RUTGERS
Center for Security, Race
and Rights

A Year in Review and Upcoming Events

Dear friends and supporters,

As we prepare for another semester of intellectually stimulating and community building programs, we also reflect on our accomplishments during the 2021-2022 academic year. Thanks in large part to the support of our donors, the Center for Security, Race and Rights (CSRR) hosted another successful lecture series that aimed to challenge negative stereotypes about Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians as part of its broader civil rights mission.

De-Securitizing Muslim Identity Lecture Series

Last year's lecture series theme, **De-Securitizing Muslim Identity**, featured scholars who provided theoretical and legal critiques of the securitization of Muslim communities as well as advocates who work with Muslim communities on issues unrelated to national security. Each lecture is available for viewing on CSRR’s YouTube channel here.

In the Fall of 2021, CSRR hosted Professor Abdullahi An'Naim to present on *Post-Colonial Legality and Human Rights*. Professor Juliane Hammer delivered a book talk on *Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts against Domestic Violence*, and Professor Shirin Sinnar presented her research on *Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and the Framing of White Supremacist Violence*.

In the Spring of 2022, CSRR hosted two book talks. Massoud Hayoun presented on *When We Were Arabs: A Jewish Family's Forgotten History* and Dr. Edward Curtis IV discussed his new book *Muslims in the Heartland: How Syrian Immigrants Made a Home in the American Midwest*. CSRR’s final lecture featured Dalia Mogahed, Research Director at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, who presented the latest data on Muslims' contributions to economic development, philanthropy, arts, sports, and education in the United States.

On June 30, in response to the grave risks posed to women’s reproductive rights by the reversal of the landmark case *Roe v. Wade*, CSRR hosted an expert discussion on **Abortion, Religion and Race in Post-Roe America** featuring Professors Asifa Quraishi, Cynthia Soohoo, and Sahar Aziz.

Know Your Rights Workshops: Education, Housing, and College Activism

CSRR hosted a series of Know Your Rights Workshops on education housing, and government accountability that were attended by over one hundred lawyers, law students, and community leaders. CSRR also collaborated with Palestine Legal to provide a workshop to college students across the country facing direct and indirect forms of repression in response to their campus organizing on Palestinian human rights. Finally, CSRR celebrated the publication of Executive Director Sahar Aziz’s groundbreaking book *The Racial Muslim: When Racism Quashes Religious Freedom*.

Race, Security and Empire Lecture Series

This academic year, we are thrilled to be hosting nationally known experts in international law, Middle East politics, and racial justice in our **Race, Security and Empire** lecture series. Our fall 2022 speakers include Professor Peter Beinart and Sarah Leah Whitson addressing US foreign policy on Palestine and Israel, Dr. Maha Hilal discussing her book *Muslim Until Proven Innocent,* and Professor Natsu Saito Taylor discussing her book *Settler Colonialism, Race and the Law.* Our spring 2023 speakers include Professor Aziz Rana discussing his book *The Two Faces of American Freedom*, Professor Heba Gowayed discussing her book *Refuge: How the State Shapes Human Potential*, and Professor George Bisharat addressing international law and social movements in the Palestinian struggle for justice.

Registration for all CSRR lectures is here.

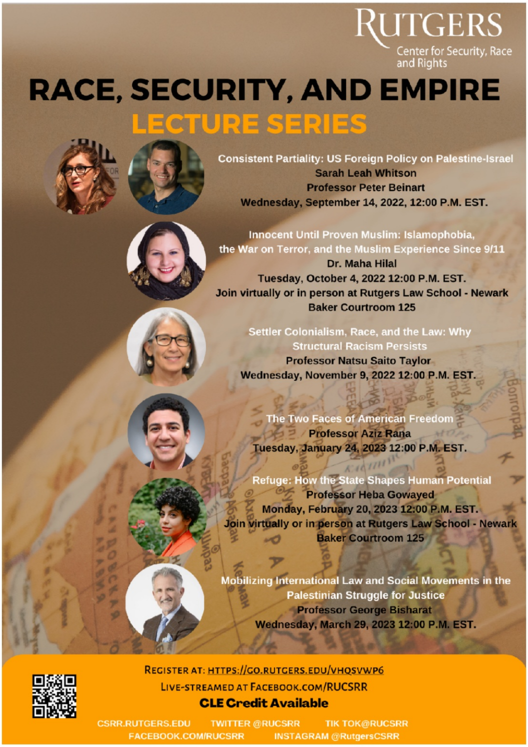
Due to a high demand, we will host another Know Your Rights Workshop, in collaboration with Palestine Legal, for college students engaged in campus activism in defense of Palestinian human rights. Registration for this online workshop on November 9 is here

