During the past decades the U.S. rate of incarceration has increased by an entire order of magnitude. The equation of immigrants and criminality is common throughout the world. Yet higher rates of imprisonment and deportation have not appreciably altered crime rates, nor have draconian immigration policies halted human flows to the global North and West. What they have created are new, racially demarcated, social structures of repression. Prison is an intersectionality problem in its own right: felons and ex-felons are a racialized, gendered, and impoverished social sector. State repression and racial despotism of course extend far beyond formal incarceration: profiling, police abuse and violence, the netherworld of narcotrafficking and underground economies, immigrant raids and deportation, educational failure and inadequate legal services are all concentrated here, and have self-reinforcing, synergistic effects. While the despotic elements of the state's racial policies are profoundly entrenched, racial despotism deeply undermines legitimacy as well.

Indeed the "freedom dreams" rooted in racial politics are among the most enduring contributions to the endurance of democracy in the modern world. The persistence and depth of social justice-oriented movements among the "subaltern" strata, often operating quite autonomously and beneath the social scientific radar, suggests that the problem of incomplete democracy is re-emerging as a contentious political issue, especially where race is concerned.

This year the UCCNRS will focus our research oriented activities on both the racial dimensions of the crisis of social control and the problem of incomplete democracy. In parallel fashion, we will support research on democratic self-activity and the challenge it represents to racially despotic regimes. Our overarching priority is to encourage research oriented activity that explore the interactions/contradictions between state-based racial repression and democratic rights and practices.
2013-2014 Grant Recipients

FACULTY AWARDED

Sora Han, UC Irvine, "The Racial Politics of American Federalism: Race, Gender, Sexuality and Disability at the Intersection of Democratic Governance"

Robin DeLugan, UC Merced, "Despotic States and Democratizing Nations: Remembering 1930s Racial Violence in the Dominican Republic and in El Salvador"

Amalia Cabezas, UC Riverside, "Latinas and Human Trafficking: A Comparative Study of Mexican and Dominican Cantineras"

Fatima El-Tayeb, UC San Diego, "The Non-Racial State: Disciplining Muslim Minorities in Post-Holocaust Germany"

Lalae Ameeriar, UC Santa Barbara, "The “Post-Racial” State: Re-Colonizing Pakistani Immigrant Bodies In The Age Of Multiculturalism"

Diane Fujino, UC Santa Barbara, "Japanese Americans and the Contested Nature of Cold War Citizenship and Radical Democracy"

Stuart Sweeney, UC Santa Barbara, "Central American fertility in Los Angeles translation: Informing statistical models with qualitative context"

Mark Massoud, UC Santa Cruz, "Rights, Race, and the Rule of Law in Conflict Settings"

GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDED

Janey Lew, UC Berkeley, "In Place, of Solidarity: Asian American Narratives of Acknowledgement"

Ali Chaudhary, UC Davis, "Racialized Transnationalism: The Criminalization of Pakistani Immigrant Transnational Engagement in London, Toronto and New York City"

Adam Thomas, UC Irvine, "Racial Ambiguity and Citizenship in thePostemancipation U.S. and Jamaica"

Caitlin Patler, UC Los Angeles, "Young and Undocumented: The Impacts of Legal Status on the Incorporation of Immigrant Young Adults in California"

Winmar Way, UC Los Angeles, "Dilemmas of Citizenship and Education in Refugee Resettlement"

Lluliana Alonso, UC Los Angeles, "Historical Recovery: A Critical Race History in Education Analysis of Chicana/os in South Central Los Angeles 1930-1949"

Rachel Carrico, UC Riverside, "Dancing Through the Streets of Post-Katrina New Orleans: Second Lining, Race, and Citizenship"

Cutler Edwards, UC San Diego, "Styles of Struggle: Community Organizing, Youth Culture, and Radical Politics in New York City, 1968-1981"


Raquel Pacheco, UC San Diego, "Intergenerational Dissonance: Youth Migration and Indigenous Politics"

Jeb Sprague, UC Santa Barbara, "The Caribbean and Global Capitalism"

Steven Osuna, UC Santa Barbara, "Policing the Wretched: Transnational Apparatuses of Social Control in the Early Twenty-First Century"

Linda Hall, UC Santa Barbara, "Reinstating Racism: Afro-Ecuadorians, the Political Resistance and the 2013 Democratic Election"

