We have some exciting events for our students this semester and a new face in the hall to introduce. If you've considered majoring in social justice and human rights, there has never been a better time to start thinking about these issues and working to create change. Please drop by our spring events.

Welcome our new Post-Doctoral Scholar, Dr. Emily Springer

SJHR is thrilled to introduce our new post-doctoral scholar, Dr. Emily Springer. Dr. Springer earned her PhD in 2019 from the University of Minnesota.

Her research is about how international development organizations in the 21st century are under increased pressure to "demonstrate results" per donor requirements—often taking the form of quantified metrics. While these efforts are well-intentioned attempts to document which programming effectively alleviates global poverty, they produce unintended consequences. Using an evaluation system that is standardized in 20 countries around the world and meant, in part, to document women's empowerment, her research in both an East African country and the donor country, demonstrates that quantified metrics successfully cultivate the attention of development professionals away from programmatic work and toward reaching bureaucratic targets. This raises ethical questions about the purpose, meaning, and sustainability of any "developmental results" achieved through the development sector. Further, her research highlights how social processes, like women's empowerment, are difficult to quantify, thus difficult to demonstrate results, and risky for organizations to invest in. These processes, arguably those that undergird meaningful social change, stand to lose in a knowledge-production regime only interested in quantitative ways of knowing.

Look for Dr. Springer's Sociology class being offered in the fall of 2020-- SOC 334: Technology and Society. This class is all about the intersection between technology and global inequality. In the spring of 2021, she'll also be teaching SOC 334 and SBS 302: Qualitative Methods.

Internship Opportunities to Support Refugees, Women & LGBT Youth

On Wednesday 2/26 from 12-1 in UCB 240, SJHR will host a dialogue with volunteer organizations in the valley. Come meet representatives from local area social justice and human rights organizations including the International Rescue Committee, the Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, and One-n-Ten (LGBTQ support group for ages 14-24). Representatives will discuss volunteer and internship opportunities. Lunch will be served.

Getting a Job in SJHR

On Wednesday 4/1 from 12-1 in UCB 240, SJHR is excited to partner with Career and Professional Development Services with a presentation tailored for interning and hiring in the fields of Social Justice and Human Rights. Come learn about what it takes to get the job you really want. Lunch will be served.
After SJHR students take JHR 100: Introduction to Social Justice and Human Rights, they should take JHR 305: Theory and Practice of Social Justice and Human Rights. This semester, Dr. Heather Smith-Cannoy is teaching JHR 305. Dr. Smith-Cannoy explains, “I love teaching this course because I ask students to select a topic on social justice or human rights that they are passionate about and interview organizations working on that topic. I have learned so much from my students as they complete this semester-long research project. Often, students go on to volunteer, intern or work for the organizations that they interview for this assignment. Some of my students have gone on to work for the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), Mercy Corps, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Amnesty International, to name just a few. In the coming weeks in our class we’ll be working on the rights violations associated with human trafficking and we’ll read about the on-going genocide in Myanmar.”

**Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Natasha Behl**

Natasha Behl is assistant professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. Her work explains why the promise of democratic equality remains unrealized, and identifies potential ways to create more egalitarian relations in liberal democracies and the discipline of political science. She uses interpretive and feminist methods to examine what are often assumed to be neutral concepts, objective methodologies, and universal institutions, and demonstrate that these very concepts, methodologies, and institutions are gendered and raced such that they determine who enjoys democratic inclusion, who commands academic authority, and who is most vulnerable to violence. Dr. Behl’s book, Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Gendered Violence in Democratic India, is published with Oxford University Press. Her research is also published in Feminist Formations, Space & Polity, Politics, Groups, and Identities, Journal of Narrative Politics, and Journal of Punjab Studies. In 2018, she was awarded the Outstanding Teaching Award at ASU where she teaches Global Feminisms, Feminist Action Research, Navigating Academia, Comparative Politics, Politics of India, and Everyday Forms of Political Resistance.