



## **Social Justice Research Academy**

**The University of Pennsylvania**

**July 3 - July 23, 2016**

The Social Justice Research Academy brings students — from across the USA and around the world — together with Penn faculty 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 – LGBT, Arab Spring, Occupy, Ferguson, environmentalism, education reform, affordable housing, elder rights, disability rights, immigration, interfaith, multiculturalism, 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, movement building, and organizational development
- conceptualizing projects related to freedom, justice, equality, sustainability, peace, and fairness

## Staff



**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. Dr. Hanson is also an affiliate of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University and the author of *City of Gods: Religious Freedom, Immigration, and Pluralism in Flushing, Queens* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2016). You can find out more about his work at [www.rscotthanson.com](http://www.rscotthanson.com)

**Assistant Director:** David Salmanson, Ph.D.



**David Salmanson**

David Salmanson grew up on Long Island and earned a BA from Swarthmore College and an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. He studies how resource development and the institutions associated with it shape and are shaped by local communities with a particular focus on the American West. He teaches US and World History at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia where he also teaches electives in Environmental History, the History of Violence, African History, Middle East History, and the Social Construction of Race and Gender. You can find him online at <http://benthamorfoucault.blogspot.com/> and @davidsalmanson and IRL in the Germantown neighborhood being a dad and spouse.



**Teaching Fellow:** Angela Simms

Angie Simms is a fourth-year doctoral student in sociology. Angie's dissertation research is on the political and identity formation processes of the Black middle class. Prior to coming to Penn, she worked as a legislative analyst at the federal government agency the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. She has a master's degree in public policy from the University of Texas at Austin, and she earned her undergraduate degree in government from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. In her free time, Angie enjoys spending time with loved ones, running, lifting weights, participating in church activities, and checking out Philly's myriad arts scenes.



**Teaching Fellow:** Yun Cha

Yun Cha is a doctoral student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Born in South Korea, he received primary education in California and Texas before returning to Korea for his secondary education. Yun then matriculated at Vanderbilt University, where he graduated summa cum laude in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. His BA paper focused on the relationship between student financial aid and college major choices, specifically with regards to how the cost of higher education shapes students' entry into lucrative fields of study. Having just finished his first year of graduate school, Yun plans to continue pursuing his research interests in social stratification, higher education, and the transition to adulthood at Penn.



**Teaching Fellow: Diamond Zambrano**

Diamond Zambrano is an educator in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She graduated with a B.A in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 2015. Diamond's prior work experience includes working in policy in both local government and non-profit organizations. She spent two years working for the City of Philadelphia on Mayor Michael Nutter's Shared Prosperity Plan, a plan aimed at reducing poverty and strengthening Philadelphia's communities. She is passionate about issues concerning education policy, gender, and immigration.



**Program Coordinator: Tonya C. Bell**

Tonya C. Bell attended Virginia Commonwealth University and the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), where she earned an Associate Degree in Culture, Science and Technology and Liberal Arts. She currently attends the University of Pennsylvania, where she is majoring in Science, Technology & Society. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, she worked on the political campaigns of Hardy Williams, Charles Bowser, and Sam Evans. She was appointed to the transition teams for Philadelphia's then District Attorney, Edward G. Rendell and Mayor William Green and served as a Student Coordinator for the American Foundation for Negro Affairs (AFNA). Ms. Bell was also personal assistant and office manager in Philadelphia for the Honorable Dr. C. DeLores Tucker, former Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and a founding member of The Philadelphia Martin Luther King, Jr. Association for Nonviolence, Inc.

## **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. Canvas assignments should be submitted ideally by midnight before the following class.

We will place a high value on participation. In addition to keeping up with Canvas 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 8<sup>th</sup>), 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.

By the end of **Week 2** (Friday, July 15<sup>th</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).

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

## Weekly Course Schedule

### **Week One**

- Tuesday, July 5: Course and Staff Introductions  
Discussion Section Introductions  
  
Field Trip: [American Philosophical Society](#)
- Wednesday, July 6: Topic: slavery and colonial Philadelphia  
Guest speaker: Dr. [Erica Armstrong Dunbar](#), Professor of Black American Studies and History, University of Delaware  
  
Field Trip: [Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church](#)
- Thursday, July 7: Guest speaker/field trip: [Nicholas Okrent](#), Van Pelt Library  
  
Topic: social impact  
Guest speaker: [Chris Rabb](#), 2016 Democratic candidate for District 200 of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- Friday, July 8: Topic: race and policing  
Guest speaker: Dr. [Imani Perry](#), Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American studies at Princeton University  
  
Field Trip: [African American Museum in Philadelphia](#)

### **Week Two**

- Monday, July 11: Topic: religious freedom, immigration, and pluralism  
Lecture: R. Scott Hanson  
  
Film: *Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath*. Dir. Sharat Raju. New Moon Productions, 2006.  
  
Guest speaker (via Skype): Valarie Kaur, storytelling for social change [www.valariekaur.com](http://www.valariekaur.com)
- Tuesday, July 12: Topic: LGBT issues and Gayborhoods  
  
Film: *diagnosing Difference*. Dir. Annalise Ophelian. floating Ophelia

productions, 2009.

Guest speaker: [Michael Krasulski](#), Assistant Professor of Library Science, Community College of Philadelphia

Wednesday, July 13: Film: [Difret](#). Dir. Zeresenay Berhane Mehari. Haile-Addis Pictures, 2014.

Topic: violence against girls and women

Guest speaker: Dr. [Salamishah Tillet](#), Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania;

Co-founder, [A Long Walk Home, Inc.](#)

Thursday, July 14: Topic: education, social justice, and school reform  
Guest speaker: Dr. Andrew Sparks, Founder and President, [Philadelphia Collaborative Teacher Center](#)

Friday, July 15: Topic: race, police brutality, housing, and #BlackLivesMatter  
Guest speaker: Dr. [Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor](#), Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Princeton University

Topic: art and social change

Field trip: Murals in El Barrio with Rafael Damast, [Taller Puertorriqueño](#)

### Week Three

Monday, July 18: Topic: the death penalty  
Guest speakers: Marc Bookman and Dana Cook, [Atlantic Center for Capital Representation](#)

Topic: equity in public media

Guest speaker: Loira Limbal, V.P. and Documentary Lab Director, [Firelight Media](#)

Film: *Estilo Hip Hop*

Tuesday, July 19: Topic: disability studies  
Guest speakers: Dr. [Kelly George](#), Assistant Professor, English and Communication, Immaculata University, and [Clare Mullaney](#), Ph.D. Candidate, English, University of Pennsylvania

Field trip: The Library Company, “[Common Touch](#): the Art of the Senses in the History of the Blind”

Wednesday, July 20: Capstone workshop

Topic: environmental humanities

Guest speaker: Patricia Kim, [Penn Program in Environmental Humanities](#)

Thursday, July 21: Topic: environmental law and policy

Guest speaker: Dr. [Sarah Light](#), Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics, University of Pennsylvania

Topic: Chinatown(s)

Guest speaker: [John Chin](#), Executive Director, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation

Friday, July 22: Capstone presentations