None of the civil and human rights issues that we tackle are uncomplicated. Nor are they cost free in terms of attracting virulent opposition to the centering of voices from groups experiencing political repression domestically and internationally. Consistent with Rutgers-Newark’s social justice mission and the People’s Electric Law School’s (aka Rutgers Law School) tradition of morally courageous advocacy, the Center for Security, Race and Rights is proud to be on the front lines of this important work. We invite you to join us!

In solidarity,

Sahar Aziz

Executive Director
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Chancellor’s Social Justice Scholar and Professor of Law
Rutgers Law School



RUTGERS
Center for Security, Race and Rights

RACE, SECURITY, AND EMPIRE
LECTURE SERIES

Consistent Partiality: US Foreign Policy on Palestine-Israel
Sarah Leah Whitson
Professor Peter Beinart
Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 12:00 P.M. EST.

Innocent Until Proven Muslim: Islamophobia, the War on Terror, and the Muslim Experience Since 9/11
Dr. Maha Hilal
Tuesday, October 4, 2022 12:00 P.M. EST.
Join virtually or in person at Rutgers Law School - Newark
Baker Courtroom 125

Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law: Why Structural Racism Persists
Professor Natsu Saito Taylor
Wednesday, November 9, 2022 12:00 P.M. EST.

The Two Faces of American Freedom
Professor Aziz Rana
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 12:00 P.M. EST.

Refuge: How the State Shapes Human Potential
Professor Heba Gowayed
Monday, February 20, 2023 12:00 P.M. EST.
Join virtually or in person at Rutgers Law School - Newark
Baker Courtroom 125

Mobilizing International Law and Social Movements in the Palestinian Struggle for Justice
Professor George Bisharat
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 12:00 P.M. EST.

REGISTER AT: HTTPS://GO.RUTGERS.EDU/VHQSVWP6
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De-Securitizing Muslim Identity Lecture Series 2021-2022

An-Na'im, Abdullahi Ahmed

Post-Colonial Legality and Human Rights with Professor Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im (9/13/2021)

Autonomy and self-determination of all individuals cannot be realized and sustained unless true within every person. Enslavement and dehumanization remain true of citizens of imperial nations if it remains true for colonized persons and peoples. Join us for a timely lecture exploring the contradictions between stated commitments to human rights and actions in Western and post-colonial societies.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/-zgszHZUm-8

Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts against Domestic Violence with Professor Juliane Hammer (10/11/21)

Professor Juliane Hammer book talk on Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts against Domestic Violence (Princeton, 2019) addressed how Muslim advocacy work against domestic abuse is embedded in and challenged by systems of anti-Muslim hostility and racism while also having to contend with changing notions of gender norms and practices. Based on ethnographic research and textual analysis, Professor Hammer offered an intersectional analysis of how Muslim advocates respond to these challenges both within and outside of the Muslim communities they serve.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/TAr7Uq-bEzo

Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and the Framing of White Supremacist Violence with Shirin Sinnar (11/8/21)

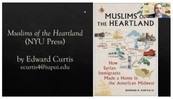
Professor Shirin Sinnar unpacked the historical roots and contemporary implications of addressing political violence as "hate crimes" or "terrorism." She explained how the “hate crimes” and “terrorism” frames took hold in our law and culture and how they supply two starkly different ways of conceptualizing--and responding to--white supremacist violence. Ultimately, the move to reframe white supremacist violence as terrorism comes with grave risks and that neither frame aligns with a racial justice approach to the problem.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/yHvl-T4ISDA

