The Social Justice Research Academy brings students from across the USA and around the world together with Penn faculty and other experts in a variety of fields to examine the historical importance and the contemporary relevance of struggles to overcome inequality and injustice.

**Morning Lectures and Discussions** - Attend classes with Penn faculty from several disciplines, including urban/global studies, philosophy, religious studies, race and gender, economics and community development, politics, law and policy, history, sociology, environment, and public health.

**Afternoon Workshops and Site Visits** - Participate in activities with special guest speakers and/or visit historical sites and collections, local museums, places of worship, community groups, cooperatives, socially responsible businesses, labor unions, political advocacy organizations, environmental projects, urban farms, research institutes, and philanthropies.

The promise of – and the struggle for – freedom is one of the enduring narratives of human society. The faculty will call upon knowledge and experience from many sources:

- past struggles – religious freedom, the American Revolution, citizenship, slavery, rebellion, and abolition, suffrage, civil rights, affirmative action, labor, anti-colonial and anti-apartheid independence movements, the ’60s
- recent and contemporary struggles – LGBTQ issues, Occupy, Black Lives Matter, environmentalism, education reform, affordable housing, elder rights, disability rights, immigration, interfaith, #MeToo, #NeverAgain, and ongoing human rights and indigenous peoples’ campaigns across the globe

This academy has been designed for students who are interested in:

- thinking deeply about society, history, economy, politics, philosophy, religion, and the world
- undertaking creative inquiries supplemented by photography, video, music, art, poetry and spoken word, theater, movement, digital design, and geospatial analysis
- developing skills for leadership, research, movement building, and organizational development
- conceptualizing projects related to freedom, justice, equality, sustainability, peace, and fairness
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. He has been at Penn since 2012 and is also an affiliate of 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 on Facebook at www.facebook.com/rscotthanson and on Twitter @rscotthanson

Assistant Director: Sarah McDowell

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.
Senior Teaching Fellow: Haley Pilgrim

Haley Pilgrim, originally from Grand Rapids, MI, is a fourth year doctoral student in Sociology at Penn. Her Master’s Thesis focused on the identity choices of multiracials and the meanings of racial categories. Currently, Haley is working on a co-authored paper about the influence of education, religion, and racial status on political views. She has been a teaching assistant for Sociology of the Family, Social Statistics, and Race, Science, and Justice. On campus, Haley is involved as a Graduate Associate (RA) in the College Houses and the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, and former Co-President of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. In 2018, she was elected to the democratic ward executive committee. Prior to coming to Philadelphia, Haley graduated cum laude from Northwestern University with a major in Learning and Organizational Change and a minor in Sociological Research. As a researcher, Haley has been employed to work on various social justice issues from discrepancies in the retention rate of minorities at one of the top 10 largest universities in Michigan to LGBTQ experiences with adoption at a premier adoption agency. You can reach her @HaleyGPilgrim on twitter where she discusses her interests of race relations, multiracials, inequality, and #resisting.

Teaching Fellow: Treva Tam

Treva Tam is a second year doctoral student in Sociology at Penn. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, she graduated from the University of Georgia in 2016 with a bachelor’s in sociology and advertising. After graduating, Treva spent a year in the United Arab Emirates teaching high school students. She has also had experience working with students in Turkey and South Africa. Currently, at Penn, her research focuses on immigration and neighborhood change. She studies how immigrants shape cities and suburbs. She’s interested in race relations, social stratification, and immigrant identities. Outside of the classroom, you can find Treva going on a run, getting a bubble tea from Lulu’s, or trying to keep the snake plant she recently bought alive.
Teaching Fellow: João Victor Nery Fiocchi Rodrigues

João joined Penn Sociology in 2017. His research interests focus on the ways anti-colonial struggles of the black diaspora through the Atlantic have played a central role on disputes around the concept of citizenship and how these experiences shape our modern world. He is interested in how these studies intersect with nowadays racialized processes of forced population displacements, legal institutions, the nation-state and its national borders. João earned his Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees from the University of Brasilia and volunteered for a year at the Institute Migration and Human Rights (IMDH) in Brasilia, where he provided legal support to refugees and asylum seekers. He also studied at the University of Porto, Portugal as a Santander Luso-Brazilian undergraduate scholar. For leisure, João enjoys outdoor activities with his friends, reading and watching series on Netflix. As an international student, coming to Penn has been very interesting so far. Moving from Brasilia to Philly has been a challenging, but extremely fulfilling experience. Building community has played an important role to keep him grounded.

