, as well as Professor Aziz for the opportunity, her mentorship, and the integral, unrelenting work she has been doing, and that I am sure she will continue to do.

Serene Hozien

My time as a CSRR fellow has taught me exceedingly about race and rights, not only in the United States but internationally as well. One of my favorite parts of being a Public Policy fellow was keeping up with the current events going on around the world. My responsibility was to make others continuously aware of these current events through social media. So not only was I always in the loop, I was constantly keeping others informed as well. My goal in being a part of this fellowship was to inform others about Muslims and the Arab and South Asian world, and I am glad I was able to achieve it. My work ethic and time management have strengthened since I first began my work for the center. I am grateful to have gained the experience in working in a professional setting, side-by-side, with Professor Aziz and the hardworking fellows of this center to ensure the success and recognition of the Center for Security, Race, and Rights. Most importantly, being a part of this fellowship has strongly affirmed my future endeavors in the professional field I plan to pursue in law. It was an honor being part of such a wonderful and persevering group of people that work together to educate and enlighten others on important issues and topics regarding security, race, and rights.

CSRR In the News

Despite Chauvin's guilty verdict, activists will not stop fighting for justice. Sughnen Yongo-Okochi. Pavement Pieces. (2021).

Identity Crisis. Sahar Aziz. Medium. (2021).

Are France and Austria Fighting a War on 'Political Islam' – or a War on Muslims? Farid Hafez. Haaretz. (2021).

The Center for Security, Race and Rights (CSRR) engages in research, education, and advocacy on law and policy that adversely impact the civil and human rights of America's diverse Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities. We do so through an interfaith, cross-racial, and interdisciplinary approach.

To learn more about CSRR's work, visit our website at https://csrr.rutgers.edu

Contribute