

The State of the Struggle for Human Rights

DELEGATE HANDBOOK

18th
Northwestern
University
Conference on
Human Rights

JAN 22 -
JAN 24,
2021

Photo Courtesy of the University of Chicago



Dear delegates,

For current students and activists, the fight for human rights has evolved significantly from the early 1900's to movements now. Tools, strategies, and dissemination have all changed in the rapidly changing atmosphere of global activism.

NUCHR's 18th Conference seeks to offer a radiography on the status of human rights fights and fighters, to see what tools they use, how they organize themselves, and the strategies they use.

The conference will feature one keynote, four panels focused on different aspects of the fight for human rights, and interactive elements that will enable delegates to apply what they learn during the conference.

For three days, ask thoughtful questions and enjoy the company of individuals who not only possess your same curiosity with this field, but a perspective that is entirely their own. Collaborate with them. For you to have been selected as a delegate, you needed to inspire confidence in us that, when the conference ends, the knowledge you've acquired and the tools you've gained multiply back on your campuses, in your communities and in the cities you call home.

Enjoy the conference and let us know how we can best support you during your time here. **Zoom links can be found on the last page.**

Sincerely,

Sandra Radwan & Amar Shabeeb
Executive Co-Directors

This conference happens thanks to the generosity of:

Northwestern

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Department of **Sociology**

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Panel 1: Structuring a Movement

Movements are defined by their structure, and sometimes that structure may even take a life of its own. This panel aims to explore how organizers and human rights advocates have structured movements (intentional or not), the strategies employed in building a structure, and how sometimes movements naturally structure themselves.

The experts will discuss movements they have studied and participated in across a wide range of time, focusing on two to three specific movements with different structures.

Representative from MST

*(Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra, Brazil's
Landless Workers Movement)*

Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST) in Portuguese, is a mass social movement, formed by rural workers and by all those who want to fight for land reform and against injustice and social inequality in rural areas. The MST was born through a process of occupying latifundios (large landed estates) and become a national movement in 1984. Over

more than two decades, the movement has led more than 2,500 land occupations, with about 370,000 families - families that today settled on 7.5 million hectares of land that they won as a result of the occupations. Through their organizing, these families continue to push for schools, credit for agricultural production and cooperatives, and access to health care.



Rick Halperin (he/him)



Dr. Rick Halperin began teaching human rights courses in 1990 in the William P. Clements Department of History. After being chosen as Director of the new Embrey Human Rights Program, he began overseeing its academic program, planning its public events, and developing a wide array of human rights focused trips. Halperin has held many leadership positions in human rights and social justice organizations. During his more than 40-year affiliation with Amnesty International USA, he has served as chair of its board of directors three times. He has also served

on the boards of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the Center for Survivors of Torture, and the International Rescue Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty. He has participated in a U.N. human rights delegation that inspected Irish prison conditions in Dublin and Belfast, as well as in delegations monitoring human rights in El Salvador and Palestinian refugee camps in Gaza.

Richard Wallace



Richard Wallace is the founder and director of Equity and Transformation (EAT), an organization which fights for social and economic equity for Black workers in informal work and those who have been formerly incarcerated. EAT is involved with research, advocacy, policy development, community organizing, and podcast production. He is currently the board president at Working Family Solidarity. Prior to working at EAT, he worked with the Workers Center for Racial Justice and Chicago Workers Collaborative.

Moderator: Professor Kate Masur

Dr. Kate Masur (Ph.D. University of Michigan, 2001) specializes in the United States in the nineteenth century, with a primary focus on how Americans grappled with questions of race and equality after the abolition of slavery in both the North and South. Masur is author of *Until Justice Be Done: America's First Civil Rights Movement, from the Revolution to Reconstruction* (W. W. Norton, forthcoming, 2021) and numerous other books and articles that examine the intersections of law, politics, and everyday life in U.S. history.



Masur is committed to exchanging ideas with a broad range of audiences. She enjoys leading workshops for teachers and working with museums and arts organizations including the National Constitution Center and the Newberry Library.

