RUTGERS
Center for Security,
Race, and Rights

A New Year for Growth and Empowerment

Dear Friends,

Each new year invites us to reflect on our accomplishments, as well as embrace new opportunities for growth. In our quest to build community around shared values of justice, equity, and human rights, the team at the Center for Security, Race and Rights was busy in 2022!

Our proudest accomplishment was receiving a $50,000 gift to endow the **Basem and Muna Hishmeh Endowed Student Fellowship**! The fellowship funds research and advocacy for the civil and human rights of Palestinians and Palestinian Americans. Addressing how anti-Palestinian discrimination and human rights violations fit into broader social justice issues is under-researched in academic and policy research. That Rutgers University-Newark is nationally known for its commitment to social justice makes the People's Electric Law School the ideal place to build on the legacy of fighting for marginalized communities.

Continuing our public education mission, CSRR's **(De)Securitizing Muslim Identity Lecture Series** featured renowned scholars who center the lived experiences of Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities in their analysis of counterterrorism, immigration, Palestinian human rights, Middle East politics, and American history—which can be watched **here**. And back by popular demand, CSRR collaborated with Palestine Legal to host another Know Your Rights workshop for students engaged in **College Activism on Palestine**.

Integral to CSRR's mission is the incisive commentary on current events by our faculty affiliates. Whether it is international debates surrounding the World Cup, refugees, and climate change or domestic debates on abortion, surveillance, and Islamophobia; CSRR's **faculty affiliates offer critical perspectives** that disrupt the group think impairing mainstream media.

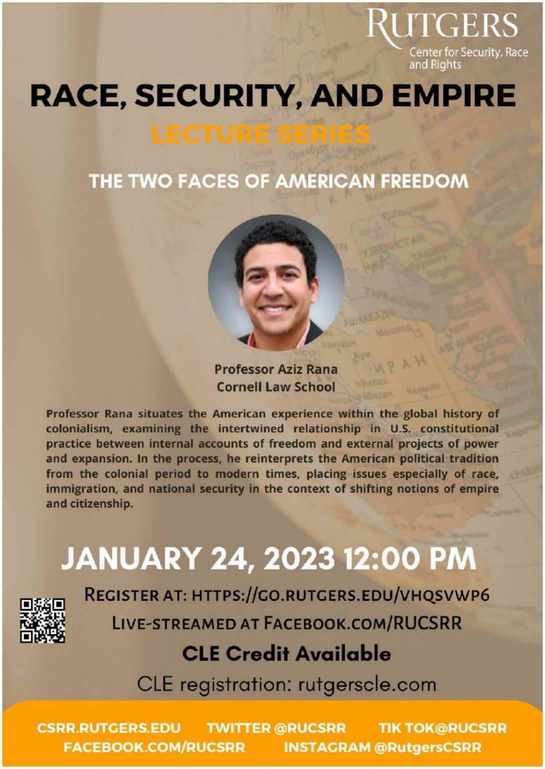
As we kick off 2023, we invite you to join us for another excellent line up of lectures in our **Race, Security and Empire Lecture Series** featuring Professors Aziz Rana, Heba Gowayed, and George Bisharat who look beyond U.S. borders to the global geopolitics that impact the human and civil rights of Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians. CSRR will be also launching a groundbreaking report that exposes the lack of transparency and high risks of civil liberties violations in connection with the New Jersey fusion center and broader intelligence community.

Our work is not easy, nor is it always popular among those in power. But **with your support**, the Center for Security, Race and Rights can continue to challenge the intellectual, political, and legal paradigms that threaten the civil and human rights of the diverse Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sahar Aziz

Professor of Law
Executive Director
Center for Security, Race and Rights
Rutgers University-Newark



RUTGERS
Center for Security, Race and Rights

RACE, SECURITY, AND EMPIRE

LECTURE SERIES

THE TWO FACES OF AMERICAN FREEDOM

Professor Aziz Rana
Cornell Law School

Professor Rana situates the American experience within the global history of colonialism, examining the intertwined relationship in U.S. constitutional practice between internal accounts of freedom and external projects of power and expansion. In the process, he reinterprets the American political tradition from the colonial period to modern times, placing issues especially of race, immigration, and national security in the context of shifting notions of empire and citizenship.

JANUARY 24, 2023 12:00 PM

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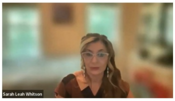
Race, Security, and Empire Lecture Series 2022

Consistent Partiality: US Foreign Policy on Palestine-Israel w/ Sarah Whitson Prof. Peter Beinart (9/14/2022)



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.

Watch here: https://youtu.be/SCcBB5jYzS0

Innocent Until Proven Muslim with Dr. Maha Hilal (10/4/2022)

Center for Security, Race and Rights

In Innocent Until Proven Muslim, scholar and organizer Dr. Maha Hilal tells the powerful story of two decades of the War on Terror, exploring how the official narrative has justified the creation of a sprawling apparatus of state violence rooted in Islamophobia and excused its worst abuses. Hilal offers not only an overview of the many iterations of the War on Terror in law and policy, but also examines how Muslim Americans have internalized oppression, how some influential Muslim Americans have perpetuated collective responsibility, and how the lived experiences of Muslim Americans reflect what it means to live as part of a "suspect" community.

