



**Social Justice Research Academy**  
**The University of Pennsylvania**  
**July 10 - July 30, 2022**

The Social Justice Research Academy brings students from around the world together for three weeks to dive deep into the past, present, and future of social justice. Designed to encourage discussion and critical thinking about the political, historical, and cultural context of inequality and resistance, the program welcomes students with a variety of academic interests across the social sciences, humanities, and arts. Topics vary from year to year but include a selection of significant historical struggles (the American Revolution, slavery and abolition, suffrage, labor, civil rights) as well as those that define our recent past and present (climate change, immigration and refugee/asylum policy, LGBTQ rights, #BlackLivesMatter, disability studies, faith and social justice, interfaith leadership, intersectionality, affordable housing, prison reform, #MeToo, food deserts, social distancing as a privilege, access to health care, textbooks and curricular biases, anti-racism, anti-Semitism, music and civil rights, international human rights, race and popular culture). As they explore the characteristics of effective community leadership and successful movement-building, students develop leadership skills as well as research and analytical skills.

**Lectures and workshops:** Attend classes and conversations led by Penn faculty and Teaching Fellows as well as community leaders, political representatives and experts from a range of subjects. Ask questions, debate issues, and participate in lively class discussions as you develop specialized knowledge and leadership skills. Students will have access to Penn's Van Pelt Library and other University resources, including the program's Canvas course website for additional content and homework assignments, and daily class meetings with teaching staff and guest speakers.

**Site visits:** Tour historical and cultural landmarks in Philadelphia and beyond such as the Penn Library, National Constitution Center, Mural Arts Program, and Philadelphia Chinatown

**Capstone project:** Drawing from coursework and your own interests, develop a research question around program themes. Explore the answer to your research question using the University's world-class resources and guidance from Teaching Fellows. Capstone projects can take the form of a traditional academic paper or a creative project in the medium of your choosing and could include a project in your own community. Previous capstone projects have included: a paper on Hollywood's portrayal of Asians in film and subsequent stereotypes, a spoken word performance surrounding gun deaths among Black men in Philadelphia, a video on redlining, a slide show about the reception of American Muslim women who wear a hijab or not, a statistical comparison of international human rights laws and violations, a graphic novel

comparing sex education in China to that in the US, an immersive art installation depicting sweatshop conditions, and a restaurant business plan offering job training for the homeless.

The project is largely up to you. You should work closely with your discussion section leader to turn your area of interest into a project that is done by the last day of class.

### **COVID-19 Guidance**

All students received an email/PDF entitled Covid-19 Letter to Students from Penn Summer and Summer Discovery. Please refer to it for our policy and we will review on the first day. In the document is a link to Penn's FAQ page for Students on campus for the Summer 2022 semester:

<https://provost.upenn.edu/summer-2022-covid-19-faqs-students>

### **SJRA2022 Daily Schedule (July 11-29) note: all times listed are EST**

10:00-10:30 am	Attendance, checking in with students, discussion of daily activities
10:30-12 pm	Morning lecture or field trip
12-1:30 pm	Lunch break
1:30-3:15 pm	Small group discussion
3:15-3:30 pm	Afternoon break
3:30-5 pm	Afternoon lecture or field trip

### **Course Format and Policies**

The course consists of daily reading and writing assignments on Canvas, lecture/discussion, films, field trips, and a Capstone Project. There are no grades, but regular attendance is expected. The course website on Canvas will contain an updated version of this syllabus, reading assignments and questions, and other course material. You are advised to check Canvas regularly for course updates. We will also send email to the class via Canvas so be sure to check your email regularly.

We will place a high value on participation. In addition to keeping up with readings and other assignments, everyone will be asked to lead discussion in your section on occasion, and we also expect to hear from you regularly throughout the program in class discussions. We hope to create a lively, stimulating class environment where you will feel welcome to ask questions, comment, and debate issues.

### **Capstone Project – Overview and Schedule**

On the **final day of class**, you will present a capstone project of your own design to your section. Essentially, this project asks you to develop a question around social justice themes, do some research, and try to answer it. The final format can be a traditional academic paper, an art piece, a movie, an app, a comic, essentially anything that conveys your message. The capstone is a chance for you to become an expert in an area of your choice and then share that expertise with

an outside audience, in this case, your classmates and beyond to raise awareness and/or take action.

