



Program Handbook

MA in Social Justice & Human Rights

2021-2022

Updated September 2021

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Letter from the Director

Welcome to the MA program in Social Justice and Human Rights (MA SJHR)! It has never been a more important time to study and engage with these urgent issues at home and abroad. As a graduate student in the program, you are embarking on a remarkable journey characterized by intellectual, professional and personal development. Each of you brings valuable knowledge, experience, and perspectives to the table. We strive to create a supportive environment where all are welcomed and valued as members of our academic and social community.

From labor and migration to education and the environment, MA SJHR students explore key topics and the legal, political, historical, and cultural frameworks that contextualize them. In theoretically and methodologically rigorous courses taught by experienced faculty from various disciplines, students develop understanding of how social justice and human rights issues are defined by multiple and intersecting forms of inequality and social identity, including gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nationality.

One hallmark of the program is a required internship that may be completed domestically or internationally. Interns typically work alongside other researchers and advocates for social justice to grasp the complexities facing people such as refugees, migrants, workers, and survivors of violence or human trafficking and hone their abilities to work effectively with them in research and/or advocacy contexts. Internships typically form the basis of the Culminating Experience: a traditional MA thesis or an applied project.

There are currently three tracks from which students can select. The research track prepares students for positions as researchers, analysts and advocates in academic or applied settings. The advocacy track prepares students to be leaders in nonprofit, social movement, governmental and intergovernmental organizations. The critical trauma studies and social work track prepares students for careers involving direct humanitarian assistance to victims and survivors of human rights violations or social injustice. Graduates are also prepared to enter PhD programs.

As Director, my role is to continually improve the quality and relevance of the MA SJHR program. I aim to support students in their academic training, help connect them with faculty whose courses and expertise align with their interests and goals, foster faculty-student mentorship, and expand opportunities for meaningful, career-shaping experiences. Please feel free to reach out to me, stop by my office hours, or make an appointment. I am here for you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tricia Redeker Hepner
Director, MA Social Justice & Human Rights
Tricia.M.Redeker-Hepner@asu.edu

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

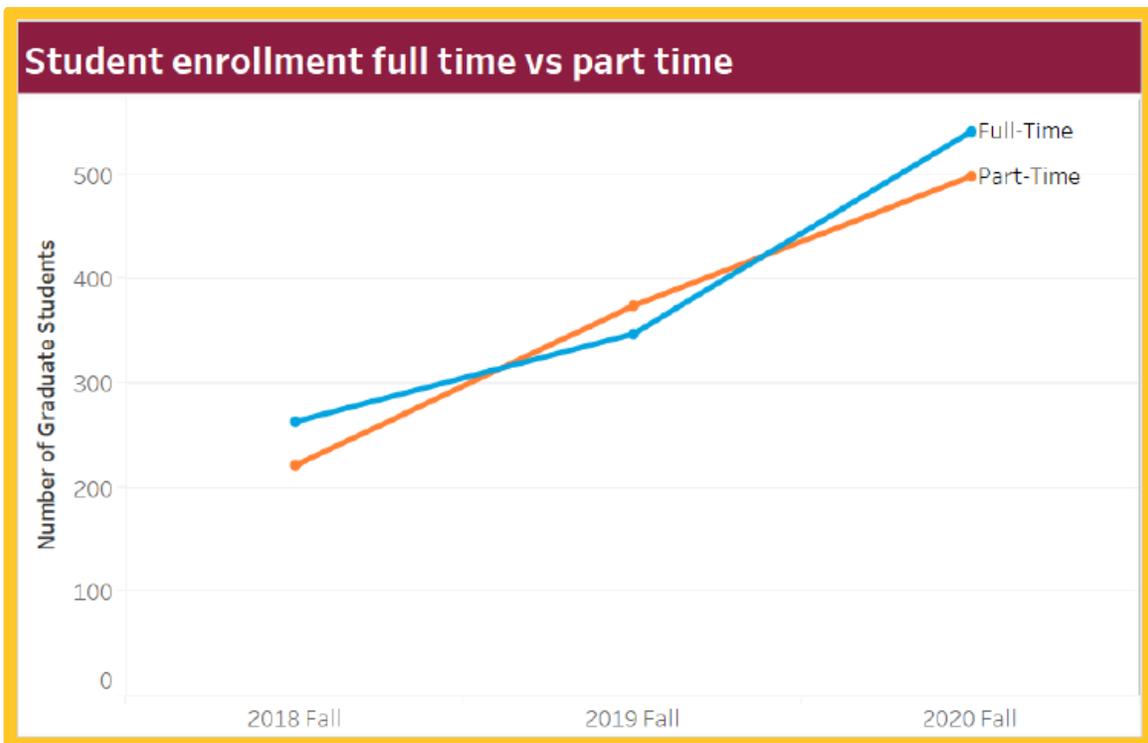
Statement

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences supports all forms of equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to foster a sense of belonging for all its students, staff and faculty. Diversity and inclusion at New College encompass gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity and also socioeconomic background, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability status, veteran status, nationality, linguistic background and intellectual perspective. Our unit and the University are deeply committed to building excellence, enhancing access, and having an impact on our communities, state, nation, and the world. This is actualized by our faculty and staff who reflect the intellectual, ethnic, and cultural diversity of our nation and world to ensure that our students learn from the broadest perspectives, and are engaged in the advancement of knowledge with the most inclusive understanding possible of the issues that are addressed through our scholarly activities.