When We Were Arabs: A Jewish Family’s Forgotten History with Massoud Hayoun (2/2/2022)

Massoud Hayoun

Massoud Hayoun's decolonial memoir of his Jewish Arab grandparents from Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco provided a political theory of Arabness across time and continents. In a fireside chat with Professor Sahar Aziz, Mr. Hayoun addressed the continuities between European colonial policy in the Middle East and the criminalization of Arab and Muslim communities in the U.S.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/SSbTaYvDqCc

Muslims of the Heartland with Professor Edward Curtis (3/8/2022)



Muslims of the Heartland
(NYU Press)

by Edward Curtis
ecurtis4@iupui.edu

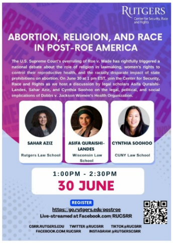
What legal and extra-legal challenges did Ottoman Syrian Muslim immigrants face when they immigrated to the American Midwest before World War I? What opportunities did they have?
Watch here: https://youtu.be/OVIz14GFe2w

Muslim Contributions to American Prosperity with Dalia Mogahed (3/30/2022)

MAP
MUSLIMS FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS
Muslims of New York: Stories and Statistics
A project of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding ISPU

Issues surrounding American Muslims are central in our political discourse, policy debates and popular culture. Yet most Americans say they don’t know a Muslim and more than 80% of media coverage of Islam and Muslims in the United States is negative.
Watch here: https://youtu.be/hh3R0Yh_MkA

Abortion, Religion and Race in Post-Roe America (6/30/2022)



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ABORTION, RELIGION, AND RACE IN POST-ROE AMERICA

The U.S. Supreme Court's overruling of Roe v. Wade has rightfully triggered a national debate about the role of religion in lawmaking, women's rights to control their reproductive health, and the racially disparate impact of state prohibitions on abortion. On June 30 at 1 pm EST, join the Center for Security, Race and Rights as we host a discussion by legal scholars Asifa Quraishi-Landes, Sahar Aziz, and Cynthia Soohoo on the legal, political, and social implications of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

SAHAR AZIZ
Rutgers Law School

ASIFA QURAISHI-LANDES
Wisconsin Law School

CYNTHIA SOOHOO
CUNY Law School

1:00PM - 2:30PM
30 JUNE

REGISTER
https://go.rutgers.edu/postroe
Live-streamed at Facebook.com/RUCSRR

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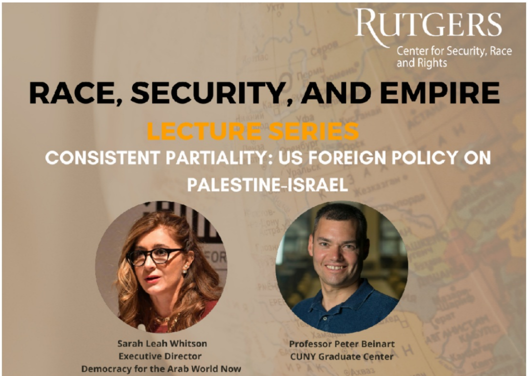
Watch here: https://youtu.be/gMiU6brePt0

Upcoming Events



RUTGERS
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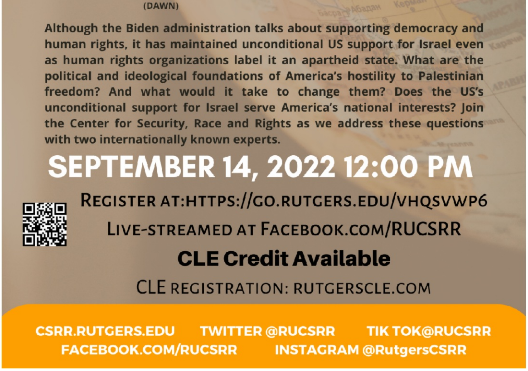
RACE, SECURITY, AND EMPIRE