By the end of **Week 1** (Friday, July 15th), you will have developed a topic to research. To do this you will identify a tentative research question (see handout, how to develop a research question) and some possible sources. You will upload to these to Canvas by the end of the day, Friday. Your teaching fellow will provide feedback.

By the end of **Week 2** (Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>) you will have your research question finalized, and your research largely completed. You will have developed a thesis, the argument you are trying to prove. You will have decided on the form your final project will take.

During **Week 3** you are taking your research and putting it into your final form. Remember that different projects require different outcomes. Art projects require an artist's statement, written papers use footnotes, and all projects should have a works consulted list (sometimes called a works cited or bibliography). If you aren't sure how to format footnotes or bibliographies see [here](#) for MLA in text citation and works consulted formatting. Or use a citation generator like Easybib, Noodletools (which also allows you to manage your research notecards), or Citation Machine. When choosing a citation format use MLA or Chicago (sometimes called Turabian).

### **Penn Summer Programs Staff and Tech Support**

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**PennKey support:** <https://pennkeysupport.upenn.edu/contact>

- PennKeys: <https://pennkeysupport.upenn.edu/contact>
- Email, two-step verification and other tech issues: Contact the Tech Center
- • 855-249-3243 (Toll-free) or by email [techcenter@upenn.edu](mailto:techcenter@upenn.edu)
- Also check: [online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu)
- Penncards: If you have an issue with your Penncard please inform your RC (resident counselor) about your issue

Penn LPS Online Help Desk: <https://sas-lps.freshdesk.com/support/home>  
email: [online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:online-learning-help@sas.upenn.edu)

Penn Canvas login/support: <https://infocanvas.upenn.edu/canvas-login/>  
email: [canvas@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:canvas@pobox.upenn.edu)

Zoom support: <https://infocanvas.upenn.edu/guides/zoom/>

## Summer Discovery staff

Our residential partner, Summer Discovery, has an Academic Coordinator that is responsible for helping students with their Academic concerns: Brandon McClendon: [ahmauri321@gmail.com](mailto:ahmauri321@gmail.com)

## SJRA 2022 Staff



**R. Scott Hanson**  
<[rhanson@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:rhanson@sas.upenn.edu)>

### **Program Director: R. Scott Hanson, Ph.D.**

R. Scott Hanson is a Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches courses in American history on a range of topics. He earned a B.A. in the Honors Program at the University of Texas at Austin, M.A. in Religion at Columbia University, and Ph.D. in History of Culture from the University of Chicago. Dr. Hanson has been at Penn since 2012 and is also an Advisor to the Pluralism Project at Harvard University. He is the author of *City of Gods: Religious Freedom, Immigration, and Pluralism in Flushing, Queens* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2016), now in its second printing. Outside of academia, he enjoys traveling, sports, and spending time in nature with his two sons and dog, collecting vintage guitars and musical equipment, cooking, and working on a screenplay adaptation of Thoreau's *Walden*. You can find out more about his work at [www.rscotthanson.com](http://www.rscotthanson.com) on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/rscotthanson](https://www.facebook.com/rscotthanson) and on Twitter @rscotthanson

**Assistant Director: Sarah McDowell, J.D.**



**Sarah McDowell** <[smcdowell@sch.org](mailto:smcdowell@sch.org)>

Sarah McDowell is a history teacher and the History Department Chair at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia. She currently teaches Modern World History and has taught a number of elective courses, including Film History, History of East Asia, History of Latin America, International Relations, and Government and Constitutional Law courses. Prior to becoming a teacher, Sarah was an attorney and worked as a public defender in Portland, Oregon, representing both adults and juveniles. Sarah earned her JD at Georgetown University Law Center and a Master's in History at Villanova University. She spends her free time enjoying the Philadelphia area with her husband and three teen-aged sons.