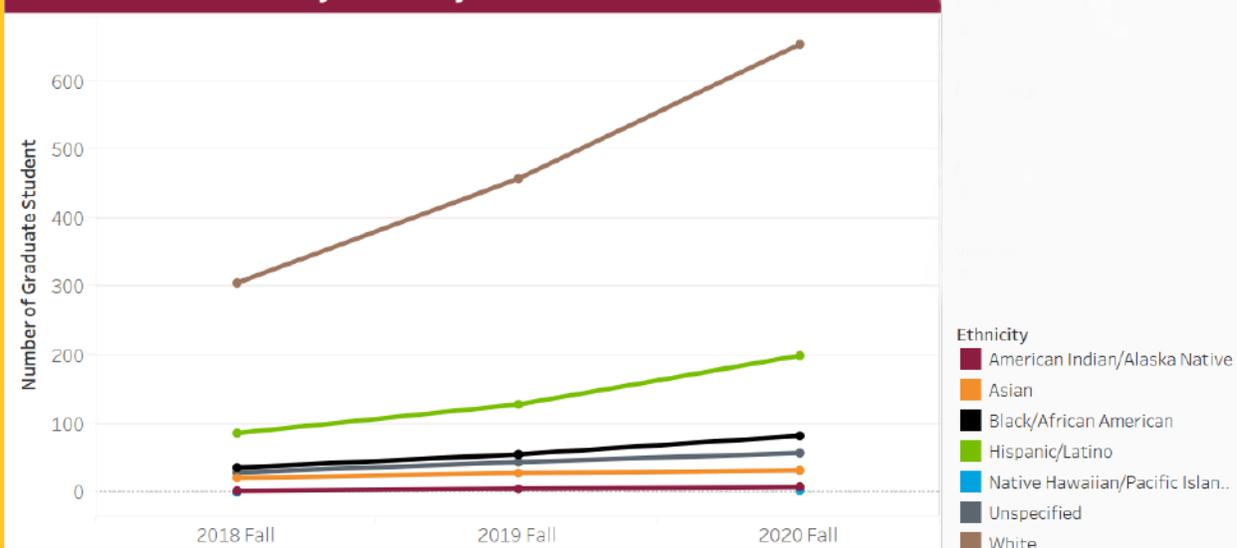
Resources: Find more information at [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#); [Center for the Study of Race and Democracy](#)

Student Body

The below demographics represent the New College campus/ground and digital/online immersion graduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year as of July 1, 2021.



Student enrollment by ethnicity



Gender over time enrollment



[Current Student Profiles, Alumni and Careers](#)

Get Involved

[Student Organizations](#)

Admissions

Admission to the MA program is offered in Spring and Fall Semester. The program uses a rolling admission deadline. Please refer to the [Graduate Degree Search website](#) for up to date admissions deadlines.

Tuition Costs and Financial Aid

Tuition

Tuition is set by ASU and the Arizona Board of Regents every year. You can see the general tuition and fees chart by [clicking here](#), or calculate your specific tuition costs by visiting [ASU's tuition calculator](#). Through the [Western Regional Graduate Program](#), out-of-state residents from participating states may be eligible to pay only in-state tuition rates.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available through several different sources:

- 1) **[Graduate College Fellowship](#)**: This is a need-based award to support new and continuing masters and doctoral students with financial need as determined by information taken from the FAFSA. The GCF is intended to support in recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate students at Arizona State University. Students may receive this award for a maximum of four semesters throughout their degree study. Students must be nominated by their academic unit.
- 2) **[Merit Scholarship](#)**: Depending on program funds, a small number of \$2,000 merit scholarships may be available. Applicants are automatically considered for this scholarship and do not need to apply for it. Students who receive the scholarships are notified before the beginning of their first semester.
- 3) **Course Assistant Positions**: The primary way that our students are funded is through Course Assistant (CA) positions. These positions typically assist with undergraduate courses that are offered online, and with some graduate courses in MASJHR online program. Courses are either half-semester (7.5 weeks) or full semester (15 weeks), and CAs are paid a stipend for each course. Positions are advertised as they come available.
- 4) **Traditional Financial Aid (Loans & Grants)**: For information on general financial aid products, please visit [ASU's Financial Aid office \(https://students.asu.edu/financialaid\)](https://students.asu.edu/financialaid)
- 5) **Research Assistant Funding**: On occasion, faculty may have funds that could be used to hire masters-level students to be research workers. These would typically be advanced (second-year) students who are involved in grant-funded projects.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students admitted to the SJHR program will develop an informed intellectual framework for comprehending the complexities of local/global change, as well as hone their skills in research and methodology and/or working within advocacy organizations. When the student enters the SJHR program, s/he will begin working with a faculty adviser to determine a course of study specific to her/his long-term interests in graduate school, law school, administration, government, or the voluntary sector.

Graduates of the program will be expected to meet the following learning outcomes:

- Conduct original research on a topic related to social justice and human rights.
- Apply theoretical and practical material from SJHR courses through an internship with an agency or organization associated with issues of social justice and human rights.
- Critically evaluate classical and contemporary theories of social justice and human rights.
- Evaluate violations of social justice and human rights through case studies and legal analysis from local, national, and international perspectives.
- Evaluate institutional settings, policies, and procedures from the perspectives of social justice and human rights.
- Understand the development and function of social movements and organizations, as well as how they impact and are impacted by society, culture, politics, and law.
- Apply domestic and international human rights remedies to human rights abuses locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate, evaluate, and synthesize primary and secondary sources in social justice and human rights literature.

Unique Features of the Program

This program is based on an innovative learner-centered curriculum that emphasizes problem-based and community-embedded seminars, as well as professional internships. Three distinct features of this program include:

Innovative, Learner-Centered Curriculum: Students will benefit from an innovative curriculum focused on grounding interdisciplinary academic perspectives in community-based issues. Our curriculum not only brings university expertise to real-world community problems, but it also fosters engaged interdisciplinary research among faculty and graduate students united by a common concern.

Problem-Based and Action Research Seminars: An integral part of our curriculum is interdisciplinary seminars that examine current problems in social justice from several different theoretical and analytical viewpoints. For example, problem-based seminars devote the entire seminar to pressing social justice and human rights issues locally and transnationally. These courses are taught by faculty who address the issue from their area of expertise (social movements, international law, activism, etc.). Action research seminars require students to engage directly with an organization or agency working on SJHR issues, allowing them to ground their academic knowledge in concrete contexts, and provide advance preparation for internships and the culminating experience.

Grant Writing and Development for Social Justice: Due to the present indispensability of these skills for both researchers and those employed in NGOs, all students in this program are required to successfully complete a course in grant writing and development, usually in their second year. By taking this course in their second year, students prepare with the requisite research and/or management skills to write successful proposals.

Advising

Faculty Advising

Upon admission, each student in the MA SJHR program is assigned an interim faculty adviser. The interim faculty adviser helps the student begin identifying their goals, assists in finding courses in line with their interests, and helps connect the student with resources and other faculty members as they acclimate to the program.

As students progress through the program, they may identify a different faculty member to advise their culminating experience (Thesis or Applied Project), or they may elect to continue working with their interim faculty advisor. The advisor listed on the student's Plan of Study (iPOS) is called the Faculty Supervisor.

