

**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:
  - <https://newcollege.asu.edu/advising/graduate/social-justice-and-human-rights-ma>



# 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





# 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







# 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 LGBTQ+

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

Teaches JHR 598: Women, Power  
and Politics, Spring 2021.

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.blogpost.  
com/](http://majiasblog.blogpost.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 SJHR Program

## 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.



## Dr. Heather Smith-Cannoy

Associate Professor of Political  
Science  
Teaches JHR 305: Theory and  
Practice of SJHR, JHR 598:  
Gender-based Violence and Sex  
Trafficking, JHR 598: Human  
Rights & International Law.  
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. 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.



# Meet the Faculty SJHR Program

## 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
- Experienced TA and undergraduate writing tutor (2014-2017)
- 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!*



# QUESTIONS?