Teaching Fellow: Antonia Diener

Antonia Diener is a farm girl from Northeastern Pennsylvania. She graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences at Penn in 2016 with a double major in Medical Anthropology and Religious Studies. Her honors thesis for Medical Anthropology focused on mental health on Penn’s campus, and her thesis for Religious Studies focused on the history and utility of Liberation Theology. After college, Antonia moved to New York City, where she worked at a tech startup doing recruiting and corporate social responsibility work for a year and a half. During her time in New York, Antonia was involved with the local chapters of Showing Up for Racial Justice, and was trained as an action security marshall. Antonia will be attending law school at Boston College Law School in the fall, and hopes to pursue a career in public interest law.
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

On the final day of class, you will present a capstone project of your own design to your house. 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. For example, you might compare two theories of how to create social justice, investigate the success or failure of a particular movement, try to solve a particular social justice problem, or anything else you can come up with that connects to the course. 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.
Capstone Project - Schedule

By the end of **Week 1** (Friday, July 6th), 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 13th) 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).

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.

The main classroom for the Social Justice Research Academy will be in the McNeil Building at 3718 Locust Walk, Room 286-7 (on 2nd floor by elevators). Typically, each day will begin at 9 am in McNeil, followed by a guest speaker or activity from 10 am -12 pm, lunch break from 12-1 pm, discussion sections from 1-3 pm, and another guest speaker or activity from 3-5 pm. Discussion sections will be held in Williams Hall at 255 S. 36th St, Rooms 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.

**Weekly Course Schedule**

**Week One**

**Monday, July 2:**

**Morning**

Course and Staff Introductions
Discussion Section Introductions

**Afternoon**

Field trip: Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania
Guest speaker: Nick Okrent

**Tuesday, July 3:**

**Morning**

Field trip: National Constitution Center
Field trip: Independence Hall
Field trip: Mother Bethel A.M.E. church

**Wednesday, July 4:**

Holiday
Thursday, July 5:

**Morning**  Guest speaker: Rob Wilson-Black, CEO, Sojourners  
Topic: faith and social justice

**Afternoon**  Discussion: #NeverAgain, gun control, youth, free speech

Friday, July 6:

**Morning**  Guest speaker: Geraldine Moriba, Programming Consultant and Project Director, Chasing the Dream, WNET-Thirteen  
Topic: diversity and inclusion in public media

**Afternoon**  Guest speaker: Kyle Flood, Senior Advisor to the President and CEO, Pennsylvania Housing Authority  
Topic: public housing and poverty

**Week Two**

Monday, July 9:

**Morning**  Guest speaker: Dr. Hidetaka Hirota, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, City College of New York (CUNY)  
Topic: deportation history and policy

**Afternoon**  Guest speaker: Yun Cha, Penn Sociology  
Topic: education, class, and inequality

Tuesday, July 10:

**Morning**  Guest speaker: Kareli Lizarraga, Associate Director of La Casa Latina, University of Pennsylvania.  
Topic: undocumented immigrants and DACA

**Afternoon**  Field trip: Murals in El Barrio with Rafael Damast, Taller Puertorriqueño  
Topic: art and social change
Wednesday, July 11:

**Morning**
Guest speakers: Dr. Kelly George, Assistant Professor, English and Communication, Immaculata University, and Dr. Clare Mullaney, English, University of Pennsylvania
Topic: disability studies

**Afternoon**
Guest speaker: Michael Krasulski, Associate Professor of Library Science, Community College of Philadelphia
Topic: LGBTQ issues and Gayborhoods

Thursday, July 12:

**Morning**
Guest speaker: Dr. Eileen Doherty-Sil, Associate Director, Undergraduate Program and Adjunct Associate Professor in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
Topic: international human rights

**Afternoon**
Topic: social justice and politics

Friday, July 13:

**Morning**
Guest speaker: Dr. Alyshia Galvez, Associate Professor of Latin American Studies and Director of the Jaime Lucero Mexican Studies Institute at CUNY, Lehman College-CUNY
Topic: diet-related illness in the Americas, food deserts

**Afternoon**
Tre Johnson, *Rolling Stone* magazine
Topic: This is America, Black Panther

Week Three

Monday, July 16:

**Morning**
Panel: Victor Abreu, Supervisory Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Dana Cook, Atlantic Center for Capital Representation
Topic: death penalty

**Afternoon**
Guest speaker: Dr. Dan Taylor, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Drexel College of Medicine
Topic: poverty and medicine
Tuesday, July 17:

**Morning**  Discussion: #MeToo

**Afternoon**  Guest speaker: Byron Hurt, filmmaker, writer, speaker, activist  
Topic: gender violence and toxic masculinity

Wednesday, July 18:

**Morning**  Guest speaker: Patricia Kim, Penn Program in Environmental Humanities  
Topic: environmental humanities

**Afternoon**  Guest speaker: Dorothy Roberts, George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights, University of Pennsylvania  
Topic: race and medicine

Thursday, July 19:

**Morning**  Field trip: Chinatown tour and lunch with staff from Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

**Afternoon**  Film: Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath. Dir. Sharat Raju. New Moon Productions, 2006.  
Guest speaker (via Skype): Valarie Kaur, Founder, Revolutionary Love Project  
Topic: storytelling for social change, revolutionary love

Friday, July 20:

**Morning**  Capstone presentations

**Afternoon**  Party