LECTURE SERIES

CONSISTENT PARTIALITY: US FOREIGN POLICY ON PALESTINE-ISRAEL

Sarah Leah Whitson
Executive Director
Democracy for the Arab World Now

Professor Peter Beinart
CUNY Graduate Center



(DAWN)

Although the Biden administration talks about supporting democracy and human rights, it has maintained unconditional US support for Israel even as human rights organizations label it an apartheid state. What are the political and ideological foundations of America's hostility to Palestinian freedom? And what would it take to change them? Does the US's unconditional support for Israel serve America's national interests? Join the Center for Security, Race and Rights as we address these questions with two internationally known experts.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 12:00 PM

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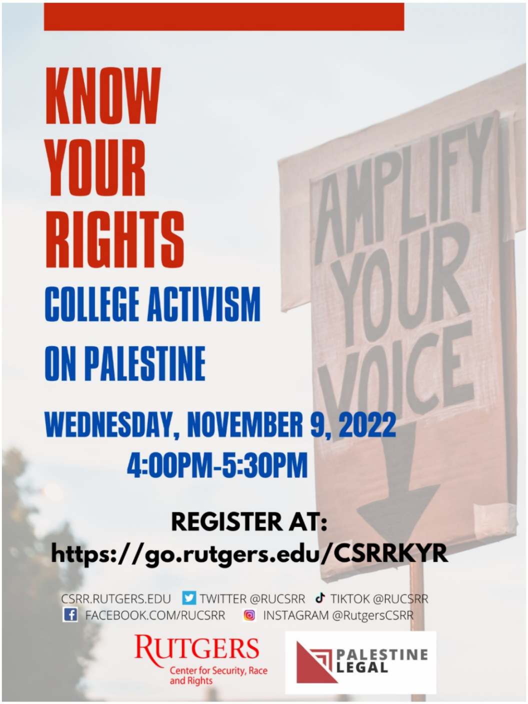
AMPLIFY
YOUR
VOICE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

COLLEGE ACTIVISM ON PALESTINE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022
4:00PM-5:30PM

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

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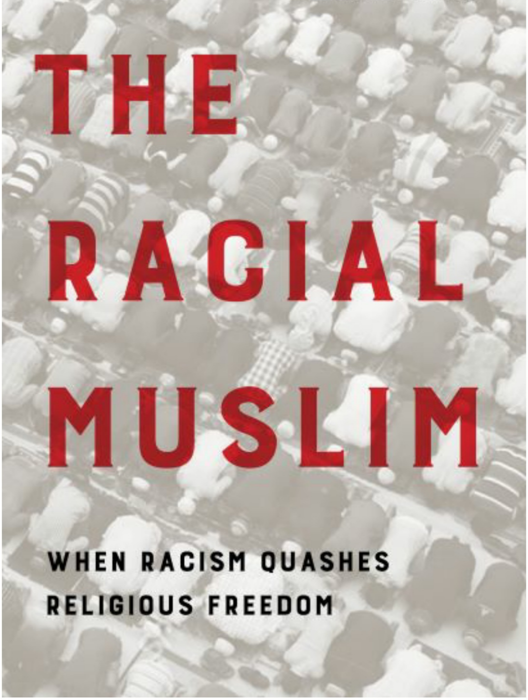
RUTGERS Center for Security, Race and Rights
PALESTINE LEGAL

Register at: https://go.rutgers.edu/CSRRKYR

New Book - The Racial Muslim: When Racism Quashes Religious Freedom

SAHAR AZIZ



Why does a country with religious liberty enmeshed in its legal and social structures produce such overt prejudice and discrimination against Muslims? Sahar Aziz's groundbreaking book demonstrates how race and religion intersect to create what she calls the Racial Muslim. Comparing discrimination against immigrant Muslims with the prejudicial treatment of Jews, Catholics, Mormons, and African American Muslims during the twentieth century, Aziz explores the gap between America's aspiration for and fulfillment of religious freedom. With America's demographics rapidly changing from a majority white Protestant nation to a multiracial, multireligious society, this book is an in dispensable read for understanding how our past continues to shape our present—to the detriment of our nation's future.

The Racial Muslim is available for purchase here.

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

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