As students approach degree completion, they will choose 1-2 other faculty members in addition to their Faculty Supervisor. Each culminating experience (Thesis or Applied Project) requires students to work with faculty members whose areas of expertise address students' specific interests and ambitions. The rapport that develops from such connections becomes especially important to students seeking letters of recommendation for post-graduate employment or further study at the doctoral level.

Beginning in their first semester, and with the help of their interim faculty advisor, students should begin identifying other faculty members whose research interests intersect with their own. Students should also consult with one another and the Program Director concerning research interests and possible Faculty Supervisors.

The most effective way of gaining a sense for whether a faculty member would make a good supervisor is to take their course. But even students who have not taken the course of a potential Faculty Supervisor should take steps to meet with that faculty member in order to discuss areas of shared interest and, possibly, the faculty member's availability for mentoring. Students are encouraged to be proactive in reaching out to faculty and meeting regularly with their interim faculty advisor and/or Faculty Supervisor.

Whenever students develop concerns over anything relating to their progress toward the M.A., they should contact the Program Director to arrange an appointment.

Staff Advising

The New College Graduate Staff Advisor, also known as the Academic Success Coordinator, provides general advising designed to direct the student to courses and faculty who could best meet their academic and professional interests. The Graduate Staff Advisor is available to assist students in the development and completion of the Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS). For Graduate Staff Advisor questions call 602-543-3000 or email NCGradAdvising@asu.edu. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://advising.newcollege.asu.edu>.

Student Orientation and Engagement

New and returning MASJHR students and faculty are encouraged to attend the annual orientation events occurring in fall and spring. These are important opportunities for students to meet faculty and connect with one another, as well as learn about any program changes and plans for the year ahead.

The MASJHR program also holds a series of regular and special events throughout the year, including monthly Justice Briefings, where students, faculty, alumni, and invited guests may share their research or advocacy.

Students in the MASJHR Program will be automatically enrolled in both the program listserv (to receive program-wide messages only) and the Student Engagement site on Canvas. The Student Engagement Canvas site offers continually updated program-specific materials useful to new and returning students, as well as announcements and updates, links to faculty profiles, information about program features, special opportunities, archives of past events, and more.

Students may use the Canvas Student Engagement site to connect more easily with one another and to keep up to date with program information and developments.

Academic Requirements

Degree Requirements

The MA in Social Justice & Human Rights consists of 33 credit hours of graduate level (500-level or above) credit hours. Please review the ASU Office of Graduate College at <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines/policy-manuals> regarding Pre-Admission Credit. All such courses must be cleared by the Program Director. The program requirements include:

Required Core (12 Credits)

- JHR 501: Pro-Seminar
- JHR 506: Grant Writing
- JHR 510: Problem Based Seminar
- JHR 525: Action Research

Elective Coursework (3 – 6 hours)

- 3 hours for Thesis students
- 6 hours for Applied Project students

Research (3 hours)

- JHR 500: Research

Other Requirements (9 hours):

- Internship (3)
- Career Oriented Track (6 hours)
 - Advocacy
 - Research
 - Critical Trauma Studies and Social Work

Culminating Experience (3-6 hours)

- JHR 593: Applied Project (3 hours)
or
- JHR 599: Thesis (6 hours)

If a student in the Advocacy or Critical Trauma Studies track wishes to do 6 credits of internship (e.g., Human Trafficking Ghana), they would need to use one internship course as their sole elective and would do an applied project rather than thesis to stay within the 33 credits for the degree. The same type student opting for a thesis would end up doing 36 credits if he/she takes two internships.

All work towards a master's degree must be completed within six consecutive years.

Course Descriptions

JHR 500: Research Methods (3 credits). Explores the specific issues of research design that occur in answering questions related to violations of social justice and human rights. Develops skills in locating, evaluating, and synthesizing primary and secondary sources. Addresses ethical implications of student research area(s).

JHR 501: Pro-seminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3 credits). Explores classical and contemporary theories of social justice and human rights with emphasis on criteria for identifying violations with local, national, and international contexts. Applies theories to current issues of social justice and human rights with specific reference to both governmental and non-governmental organizations.

JHR 506: Grant Writing and Development for Social Justice and Human Rights (3 credits). Examines all major aspects of the grant writing process, including identifying needs and goals, locating funding sources, writing letters of inquiry, developing proposals, submitting proposals, evaluating proposals, and negotiating the politics of fundraising. Students draft proposals related to their field of interest.

JHR 510: Problem-Based Seminar in Social Justice and Human Rights (3 credits). An interdisciplinary seminar that examines current problems in social justice and human rights from several different theoretical and analytical viewpoints.

JHR 525: Action Research in Social Justice and Human Rights (3 credits). Advanced seminar in uniting engaged, community-embedded research with interpretive analysis. Gives students experience in the practice of engaged fieldwork as well as the writing it generates.

JHR 584: Internship (3 credits). Structured practical experience following a contract or plan, supervised by faculty and practitioners. The Social Justice & Human Rights Program hosts an international internship opportunity on human trafficking in Ghana in the Fall semester (This course is dependent on availability, travel restrictions, and scheduling needs). Students may earn a maximum of 6 hours of internship credit.

- If you are interested in traveling abroad for your internship such as the JHR 584 Human Trafficking (Ghana) course, please review the below steps:
 - Contact the [Study Abroad Office](#) and complete the application – be aware of deadlines for study abroad application
 - Contact the instructor of the course with your intent to enroll and receive further information
 - Once a domestic organization has agreed to provide an internship that fulfills the required number of internship hours BEFORE travel, download and complete the [Graduate Studies Internship Packet](#) and Student Placement Agreement (SPA). The SPA will only be required if a current one does not exist on file with the Dean of New College. You can email graduate academic advising to learn if your organization will require a SPA. If the SPA will be required, the document will be provided to you by the graduate academic advisor via email.
 - Email the completed Graduate Studies Packet (and SPA if needed) to NCGradAdvising@asu.edu at least one month before the course begins to receive a course permission override to enroll in the class.
 - Once the override is in place, the graduate academic advisor will email you with the JHR 584 Class line number to use to register for the course.
- If you are interested in finding your own internship, please review and complete the [Graduate Studies Internship Packet](#) found on the [Social Justice & Human Rights website](#) and contact the Graduate Academic Success Coordinator, also known as the Graduate Staff Advisor, at ncgradadvising@asu.edu regarding next steps.
- For Assessment, we do require the student's Faculty Supervisor of the Internship to submit the student's Internship Final Report (Journal) (in digital copy form) to the Graduate Academic Success Coordinator in Graduate Studies **before the Faculty Supervisor of the Internship submits a final grade. Submit to:** (ncgradadvising@asu.edu).