Watch here: https://youtu.be/XM6diRsxDll

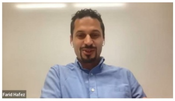
Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law with Professor Natsu Saito Taylor (11/9/2022)

Natsu Taylor Saito

Professor Natsu Saito Taylor builds on the premise that racialized disparities continue to persist in the United States and are unlikely to be effectively alleviated by the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. Her book talk provides a functional analysis linking disparate forms of oppression and makes the case that structural racism will be more effectively dismantled by contesting the ongoing settler colonization of these lands and supporting the right of all peoples to self-determination.

Watch here: https://youtu.be/GY0yeDL386A

European Islamophobia Professor Farid Hafez (12/7/2022)



Islamophobia is on the rise at an alarming speed in Europe, a continent with tens of millions of Muslim citizens. Join CSRR for a lecture featuring Professor Farid Hafez who will explain the complex causes and divisive effects of European Islamophobia.

Watch here: https://youtu.be/HyPtj-LSjUw

Basem and Muna Hishmeh Endowed Student Fellowship on Palestine

The Basem and Muna Hishmeh Endowed Student Fellowship will train and develop law students interested in race and international affairs related to Palestine. Basem and Muna Hishmeh are both refugees from Palestine who established a self-titled foundation in 2007 to support educational and cultural programs in the United States and in the Palestinian region. Basem Hishmeh said, “We decided to support the Palestine Fellow to contribute to raising awareness about Palestinian human rights, the discrimination against Palestinian Americans, and our struggle for liberty and self-determination.” He continued, “As Palestinian refugees, we have experienced first-hand discrimination against Palestinians. We visit Palestine often and have witnessed the horrors of the Israeli occupation. Advocating for Palestinian human rights should not be suppressed and criminalized in the United States.”

CSRR in the News

No, Berkeley Isn’t Discriminating Against Jews. Mohammad Fadel. *The Chronicle of Higher Education.*

The University of California at Berkeley School of Law has become the latest front in the continuing campus wars about Palestine, Israel, and what it means to be a progressive. After a student group, the Berkeley Law Students for Justice in Palestine (or BLS-JP), announced that nine student groups at the law school had adopted a bylaw in which they agreed not to lend platforms to Zionist speakers, a group of Zionists made outrageous claims that Berkeley Law students were antisemitic and that they were attempting to establish “Jewish free” zones on campus. Read full article here.

The Western media's World Cup coverage has put its anti-Muslim bias on full display. Khaled A. Beydoun. *San Francisco Chronicle.*

As the world turned its attention to Tuesday's match between the U.S. and Iran at the World Cup in Qatar, not everyone watching was focused on soccer. With the U.S. team temporarily posting an image of the Iranian flag without the country's official "Allah" emblem on social media and the Iranian team refusing to sing its country's national anthem during its opening match, many watched with a close political eye. Whatever the players decide to do for the rest of the tournament, the politicking at World Cup goes far beyond the teams themselves. Nowhere is that clearer than how Western media, particularly western European media, are covering the tournament. Read full article here.

Talk of 'Christian nationalism' is getting a lot louder – but what does the term really mean? Eric McDaniel. *The Conversation.*

According to a May 2022 poll from the University of Maryland, 61% of Republicans favor declaring the United States a Christian nation – even though 57% recognized that it would be unconstitutional. Meanwhile, 31% of all Americans and 49% of Republicans believe "God intended America to be a new promised land where European Christians could create a society that would be an example for the rest of the world," a recent survey from the Public Religion Research Institute found. Read full article here.

How the 'war on terror' obscures America's alliance with right-wing Islam. Nazia Kazi. *Middle East Eye.*

There's an oft-repeated refrain by Muslim American multiculturalists: "Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country." You'll hear it at conventions and panel discussions or read it in pamphlets that remind American audiences that Muslims are not just Arab or South Asian, that the global Muslim population is vast and varied. Yet, there's a provocative tale buried here, in the history of this most-populous Muslim nation, and it gets lost in platitudes about the diversity of the Muslim world. Read full article here.

Why Islamophobia in Europe is getting worse. Farid Hafez. *EU Observer.*

History was made back in March, when the United Nations unanimously declared the 15th to be an annual International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The resolution was accepted by every single member of the UN — although not without discussion. It was no surprise that India, where experts warn of an impending 'genocide' of Muslims, uttered criticism, but it should not pass unnoticed that two European speakers joined in the chorus: both the representation of France and the representative of the European Union (as an observer) expressed criticism of the resolution. Read full article here.

Confronting Liberal Islamophobia. Sahar Aziz. *American Constitution Society.*

Islamophobia, like other systems of bias, operates in both liberal and conservative spaces in American society, albeit in different ways. Islamophobia by conservatives is easily identifiable through hateful speech, hate crimes and support for state national security and immigration practices targeting Muslims. The absence of such observable factors in liberal circles, however, does not make Islamophobia any less of a problem. To the contrary, the stealth of liberal Islamophobia arguably makes it more insidious. Read full article here.

The Edison bulldozer scandal is a wake-up call for people to learn about Hindutva hate. Audrey Truschke. *NJ.com.*

A bulldozer — celebrating far-right Hindu nationalist violence against Muslims — drove through the streets of Edison, last month at an Indian Independence Day parade. Many New Jersey politicians were present and claim to have been unaware of the bulldozer's appalling symbolism of praising, even encouraging, the violent oppression of Indian religious minorities. The backlash is continuing to grow, including calls for the organizers to be held accountable (they have since apologized) and for more people to learn about Hindutva hate. Read full article 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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