Panel 2: Activism on Campus

A critical aspect of the conference is ensuring that the lessons and ideas participants have are not limited in scope to one weekend. This activist panel will engage participants and illustrate the practices that one can use when fighting for causes that they are passionate about. Especially in today's age, it is important to understand and develop the techniques necessary to instill real change within the world, and this panel will help participants fight for causes that they are passionate about.

Sarah Fernandez (she/they): Fossil Free Northwestern

Fossil Free Northwestern is a group of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members calling on Northwestern University to remove its investments in coal and move toward divestment from all fossil fuels. They aim to build a sustainable endowment that refuses to fund climate change, pollution, or injustice.



Representative from SOLR

Students Organizing for Labor Rights

Students Organizing for Labor Rights (SOLR) is a coalition of unpaid undergraduate students at Northwestern. They aim to build solidarity with campus workers through campaigns, actions, and direct communication with a vision towards collective liberation.



Mikenzie Roberts: NPEP

Northwestern Prison Education Program



The Northwestern Prison Education Program (NPEP) is an initiative of Northwestern University to provide a high-quality liberal arts education to incarcerated students in Illinois in partnership with Oakton Community College and the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC). NPEP fills a vital need in Illinois by being the only degree-granting program in the state providing a full liberal arts curriculum—humanities, fine arts, social

sciences, and STEM courses—to incarcerated students. NPEP is also the only postsecondary prison education program in Illinois that accepts applications from facilities throughout the state, including from medium- and maximum-security prisons. This enables NPEP to have statewide impact and to reach students at various stages of their incarceration, allowing the liberal arts degrees that are conferred to prepare students for success across a broad range of future pursuits.

Haley Dudzinski: NU Votes



NU Votes is a non-partisan initiative of Northwestern University's Center for Civic Engagement, designed to provide the NU community with accessible and understandable information about voter registration and voting procedures. Working with partners across the university, NU Votes also serves as a resource to promote informed voter engagement throughout the Northwestern community.

Panel 3: Swaying Public Opinion

Organizations in Chicago will focus on the innovative and grassroots strategies they undergo to enact substantive and ideological change in the city. With a wide array of topics, the panelists will discuss the ways they approach swaying the public opinion in order to achieve interpersonal and systemic change.

Glo Choi (he/him): HANA Center

Glo Choi is the Community Organizer for HANA Center. Hana Center's mission is "to empower Korean American and multiethnic immigrant communities through social services, education, culture, and community organizing to advance human rights."



Matt Prewitt (he/him): RadicalXChange

Matt Prewitt is the President of RadicalxChange (RxC), a global movement for next-generation political economies. It advances plurality, equality, community, and decentralization through upgrades of democracy, markets, the data economy, the commons, and identity.



Alderman Robin Rue Simmons (she/her)



Robin Rue Simmons is a strategist, civic entrepreneur and alderman of Evanston's 5th Ward. Ald. Rue Simmons began her career 22 years ago when she launched her first business as a real estate broker. Troubled by the wealth disparities and concentrated poverty in urban communities,

she wanted to help young adults build wealth early through homeownership. Ald. Rue Simmons successfully fought for Evanston to become the first municipality in America to commit public dollars to reparations for its Black citizens.

Jae Rice (they/them, he/him): Brave Space Alliance



Jae Rice is a trans-masculine public figure fighting for the liberation of oppressed communities on a daily basis. Jae is a DJ, cultural curator, Director of Communications at Brave Space Alliance, composer, and overall practitioner of freedom and intentional justice. Their background in political science and intercultural communication combines with their dedication to the advancement of all Black LGBTQIA+ folks to perpetuate on-the-ground societal shifts, advancements, and growth. Jae has spent several years

creating safe spaces in Chicago that center all Black LGBTQIA+ Women, Femmes, and AFABS, and Queers, and is keen on continuing to do so.

Panel 4: Human Rights and the Law: *change, break, or enforce?*

Sometimes human rights movements use the law as a vehicle to pursue their agendas. Sometimes they deliberately disobey the law to pursue their agendas.