Track Options

The structure of the MA SJHR campus immersion program includes three tracks: Research, Advocacy, and Critical Trauma Studies/Social Work. Students choose their track upon application, but may change it at any point in their program of study. Most students who choose the Research track are aiming for doctoral programs or research-intensive careers, and likely choose the Thesis option for their Culminating Experience. Students in the Advocacy track tend to emphasize applied career goals, such as with non-profit agencies or government, and typically choose the Applied Project for their Culminating Experience. Critical Trauma Studies Prepares students for positions working with survivors of trauma through counseling, social work, trauma interventions, refugee and migrant resettlement, health care, and legal assistance. Critical Trauma Studies students may represent either research or applied orientations. Students in all three tracks take the same required/core courses. Faculty advisers should help students identify

which track, courses, and Culminating Experience are most appropriate for their goals and interests.

Research Track. Courses for the Research Track may be selected from any relevant graduate level course that is approved by a student's committee chair and the SJHR Director. Students often select from Track courses and are not limited to these prefixes; however, students often select from JHR, CMN, LAW, SWG, and NLM courses.

JHR 584: Internship (3 credits)**

JHR 590: Reading and Conference (3 Credits)*

JHR 592: Research (3 Credits)*

* A maximum of 3 credit hours of either 590 OR 592 may be included toward the Research Track.

** If a student takes a second JHR 584 that is formally, collectively established (such as Human Trafficking Ghana) as a study abroad course, then it may count toward the track. Individually conducted internships will not count as a track requirement.

Advocacy Track. Courses for the Advocacy Track are selected from the list below, or others as approved by the SJHR Director.* Students often select from track courses and are not limited to these prefixes; however, students often select from JHR, CMN, LAW, SWG and NLM courses. See Approval Process to take courses outside of the program.

JHR 584: Internship (3 credits)**

JHR 598: Topic: Critical Trauma Studies (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Global Feminisms (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Global Justice (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Immigration and Human Rights (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Social Inequality (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Everyday Forms of Political Resistance

JHR 598: Topic: Hate Speech, Manifestos, & Radical Writings (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Ethnic Women Writers (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Advanced Video Production (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Rhetoric of Social Issues (3 credits)

JHR 598: Topic: Gender on the Borderlands

CMN 531: Communication and Social Change (3 credits)

CMN 570: Communication and Advocacy in Social Context (3 credits)

LAW 709: International Human Rights (3 credits)

NLM 520: Financial and Resources Management (3 credits)

NLM 530: Program Evaluation and Information Management (3 credits)

NLM 545: Volunteer Resource Management (3 credits)

* Individualized JHR courses (e.g., 580, 590, 592), can't apply as Advocacy Track Requirements, but may count as Elective credits.

** If a student takes a second JHR 584 that is a formally established (not individualized) study abroad course (examples: Asylum Seekers Italy, Human Trafficking Ghana) then it may count toward the track. Individually conducted internships will not count as a track requirement.

Critical Trauma Studies and Social Work Track. Courses for the Critical Trauma Studies and Social Work Track are selected from the list below, or others as approved by the SJHR Director.* Students often select from track courses and are not limited to these prefixes; however, students often select from JHR, CMN, LAW, SWG and NLM courses. See Approval Process to take courses outside of the program.

JHR 584: Internship (3 credits)**
JHR 598: Topic: Critical Trauma Studies (3 credits)
JHR 598: Topic: Global Justice (3 credits)
JHR 598: Topic: Spirituality and Social Justice
JHR 598: Topic: Immigration and Human Rights (3 credits)
JHR 598: Topic: Social Inequality (3 credits)
JHR 598: Topic: Social Justice and the City (3 credits)
JHR 598: Topic: Forgiveness, Mindfulness, and the Healthy Self
SWG 533: Topic: Diversity and Oppression in a Social Work Context (3 credits)
SWG 577: Topic: Traumatic Death: Theory, Counseling and Practice (3 credits)
SWG 626: Topic: Crisis Intervention and Short-Term Treatment (3 credits)
SWG 591: Topic: War and Disaster (3 credits)
SWG 561: Topic: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues (3 credits)
SWG 618: Topic: Advanced Practice in Domestic Violence (3 credits)
SWG 654: Topic: Introduction to Sexual Abuse (3 credits)
SWG 562: Topic: Global Social Welfare (3 credits)
SWG 556: Topic: Immigrants and Refugees (3 credits)
SWG 591: Topic: Multicultural Perspectives on Community Dev (3 credits)

* Individualized JHR courses (e.g., 580, 590, 592), can't apply as Critical Trauma and Social Work Track Requirements, but may count as Elective credits.

** If a student takes a second JHR 584 that is a formally, collectively established study abroad course (examples: Asylum Seekers Italy, Human Trafficking Ghana), then it may count toward the track. Individually conducted internships will not serve as track requirements.

Approval for Credit Taken Outside the Program

Before taking courses outside the program please confer with the Director of MASJHR to determine if the course is appropriate for inclusion on your iPOS. This will involve sharing the following with the Director of MASJHR:

- a brief description of why the course is relevant to your iPOS
- the course prefix and number
- the course title
- the course catalog description

In instances where this information is not substantial enough to make a determination regarding the course, you may be asked to solicit and provide a sample syllabus from the course. Once the Director of MASJHR has approved the course you may enroll and include it on your iPOS.

Plan of Study

The Interactive Plan of Study (iPOS) functions as an agreement between the student, the academic unit and the Graduate College. The iPOS contains certain requirements such as coursework, a committee and a culminating experience which must be included before it can be approved.

To facilitate program completion and shorten time to complete the program, graduate students are encouraged to complete their iPOS in their **first semester**. Students who have not completed their iPOS by the time they have enrolled for 50 percent of the minimum credit hours required for their degree program will receive a registration hold. No student will be allowed to register for the culminating experience without an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file.

Within the iPOS, the specific courses that will count toward the student's degree must be approved by the Faculty Supervisor and the Program Director.

If a student needs help with filing the iPOS, the student can contact the Faculty Supervisor or the Staff Advisor and / or [download the iPOS training manual](#). After the student submits the initial iPOS, the Faculty Supervisor and Program Director will approve it. The student can track the approval process online through the student's My ASU account.