**Teaching Fellow: Gabriela Noles Cotito, M.D.**



**Gabriela Noles Cotito** <[gabnc@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:gabnc@sas.upenn.edu)>

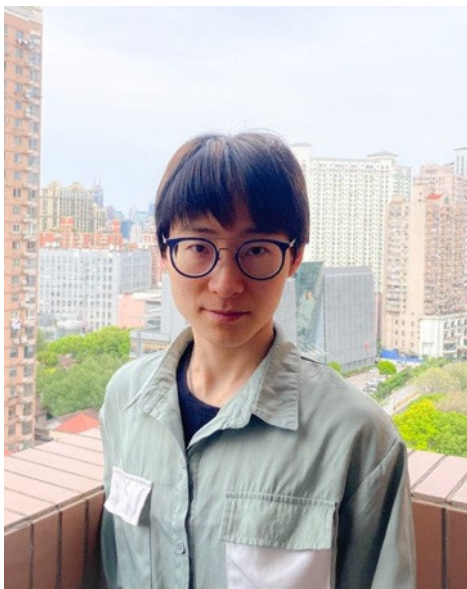
Gabriela Noles Cotito, originally from Peru, is a PhD student in the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her medical degree from Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Peru, and her master's in public health from Harvard University. Gabriela's research interests include health inequities, afrodescendant and indigenous relations, rural communities, and citizenship rights.



**Nicole C. Mantuano Lacsamana**  
<nicolemantuano@yahoo.com>

**Teaching Fellow: Nicole C. Mantuano Lacsamana, Ph.D.**

Nicole Mantuano Lacsamana graduated from Rutgers University's Graduate School of Education in 2011 with a doctoral degree in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education. Her dissertation entitled "*Acres of Diamonds: How Have Temple University Presidents Realized the Conwellian Vision*" investigated the administrative history of Temple in relation to the university's original student-centered mission and vision. She has an Ed.M. in Educational Administration from Temple and a B.A. in Psychology, Journalism, and English from Rutgers. Her Master's Thesis entitled "From Donna Reid to Kate Moss: How Do Media Images Affect the Body Image of Women and Girls" explored the negative impacts of media images on women's self-esteem from pre-feminist era to the present. Dr. Mantuano Lacsamana ("Dr. M") has been a lifelong champion of social justice issues, including women's issues, racial justice, mass incarceration, economic equality, and LGBTQ+ rights. With Dr. Scott Hanson, she developed a high school Social Justice course, which she currently teaches at Cherry Hill High School East along with English. Dr. M started teaching in 2002 in Philadelphia. She resides in New Jersey with her husband and four children.



**Mengyang (Zoe) Zhao** <zoezhao@sas.upenn.edu>

**Teaching Fellow: Mengyang (Zoe) Zhao**

Mengyang Zhao (she/they) is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology and a CDCS fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Mengyang's research centers on digital labor, platform economy and social movements in a global context, with a particular focus on new forms of work, antiwork vision and labor activism under platform and venture capitalism. Her dissertation titled "The Rise of Platform Game Work in China", historicizes and analyzes the platformization, labor processes and social implications of the play-to-earn economy in China. Beyond academia, Mengyang is also a freelance writer and a commentator on contemporary social issues for media outlets such as Protocol and Initium Media. Having volunteered for NGOs and social movement networks in China and the US, she hopes to contribute to transnational organizing via activist scholarship.





**Indivar Jonnalagadda**  
<indivarj@sas.upenn.edu>

### **Teaching Fellow: Indivar Jonnalagadda**

Indivar is an anthropologist, teacher, writer, and documentary filmmaker. Currently, he is a sixth year PhD Candidate in Anthropology and South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 2012, his research has examined various aspects of social justice in urban environments, spanning a wide range of topics such as housing, real estate markets, water infrastructure, public transit, and education. His ongoing PhD project studies the struggles for adequate housing among slum-dwellers in Hyderabad, India, and it shows how the entitlements of urban citizenship are unequally distributed along lines of caste (a racialized identity), class, and gender. His writings have been published in peer-reviewed journals like *Urban Studies*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, and *City*, and also in various policy-oriented blogs. Since 2020, he has produced two short documentary films which explore themes of urban social justice and sustainability.