Whether it be through civil disobedience or enacting reform, human rights activists across many different movements have used the laws in different and creative ways to pursue objectives. The experts in this panel will join together to explore the different ways which the law can be used, and how certain strategies may be better suited for specific movements.

Moderator: Karen Alter (she/her)

Dr. Karen J. Alter (she/her) is Professor of Political Science and Law at Northwestern University, a permanent visiting professor at the iCourts Center for Excellence, University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law, and the co-director of the Research Group on Global Capitalism and Law. Alter is well known for her work on the judicialization of international relations. Alter's new research focuses on the construction of global economic rules regulating trade and money, and on the determinants of politically sustainable capitalism.



Trinh Tran (she/her): IRAP

Trinh Tran (she/her) is a Senior Staff Attorney in IRAP's Legal Services Department. She was previously based the Amman office where she represented refugees and asylum seekers in UNHCR resettlement referrals and and US Refugee

Admissions Program processing. Trinh's work is rooted in her own refugee and first-generation American experience and led by the stories of impacted community members. Trinh is an alumnus of the Coro New York Immigrant Civic Leadership Program and is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer.

IRAP

International Refugee Assistance Project

Sharlyn Grace (she/her): Chicago Community Bond Fund



Sharlyn Grace (she/her) is a founding member of Chicago Community Bond Fund and currently serves as CCBF's Executive Director. Before joining CCBF full-time, she was the senior criminal justice policy analyst at Chicago Appleseed. Sharlyn has also previously managed a school-based restorative justice program in Back of the Yards and coordinated the Juvenile Expungement Help Desk at the Cook County Juvenile Center. She has been a supporter of grassroots social movements in Chicago since moving here from rural central Missouri in 2004. Sharlyn received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 2013 and is an Illinois licensed attorney.

Sharlyn is passionate about racial justice and criminal legal system reform efforts, including prisoners' rights, ending police violence, and decarceration.

Julian Falconer (he/him)



Julian Falconer (he/him) is a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada and an author, writing extensively on issues of race and civil liberties. With his partner, Asha James, and a talented team of senior and junior associates, the firm's work focuses on state accountability and the relationship between Canadians and Indigenous nations. The firm has been counsel on matters related to prisoner rights, police accountability, human rights. This work has included the

representation of Maher Arar, who made Canadian legal history in receiving the largest human rights settlement allotted to an individual plaintiff; the family of Ashley Smith, the 19 year who died in custody at Grand Valley Federal Penitentiary; and Adam Nobody and the "Free Press Four" in relation to their unlawful beatings and arrests during the G20 summit in Toronto.

Closing: Delegate Presentation & Closing Dinner

The fight for human rights can often be disheartening; however, a select number of delegates will present their perspectives on the conference topic and related activist projects they have been working on across college campuses. Delegates will also give feedback on the conference structure over a virtual dinner.



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FRIDAY, 22ND

5—5:30pm:

Intro to
Conference

5:30—7pm:

Panel 1

Structuring a
Movement

7—7:30pm:

**Breakout
Sessions**

SATURDAY, 23RD

1—2:30 pm:

Panel 2

Activism on
Campus

2:30—3pm:

**Breakout
Sessions**

5—6:30pm:

Panel 3

Swaying Public
Opinion

6:30—7pm:

**Breakout
Sessions**

SUNDAY, 24TH

1—2:30pm:

Panel 4

Human Rights
and the Law

2:30—3pm:

**Breakout
Sessions**

7—8pm:

Closing



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Conference Zoom Links



Panel 1: Structuring a Movement Panel

https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1HzGbuQCQaigTXg6ENzOiw

Panel 2: Activism on Campus Panel:

https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3R4g-hHfRmmMxIN8mD8q1Q

Panel 3: Swaying Public Opinion Panel:

https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ZEBB3TdT0mXuqcNTR38ig

Panel 4: Human Rights and the Law Panel:

https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zDyHfY_sSVq79TrMnzXFzw

ZOOM LINKS