When the Faculty Supervisor and Program Director review the iPOS, we will look to see that the student has met the program requirements described above. In addition, we will check to make sure that the student is in compliance with the following additional rules below:

- The student must be enrolled in at least one credit during each Fall/Spring semester after admission (see [ASU Graduate College Continuous Enrollment Policy](#), pages 8-9)
- Either 6 credit hours of JHR 599 or 3 credit hours of JHR 593 must be included on your iPOS
 - If a student is completing JHR 593 Applied Project, the student must have one committee chair (or two co-chairs) and one committee member. The committee chair is usually the same as the faculty adviser.
 - If a student is completing JHR 599 Thesis, the student must have one committee chair (or two co-chairs) and two committee members. The committee chair is usually the same as the faculty adviser.

All courses that appear on the iPOS are applied toward the student's MA degree and are ineligible to be applied toward a future graduate degree. As such, we recommend listing only the 36 credits required for the MA degree on the iPOS.

Sample MA Social Justice & Human Rights Plan of Study

Admit Term Fall 2017 or Later

Full-time MASJHR student with thesis option

First Semester (Fall)	Second Semester (Spring)	Third Semester (Fall)	Fourth Semester (Spring)
Track JHR 501: Proseminar JHR 510: P-B Seminar	Track JHR 500: Research JHR 525: Action Research	JHR 584: Internship JHR 506: Grant Writing Track	JHR 599: Thesis

Full-time MASJHR student with applied project option

First Semester (Fall)	Second Semester (Spring)	Third Semester (Fall)	Fourth Semester (Spring)
Track JHR 501: Proseminar JHR 510: P-B Seminar	Track JHR 500: Research JHR 525: Action Research	JHR 584: Internship JHR 506: Grant Writing Track	Elective JHR 593: Applied Proj.

Part-time MASJHR student with thesis option

First Semester (Fall)	Second Semester (Spring)	Third Semester (Fall)	Fourth Semester (Spring)
JHR 501: Proseminar JHR 510: P-B Seminar	JHR 500: Research JHR 525: Action Research	JHR 584: Internship JHR 506: Grant Writing	Track Track
Fifth Semester (Spring)			
Track JHR 599: Thesis			

Part-time MASJHR student with applied project option

First Semester (Fall)	Second Semester (Spring)	Third Semester (Fall)	Fourth Semester (Spring)
JHR 501: Proseminar JHR 510: P-B Seminar	JHR 500: Research JHR 525: Action Research	JHR 584: Internship JHR 506: Grant Writing	Track Track
Fifth Semester (Fall)			
Track Elective JHR 593: Applied Project			

Culminating Experience

All students will be required to successfully complete either JHR 593 Applied Project (3 hours) or JHR 599 Thesis (6 hours).

Students must choose between the Applied Project or the Thesis for their Culminating Experience. There is no required relationship between tracks and Culminating Experiences, but students should make a decision on their Culminating Experience early on in their graduate training, in consultation with their faculty advisor and/or the Program Director. There is also no necessary relationship between a student's internship and the Thesis or Applied Project, although certainly the internship experience may relate to the Culminating Experience. For example, a student may complete an internship at a local organization and then design a thesis or applied project that builds on it. Students should note that all projects involving research with human subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board.

Culminating Experience Registration

To be eligible for enroll in JHR 593 Applied Project or JHR 599 Thesis, a student must:

- Have an up-to-date and approved iPOS on file. No student will be allowed to register for the culminating experience without an approved and up-to-date iPOS on file:
 1. Review current iPOS on file and compare to the transcript.
 2. Confirm that all coursework (prefix, number, title, campus) on the transcript appears the same on the iPOS.
 3. Indicate two members on the iPOS who will be serving as the capstone (culminating experience) course supervisory committee.
 4. Submit course or committee petitions for any discrepancies.
- Have completed the Core Course Requirements of 18 credit hours (JHR 500, JHR 501, JHR 506, JHR 510, JHR 525, and JHR 584)
- Complete the online SJHR Proposal Registration Form BEFORE the deadline
 - [Online SJHR Proposal Registration WebForm](#)
- Accept invitation to enter the Canvas JHR Thesis/Applied Project Proposal course (the Canvas invite will be sent upon completion of above Online SJHR Proposal Registration Web form)
- Submit a completed JHR Thesis/Applied Project Proposal to the Canvas course before the deadline
 - The most current JHR Thesis/Applied Project proposal form can be found at the SJHR, MA advising website ([click here](#)) within the iPOS tab. Please download, complete, and submit to the canvas JHR Thesis/Applied Project Proposal org.

Deadline to register for AND to submit the proposal is 2 weeks prior to the start of the Thesis or Applied Project semester.

*Reminder: If the student's applied project or thesis will involve interacting with and/or collecting data from human subjects, the student must complete the necessary Human Subjects Institutional Review Board forms before collecting data. The student must consult with the Faculty Supervisor. Forms are available on the ASU Human Subjects Home Page (<https://researchintegrity.asu.edu/humans>).

Thesis Description

A thesis is a formal research undertaking, anchored by an intellectually significant question or a problem, and consists of an appropriate methodological design for answering the question through original data collection and/or academic engagement with theoretical debates and literature. A thesis requires a proposal, developed in close consultation with the student's Faculty Supervisor; a committee of three faculty (the Supervisor or 'chair,' and two members); and a formal presentation or defense. Theses are subject to deadlines and formatting requirements set by the Graduate College and students must proactively identify and conform to these rules. Theses are also published by ProQuest and accessible via the library database.

Thesis Graduation Checklist

After a student has successfully registered for JHR 599, the student should review the following information to ensure a successful and smooth graduation process.

- ✓ Apply for graduation through the My ASU account online.
- ✓ Review [dates and deadlines](#) established by ASU Graduate College. Discuss these dates with the committee to determine dates to submit drafts of the work as well as a date for the oral defense.

Note: All oral defenses of a thesis must be scheduled with Graduate College at least 10 working days in advance of the planned defense date. Please use the official [10-Working Day Calendar](#), available online. Please note that there are certain dates during the academic year during which students cannot hold an oral defense of a thesis.

Note: A document called the DocuSign Pass/Fail Form will be emailed to the student's entire committee and the graduate staff advisor once the defense has been officially scheduled. This form must be used at the defense. Following the defense, the committee will sign and indicate needed revisions.