**Samantha Love** <samlove@sas.upenn.edu>

### **Teaching Fellow: Samantha Love**

Samantha Love (she/her) is a Ph.D student in Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research examines the political economy of cities through energy and fossil fuel infrastructures. She is especially interested in understanding the roots of climate change and environmental injustice through historical urban development. One of her favorite experiences at Penn so far has been teaching an interdisciplinary class entitled “Gender, Sex, Race, and Urban Life”, during which she enjoyed supporting students in developing multi-media capstone projects. Prior to beginning her graduate studies, Samantha was a Staff Researcher at the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. Born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, she received her B.A. from Rice University in Houston. Outside of graduate school, Samantha loves gardening, reading science fiction novels, and doting on her dog, Butter.

## Weekly Course Schedule

### **Week One**

Monday, July 11:

Morning Course and Staff Introductions  
Topic: what is social justice?  
Discussion Section Introductions

Afternoon SJRA staff, intersectionality icebreaker

Tuesday, July 12:

Morning Guest speaker: [Nick Okrent](#), Coordinator and Librarian for Humanities Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Lilian Carswell](#), UCSC Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and US Fish & Wildlife Service  
Topic: What do animals and the environment have to do with social justice?

Wednesday, July 13:

Morning Site visit: [National Constitution Center](#)

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Cecilia Ballí](#), *Texas Monthly*  
Topic: US/Mexico borderlands, immigration

Thursday, July 14:

Morning Guest speaker: [Kermit Roosevelt](#), Professor, Penn Law School  
Topic: constitutional law and rethinking America's founding narrative

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Erica Gillaspay](#), Associate Director, Student Disabilities Services, University of Pennsylvania  
Topic: disability issues

Friday, July 15:

Morning Guest speaker: [Stephanie Mach](#), Harvard Peabody Museum  
Topic: Decolonizing museums

Afternoon Work on Capstone project



## Week Two

Monday, July 18:

Morning Guest speaker: [Albert S. Broussard](#), History, Texas A&M  
Topic: textbooks and curricular biases

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Deen Freelon](#), UNC-Chapel Hill Journalism and Media  
Topic: political expression through digital media

Tuesday, July 19:

Morning Guest speaker: [Haley Pilgrim](#), Penn Sociology Ph.D., 2022.  
Topic: Multiracial identity

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Rebecca Green](#), William and Mary Law School  
Topic: election law

Wednesday, July 20:

Morning Guest speaker: [Eileen Doherty-Sil](#), Senior Lecturer in Political Science,  
Director of Core & Africa general Program, Lauder Institute of  
Management & International Studies, University of Pennsylvania  
Topic: international human rights

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Malik Muhammad](#), Associate Director, Penn LGBT Center  
Topic: LGBT issues and Penn

Thursday, July 21:

Morning Guest speaker: [Guobin Yang](#), Grace Lee Boggs Professor of  
Communication and Sociology, Director, Center on Digital Culture and  
Society, Interim Director, Center for Advanced Research in Global  
Communication, University of Pennsylvania  
Topic: social movements, digital culture, global communication, and  
contemporary China

Afternoon Site visit and tour: Philadelphia Chinatown  
[Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation](#)

Friday, July 22:

Morning Guest speaker: [Deborah Dash Moore](#), History and Judaic Studies,  
University of Michigan  
Topic: anti-Semitism

Afternoon Work on Capstone

Week Three

Monday, July 25:

Morning Guest speaker: Dr. [Dan Taylor](#), Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Drexel College of Medicine  
Topic: poverty and medicine

Afternoon Guest speakers: Janice D'Souza and Aamir Hussain, [Interfaith America](#)  
Topic: interfaith and healthcare

Tuesday, July 26:

Morning Guest speaker: [Elaine Simon](#), Penn Urban Studies  
Topic: gentrification

Afternoon Guest speaker: [Yun Cha](#), Penn Sociology Ph.D. 2022  
Topic: education and stratification

Wednesday, July 27:

Morning Site visit: [Mural Arts Program](#)

Afternoon Guest speaker: Lecturer: [James Densley](#), The Violence Project  
Topic: gun violence in schools

Thursday, July 28:

Morning Guest speaker: Rob Buscher and Samip Mallick  
[Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders: A Philadelphia Story](#)  
documentary film series

Afternoon Work on Capstone project

Friday, July 29:

Morning Capstone presentations

Afternoon Party