Student Orientation - Fall 2020

MA Program in Social Justice and Human Rights

Dr. Tricia Redeker Hepner,
MA SJHR Director
August 19, 2020
ASU Charter

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.
Agenda

- Welcome to ASU and SJHR!
- Who We Are, What We Do
- The Program
- New Initiatives
- Special Events
- Meet the Faculty and Students
- Q&A
Who We Are, What We Do

• SJHR: Needed Now More Than Ever!

• Communities of/in Solidarity

• Research, Praxis, Ethics
The MA SJHR Program

- The iPOS
- Faculty Advisers and Committees
- Program Structure (Tracks)
- Course Checklist/Sequence
- Internships/Study Abroad
- Culminating Experience (Applied Project/Thesis)
The MA SJHR Program

- Each student is encouraged to set up a meeting with the Director!
- Most important link for the next 2 years:
The MA SJHR Program

- Anticipating flexibility during COVID
  - Virtual options for internships
  - Course adaptations
  - Events
New Initiatives

- 'Justice Briefings'
  - Monthly brown bags
  - Faculty and Students
  - Sign up on Google calendar
  - Not required (yet!) but highly encouraged!
New Initiatives

- SJHR Graduate Mentors
  - Second year students in good standing
  - Voluntary peer-mentoring
  - Community building
  - Professional development
New Initiatives

- Global Human Rights Hub
  - GHR Graduate Fellows Application
  - Blogging on human rights issues
  - Networking, mentorship, experience
New Initiatives

- SJHR Newsletters (bi-annually)
- Coming soon:
  - E-blasts (bi-weekly)
  - Social media (Twitter, Facebook)

Spotlighting faculty and students!
Special Events

- Internship Workshop
  - September 23, 12:30 – 2:00 PM (Zoom)

- Racial Justice Series
  - Townhall: September 30, 1:00 – 2:00 PM
  - Community Roundtable: November 18, TBA
Special Events

- Bring Your Ideas!! It's Your Program!!
  - Film viewing parties and discussion?
  - Invited Speakers?
  - SJHR Socials and Community Events?
Meet the Faculty

**SJHR Program**

**Dr. Duku Anokye**
Associate Professor of African Language Literature and Culture
Collaborates with SJHR in providing internships on human trafficking and asylum-seeking refugees (JHR 584).
Research focus on African Diaspora orality and literary practices, folklore, discourse analysis and oral history.
Fun fact—Is entering 48th year of teaching at the University level.

**Dr. Natasha Behl**
Associate Professor of Political Science
Teaches JHR 525: Feminist Action Research, JHR 591: Navigating Academia as a Raced and Gendered Space.
Research focuses on gender and race in liberal democracies.

**Dr. Allan Colbern**
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Teaches JHR 500 (ground and online) and JHR 525 (online)
Studies focus on American Politics, Citizenship, Federalism, Immigration and Civil Rights.
Fun fact—Recently had a son born 4/18/20 and enjoys running trail races ranging from 50-100 miles.
Meet the Faculty

SJHR Program

Dr. Audrey Comstock
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Teaches JHR 100: Intro to SJHR, JHR 200: Human Rights Data, JHR 598: International Law & Organizations
Research interests include International Law, the UN, Human Rights, Peacekeeping, and LBGTQ+ Rights.
Fun fact—studying abroad in China was a life changer!

Dr. Malay Firoz
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Teaches JHR 598: Migration, Asylum, Refugees
Research focuses on the politics of "resilience based" approaches to humanitarian aid and explores the intersections between humanitarianism, ethics and forced migration in the Middle East.
Fun fact—is a photographer and major tech enthusiast!

Dr. Kendall Funk
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Studies the causes and consequences of women's political representation, with an emphasis on representation in Latin America.
Fun fact—is a first-generation college graduate!
Meet the Faculty

SJHR Program

Dr. Nisa Goksel
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Teaches JHR 525: Action Research (Spring 2021, o-program).
Specializes in gender and sexuality, feminist and women’s movements in the Middle East, war, violence and peace-making, migration, displacement and diaspora studies.
Fun fact—has visited coffee shops in Istanbul where one’s fortune is read from a coffee cup.