- ✓ After a defense date is approved by all members of the committee, please contact the Graduate Staff Advisor to schedule a room for the defense.
- ✓ The Thesis process is overseen by ASU Graduate College. **It is the student's responsibility to review all of the information provided by ASU Graduate College on [Completing your Degree](#).**
- ✓ After the oral defense is complete, the student must review [After Your Defense](#) requirements.
 - If the student has revisions:

- All members of the committee should sign the DocuSign Pass/Fail Form. This verifies that the defense took place on the appropriate date.
 - After all revisions are completed and approved by all committee members the Chair of the committee must sign the DocuSign Pass/Fail Form stating that the revisions were complete.
 - Submit the final document to UMI/ProQuest (See [Completing your Degree](#))
- If the student does not have revisions:
 - All members of your committee should sign the DocuSign Pass/Fail Form, including the final approval.
 - Student, must submit the final document to UMI/ProQuest (See [Completing your Degree](#))
- ✓ The Faculty Supervisor/chair should input a Y grade in each section of JHR 599 that the student has registered for. A student should continue to check the My ASU page to ensure that a grade has been posted for each term that that the student was registered for JHR 599. The student should follow-up with the faculty chair as needed.

Applied Project Description

The Applied Project represents an integration and application of theory, research, and practice on a specific topic, problem, event, or issue. Applied Projects can take a variety of forms, from short films or curricular design and implementation, to needs assessments and policy recommendations rooted in evidence-based analysis. Applied Projects may also be creative and innovative projects that integrate audio, visual, artistic or performative dimensions, or include original podcasts, websites, and so on. However, all Applied Projects must focus on a social scientific issue or problem, there must also be a written paper component to the project. Applied Projects thus require elements similar to a thesis (e.g. articulation of a problem or question, engagement with literature, etc). Applied Projects should be designed and carried out within the expectations of a one-semester 3-credit course, under the guidance of the faculty advisor. In addition to the faculty advisor as the primary evaluator, students must secure a second reader for their Applied Project, and are encouraged to hold a final presentation.

The applied project is to be designed so that it can be completed within the time limit of 3 credit hours; however, most students need and want more time to complete the project. As a result, many choose to do a 3-credit hour JHR 592: Research course prior to enrollment in JHR 593. In that respect, the project works in the way a thesis would, with time allocated for researching and writing. Any accompanying elements (a policy brief, film, performance, website, podcast, etc.) must also be completed in this allotted time frame. The work accomplished during these credit hours must reflect the maturation of ideas and give ample time for researching and planning the project. The final product should be useful to academics, an agency, a community, or other group. It could be an action research project, a needs assessment study, a program evaluation, an in-service training program, a proposal for funding, the review and evaluation of pertinent literature, or a creative project of similar scope.

Applied Project Graduation Checklist

After a student has successfully registered for JHR 593, the student must review the following information to ensure a successful and smooth graduation process.

- ✓ Apply for graduation through the My ASU account online.
- ✓ Review [dates and deadlines](#) established by ASU Graduate College. Discuss these dates with the committee to determine dates to submit drafts and a date to submit the final project.
- ✓ Complete the applied project according to the recommendations, suggestions, and revisions provided by the graduate committee.

Note: It is up to the student's committee whether or not an oral defense will take place.

Note: ASU Graduate College does not oversee the formatting of an applied project in the same way that they do for a thesis or dissertation. Students can, however, use the formatting information available online in the format tab of [Completing your Degree](#). Student's should consult with their committee chair on the appropriate format, as well.

- ✓ When the final project is approved by the faculty committee:
 - a. The Chair of the committee will input a letter grade for the JHR 593 course.
 - b. The student should continue to check the My ASU page to ensure that a grade has been posted for the term that that the student was registered for JHR 593. The student should follow-up with the faculty chair as needed.

Preparing the Proposal (Thesis and Applied Project)

Students should work closely with their Faculty Supervisor and faculty committee to develop their proposal for either their Thesis or Applied Project. Preparing the proposal is an important part of the intellectual development of the student and the project design process. Proposals typically require multiple revisions before they are ready to submit for approval. Submitted proposals will each reviewed by the Program Director, and those that do not meet acceptable standards in content or format will be returned to the student and their Faculty Supervisor for revisions. To avoid delays, students should endeavor to submit their highest quality, final work and not working drafts.

Proposals should be 8-10 pages in length and should include the following sections and components. All projects involving work with human subjects require an IRB application and approval before any data collection can begin.

Problem Statement: State exactly and concisely what problem or issue the project will address.

Question: Emerging from the problem statement, clearly state what research question(s) guide the study.

Background/Lit Review: Provide sufficient context to the problem definition and your research question(s). Demonstrate that you have sufficient knowledge of the extant literature that situates your study, synthesizing bodies of knowledge as necessary.

Methodology: Explain in detail how you will answer your research question(s) and through what kind of data collection. If research is documentary or archival based, explain what the sources of information will be and how you will collect and them to answer the question(s). If you are collecting original data through surveys, questionnaires, or interviews/participant observation, explain in detail what information you are collecting, with whom, and how. If working with human subjects, you will need IRB approval.

Analysis: Briefly explain how you will analyze the data to answer the research question(s). This section can be blended with Methodology.

Significance: Briefly explain why this study or project is important to an understanding and/or resolution of the problem it identifies. Why does it matter? What is the purpose or implication of the study to scholarship, to practice, etc.?

Timeline and Resources: Provide a detailed plan for the project, including timeline for completion, and indicate any specific resources required, such as access to archives, travel to field sites, use of technology and equipment, etc.

References: Provide a properly formatted list of references consulted for your project and cited in the proposal.

Implications and Recommendations for Agencies, Communities, Governments, and Further Research

Many projects may be explicitly intended to inform agencies, communities, policymakers, governments or others. The final product should therefore summarize the findings, identify implications for the stakeholders, offer recommendations from a Human Rights/Social Justice perspective, and suggest appropriate strategies and approaches. The student needs to consider how the findings can be integrated with previous literature and findings that address the topic of interest. The student also must discuss limitations in their work and potential directions for future research in the area.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

It is the responsibility of the graduate student to be aware not only of the program's requirements, but also policies set in place by the Graduate College. Students are required to be aware of and understand the current [ASU Graduate Policies and Procedures](#), the New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences [Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy](#), as well as any policies outlined in this manual.

In addition to requirements outlined in New College Satisfactory Academic Progress Policies students must achieve a grade of "C" or higher in all *required courses* that appear on the approved iPOS (required courses are listed in the [ASU Academic Catalog](#)). A student who receives a "C-" or lower in a core course in their program must repeat the course in a regularly scheduled (not an individualized instruction) class. Although only the "C" or higher can be included on the iPOS GPA, both grades will be used to compute the Cumulative GPA and the Overall Graduate GPA.

Required Social Justice and Human Rights Courses: JHR 500, JHR 501, JHR 506, JHR 510, JHR 525, JHR 584

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to adhere to the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct and university policies and procedures: <https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/codeofconduct>

Students are expected to regularly check their ASU email accounts for messages from the university and New College. Students also are expected to regularly check their My ASU priority tasks for messages and holds from the university. Students are responsible for managing their tuition payments, finances and tracking university academic calendar deadlines.

Academic Integrity

The highest standards of [academic integrity](#) and compliance with the university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) are expected of all graduate students in academic coursework and research activities. The failure of any graduate student to uphold these standards may result in serious consequences including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual colleges as well as the university.

For more information please visit: <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/policies-forms-and-deadlines/policy-manuals>.

Funding for Travel

We encourage our students to present research at national and international academic conferences. As such a number of options exist for funding travel to these events.

1. ASU Graduate College Travel Grants. ASU's Division of Graduate College makes a limited number of travel grants available to students presenting at conferences. These grants typically cover airfare from Phoenix to the conference location. This award has four application deadlines per year and must be applied for well in advance of the travel date. Applications must be submitted to the director of the graduate program. See <https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/funding-opportunities/awards-and-fellowships/travel-awards> for more information and deadlines.
2. Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Travel Grants. ASU's graduate student association offers a variety of travel awards available. Individual travel awards (to conferences) are up to \$950 and have a monthly application deadline. Group travel grants are for teams of student researchers presenting a symposium or other group project. Interview travel grants are need-based grants made available to students who require funds in order to travel to an academic interview (e.g., at a PhD program). Details and application materials can be found at <http://gpsa.asu.edu/funding>.

University Resources

There are a number of resources available in the program and through the university.

New College/West Campus – Academic

- [Fletcher Library](#)
- ASU Library now has an online tutorial version of "Library 501: What Grad Students Need to Know about the Library" workshop available for online students and anyone else for whom it might be useful. The Library 501 tutorial can be found on our tutorials page: <https://lib.asu.edu/tutorials> or at bit.ly/Library501Tutorial.
- [Graduate Academic Support Center](#)– in-person (all campuses) and online, no-cost writing assistance and statistics tutoring (most services free except for special sessions, refer to website for more details)
- [Statistics and Methods \(SAM\) Lab](#)
- [Career & Professional Development Services](#) – resource for finding jobs and internships, career advising, and more; online services available

New College/West Campus - Amenities

- [Dining Options](#)
- [Banks](#)
- [Parking & Transit](#)
- [Campus Shuttles](#)

University Services

- [International Student Services Center \(ISSC\)](#)
- [Housing](#) and [Off-Campus Housing](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Counseling](#)
 1. [Graduate Wellness Resources](#)
 2. [Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services \(SAILS\)](#)
- [Veterans](#)
- [Graduate Professional Student Association](#)
- [Educational Outreach & Student Services \(Dean of Students Office\)](#)
- [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Graduate Student Diversity Resources](#)
- Business and Finance services (e.g. [student accounts](#), [ID cards](#))

University Contact Information

- [Provost's Office](#)
- [Graduate College](#)
- [IT Help Office](#)
- [Emergency services](#)

- Title IX Information and Coordinator
 - ASU prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view ASU's policy please see <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.
 - Title IX protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. As required by Title IX, ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that we operate, including in admission and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, or both. Contact titleixcoordinator@asu.edu or 480-965-0696 for more information. Office located at 1120 S. Cady Mall, INTDSB 284. For information on making a report please go to www.asu.edu/reportit/.

Program Contact Information

With specific questions about the Graduate Program in Social Justice & Human Rights, contact:

Dr. Tricia Redeker-Hepner
 Director, Social Justice & Human Rights
 New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
Tricia.M.Redeker-Hepner@asu.edu

or

Graduate Studies Advising Team
 New College of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences
 (602) 543-3000
NCCGradAdvising@asu.edu

With general questions about ASU Graduate Studies policies/procedures, contact:

Graduate College
 Interdisciplinary Building, B Wing, Suite 285 – Tempe campus
<http://graduate.asu.edu/>

With questions about tuition, scholarships, and financial aid:

ASU Financial Aid
 University Center Building, Suite 101
<http://students.asu.edu/financial-aid>

Program Faculty



[Tricia Redeker-Hepner](#)

Director of MA program

Research Interests:

Activism & Social Movements; African

Studies; Anthropology; Human Rights; Refugee Studies; Social Justice; Transnational Migration and Violence, Conflict & Human Rights

Experience:

Dr. Tricia Redeker Hepner is a political and legal anthropologist with a regional focus on Northeast Africa and the Great Lakes Region of Eastern Africa, and thematic interests in migration and displacement, transnationalism, human rights, transitional justice, militarism, and conflict and peace. She has conducted research in the Horn of Africa and with refugees and asylum seekers from Eritrea/Ethiopia in North America, Europe, and Africa for over twenty years. This long-term work has informed her participation in hundreds of asylum and refugee cases, and her testimony has been influential in immigration rulings in the US, Canada, Europe, and Israel



[Heather Smith-Cannoy](#)

Director of BA program

Research Interests:

Human Rights; Women's Rights; International Law;

Sex Trafficking; Migration and Statelessness

Experience:

Heather Smith-Cannoy is an associate professor of political science at Arizona State University. She directs ASU's Global Human Rights Hub and directs the undergraduate degree program on Social Justice and Human Rights. She has published two books and has a third under review titled *Sex Trafficking and Equity: The Status of Women and State Responses*. She has also published 15 peer reviewed articles and book chapters on sex trafficking, human rights treaties, and the International Criminal Court.



[Malay Firoz](#)

Research Interests:

Global Humanitarian Issues, Refugee Studies, Violence, Conflict & Human Rights, Middle

Eastern Studies, Sociocultural Anthropology, and Institutional Ethnography

Experience: Malay Firoz is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. He holds a PhD in Anthropology and an MA in Modern Culture and Media from Brown University, as well as an MA in Sociology from Delhi University. His research is located at the intersections of the anthropology of humanitarianism, the anthropology of ethics, political theory, postcolonial theory, forced migration studies and Middle East studies.