Dr. Jide James-Eluyode
Faculty Associate
Teaches JHR 510: Problem-Based Seminar and JHR 506: Grant Writing
Studies focus on human rights, indigenous peoples' rights and development issues.
Fun fact—enjoys music, traveling and playing and watching basketball and soccer.

Dr. Julie Murphy-Erfani
Associate Professor of Political Science
Teaches JHR 510: Problem-Based Seminar, JHR 584 Asylum Italy/and Greece internship, JHR 598: Global Justice.
Most recent work combines non-binary thought with applied work and action to enhance the agency of asylum seekers.
Fun fact—has directed about 30 SJHR MA students who have engaged directly with asylum seekers from across the globe.
Meet the Faculty

SJHR Program

**Dr. Majia Nadesan**
Professor of Communication Studies
Studies biopolitics (politics of the governance of life), risk/crisis, power and dis/ability.
Fun fact—has her own blog: [http://majiasblog.blogspot.com/](http://majiasblog.blogspot.com/)

**Dr. Tricia Redeker-Hepner**
Associate Professor of Anthropology and MA SJHR Director
Teaches JHR 525: Action Research,(Spring 2021)
Research focus on Northeast Africa/Great Lakes, refugees/asylum, human rights, transitional justice, anthropology of forensic interventions, militarism, and conflict/peace.
Fun fact—dreams of becoming a motorcycle mechanic.

**Dr. Amit Ron**
Associate Professor of Political Science
Research focus in political theory, democratic theory, political economy, ethics, transnational democracy.
Fun fact—During the first Gulf War, was the Israeli liaison in command of an American patriot GA missile unit that shut down the first Iraqi missile that targeted Israel.
Meet the Faculty

Dr. Emily Springer
Postdoctoral Scholar in Sociology
Teaches JHR 500: Research Methods.
Research involves complex organizations, international development, quantification, gender and intersectionality, disruptive technologies.
Fun fact—is a Microsoft certified professional and has worked as a software consultant.

Dr. Heather Smith-Cannoy
Associate Professor of Political Science
Work focuses on human rights and international law, with a focus in sex trafficking, women and children's rights, International Criminal Court and statelessness.
Fun fact—is an over-the-top lover of dogs!

Dr. Julia Sarreal
Associate Professor of History & Latin American Studies
Teaches JHR 441: Latin America & the World Economy.
Research focus in socioeconomics, using quantitative and qualitative analysis that takes a new approach to ethnohistory.
Fun fact—was born in Panama.

Meet the Faculty
SJHR Program
Meet the Faculty

Dr. Eric Swank
Associate Professor of Practice
Teaches Race and Sexuality in Social Justice Movements.
Research focuses on hierarchies, discrimination and agency, with a focus in minority stress, sexual prejudice, and participation in queer, antiracist and feminist movements.
Fun fact—Runs "NCUIRE" the New College program that fosters undergraduate research.

Dr. Shawn Walker
Assistant Professor of Critical Data Studies and Information Science
Research focuses on social media and social movements.
Serves on several SJHR student committees.
Fun Fact—has a deaf and blind dog and together form a certified dog therapy team.

...And Many Others!
Faculty throughout SSBS and New College offer courses that can count for JHR credit.

Their expertise and networks can enhance your training, research and applied work!

Faculty serve as advisers, mentors, and committee members for theses and applied projects.

Please check the Advising Page of the MA SJHR website for updated information about faculty and course offerings. Reach out – faculty are here for you!
SJHR Graduate Services Assistant - Ella Burrus

- BA in Political Science and Minor in Communications May 2017
- First semester MA SJHR Spring 2018
- Proud Barrett Alumni
- Faithful student of West campus
- Contact info: ella.burrus@asu.edu
Student Introductions

- Current/Returning Students
- New Students

Tell us your name, where you're from, and what you are passionate about!