[Nisa Goksel](#)

Research Interests:

Gender & Sexuality Studies, War, Violence & Peacemaking, Migration, Displacement, and

Diaspora Studies

Experience: Nisa Göksel is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. She holds a doctorate in sociology, with a graduate certificate in gender and sexuality studies. Her areas of research are gender and sexuality; feminist and women's movements in the Middle East; war, violence and peace-making; and migration, displacement and diaspora studies. Her work focuses on the transnational political mobilization of Kurdish women around peace, democracy and human rights.



Allan Colbern

Research Interests: Civil Rights, Political Science, American Politics, Qualitative Methods, Democracy & Citizenship, and Immigration.

Experience: Allan Colbern is an assistant professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the New College at Arizona State University. He works with immigrant rights organizations like the California Immigrant Policy Center and New York Immigrant Coalition on building state-wide capacity and pro-immigrant policy blueprints. His expertise is in American political development and the intersection between immigration, civil rights, social movements, federalism and citizenship.



Audrey Comstock

Research Interests: International Law, Human Rights, International Relations, and LGBTQ Studies

Experience: Audrey Comstock received her PhD and MA in Government from Cornell University. She is an assistant professor of political science and human rights in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. Her research lies at the intersection of political science, international relations and international law. More specifically, her work focuses on international human rights law, the United Nations, global women's and LGBT rights and international peacekeeping.



Julie Murphy Erfani

Research Interests: Human Rights, Everyday Humanitarianism, and Critical Social Theory

Experience: Julie Murphy Erfani is an associate professor and the director of ASU's master's program in Social Justice and Human Rights. Her publications and research have previously focused on violence and human rights abuses in the U.S.-Mexico drug war and in Mexico-U.S. relations in general. Her newest interests focus on asylum seekers and sex-trafficked migrants crossing into the European Union via Greece and Italy. Since 2016, she is director of an annual intensive field experience allowing students to assist and engage directly with forced migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq as they await asylum application processing for residence in the EU. Murphy Erfani is an international political economist interested in corporate, commercial and state crime, the right to have rights of asylum seekers and trafficked people, and human rights responses to forced migrants and sex-trafficked people.



Natasha Behl

Research Interests: Gender Violence, Feminist Theory, Gender, Race, Ethnicity & Politics, Democracy & Citizenship, India, Interpretive Methodology, and Racial Justice

Experience: Natasha Behl is associate professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Arizona State University. Dr. Behl completed her doctorate in political science at University of California, Los Angeles, where her training focused on race, ethnicity, politics and comparative politics. Dr. Behl 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. This intellectual endeavor has demanded that she cross disciplinary boundaries and challenge epistemological and methodological norms in political science to understand the gendered and raced nature of politics as a practice and political science as a discipline. She uses interpretive, feminist, and decolonial 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. Her scholarship, teaching, and service seeks to make marginalized individuals central to the process of theorization, working to make societies and institutions, including the academy, more inclusive.



[Jennifer Keahey](#)

Research Interests: Gender, Race, Ethnicity & Politics, Sustainable Development, Agri-Food Systems, Fair Trade, Political Economy,

Environmental and Resiliency Planning, Decolonizing Methodologies, and Postcolonial Theory

Experience: I am a development sociologist with more than a dozen peer-reviewed publications on issues pertaining to global justice and sustainable development. I have worked in several world regions and possess significant expertise in anti-racist, anti-colonial, and feminist perspectives. I am particularly interested in Black, Indigenous, and Global South development approaches that challenge conventional thought/praxis. I am skilled in the use of qualitative, mixed, and participatory action research (PAR) methods that open spaces for multi-paradigmatic knowledge building. My work advances development theory and practice in two key ways. First, it decolonizes theory to improve understanding of development and its alternatives. By interrogating the power dynamics informing sustainability in action, I unpack structural, relational, and cognitive barriers and identify pathways for transformation. Second, my work informs social research methods through the publication of critical reflections and systematic reviews of practice. By clarifying standards and methods that support connection across difference, I strengthen ethics for interdisciplinary and intercultural engagement.



[Sangmi Lee](#)

Research Interests: Anthropology-Social & Cultural, Comparative Diaspora Studies, Fieldwork, Migration, Race, Ethnicity & Culture,

Place, Culture & Identity, and Qualitative Methods

Experience: Sangmi Lee received her D.Phil. in anthropology in 2016 from the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (ISCA) at the University of Oxford, U.K. Prior to coming to School of Social and Behavioral Sciences as an assistant professor in Spring 2018, she was a lecturer at Seoul National University, South Korea. Her current research focuses on how Hmong living in the diaspora have maintained extensive kinship networks and various cultural and economic practices across national borders despite the uncertainty about the location of ancestral homeland while also experiencing ethnic cultural differences based on their "partial" affiliation with different nation-states of residence. For this project, she conducted comparative, long-term ethnographic fieldwork with the Hmong communities in central Laos and the United States (California).

My ASU Portal

On your My ASU portal you will find information about your courses, transcripts, transportation, student success and support, finances, university policies and the academic calendar. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these areas:

Profile: Update your address, phone number, email information, or add guests, such as a parent, so they can look at FERPA-protected information including grades.

My Classes: Click on the name of each course to access the corresponding Canvas content. This is where you will see the syllabus, find links to readings and submit assignments.

Final Transcript: If you sent in a transcript for admission to the program before you graduated, send your final transcript that includes the degree conferral date.

Academic Integrity Module: ASU Graduate College module reviewing academic integrity expectations. Please complete this as soon as possible. Please note, this module explains the university-wide policy. The New College academic integrity policy includes additions specific to our students. Please be familiar with both policies.

Academic Calendar: This has important dates you need to monitor, including when classes begin, last day to register or drop/add classes, tuition and fee payment deadlines, holidays, withdrawal deadlines, schedule of classes available and when to enroll.

Campus Services: This includes Health and Wellness Resources, such as health insurance, counseling, disability services; Transportation, such as parking permits, METRO Light Rail, U-Pass and campus shuttles; Student Success and Support, such as disability services, tutoring and student success centers; and Job & Career Services. Please note these job resources are university-wide and not specific to the MA Social Justice and Human Rights program.