Eva Michelle Wheeler, UC Santa Barbara, "Coloring Outside the Lines: The Discourse of Racial and Ethnic Identity in the Dominican Republic"

Gustavo Barahona-López, UC Santa Barbara, "Building a Mexican Richmond: the Racial State, Criminalization, and the Politics of Citizenship"

Jimiliz Valiente-Neighbours, UC Santa Cruz, "Little Americans: Filipino World War II Veterans and the Role of Race, Empire, and Bodies in Citizenship Formation"

Yvonne Kwan, UC Santa Cruz, "Encountering Memory and Affect: Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma in Second Generation Cambodian American Refugees"

Alex Melhuish, UC Santa Cruz, "Social Documentation: Youngun"

Lena Jackson, UC Santa Cruz, "The Battle Over Crenshaw: Documenting the Community Resistance to Save Crenshaw High School from Reconstitution"

Elyse Banks, UC Santa Cruz, Catholic Interracialism in New Orleans, 1945-1980: A Historical Survey with Implications for the Post-Katrina Moment"
Meet Our New Steering Committee Members

**Professor Osagie Obasogie's research attempts to bridge the conceptual and methodological gaps between empirical and doctrinal scholarship on race. This effort can be seen in his recent work that asks: how do blind people understand race? By engaging in qualitative research with individuals who have been totally blind since birth, this project provides an empirical basis from which to rethink core assumptions embedded in social and legal understandings of race. This research provides the basis for Professor Obasogie's first book, *Blinded By Sight*, which is forthcoming with Stanford University Press. His scholarship also looks at the past and present roles of science in both constructing racial meanings and explaining racial disparities. This is tied to his interest in bioethics, particularly the social, ethical, and legal implications of reproductive and genetic technologies. In addition to his work at Hastings, Professor Obasogie has a joint appointment with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Genetics and Society.**

**Professor Angela P. Harris joined the UC Davis School of Law faculty in 2011. She writes widely in the field of critical legal theory, examining how law sometimes reinforces and sometimes challenges subordination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other dimensions of power and identity. Most recently, she has begun to apply these insights to the fields of environmental and food justice. She is also interested in the role of contemplative practices, such as mindfulness meditation, in the teaching and practice of law.**

**Tyrone Howard, associate professor of urban schooling at the UC Los Angeles Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, specializes in the influence of racial and cultural differences on teaching and learning, particularly in urban schools, and how these differences affect the way teachers and students interact. A former elementary school teacher in Compton, Calif., and Seattle, Tyrone has written extensively about the importance of providing teachers with skills for effective teaching in multicultural settings; the shortage of qualified teachers, particularly African Americans, in urban schools; the achievement gap facing African American students; the experiences and perceptions of African American students; and multicultural curricula. He has conducted multiple workshops and seminars, working with teachers and administrators at all levels to improve teaching and learning in multicultural settings.**
Can the United States solve the problem of undocumented immigration?

By: Tanya Golash-Boza, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Merced.

Original article was published in Al Jazeera April 23, 2013.

Immigrants with criminal records who face deportation should have a recourse for appeal.

Even legal immigrants who have spent their whole lives in the US may face deportation from relatively minor criminal infractions with little recourse or way to appeal [Getty]

For most people in the United States, undocumented immigration poses a problem. The presence of millions of people who lack authorisation from the US government to be here and who live under the constant threat of being deported is not good for our society, nor is it good for undocumented immigrants.

In recent years, undocumented immigrants themselves have made it clear that they are tired of living in the United States without rights. They and their allies have pushed US lawmakers to do something about the problem. It seems that these struggles are paying off, and immigration reform is on the horizon.

Undocumented immigrants and a recourse

On Tuesday, April 16, a group of eight US senators unveiled an immigration reform proposal that promises to grant a path to legalisation, and eventually citizenship to millions of undocumented people in the United States.

The proposal offers a path to citizenship that will take between five and thirteen years or more for most undocumented people. Those people who have been convicted of a felony or three misdemeanours will be ineligible for legalisation. The path to legalisation and citizenship is contingent on the US federal government meeting border enforcement goals. Nevertheless, the proposal offers provisional status to millions of undocumented immigrants.

Undocumented immigrants with a criminal record will be permanently ineligible for the provisional status as well as subsequent legalisation.

However, it is unlikely they will leave. Many of these undocumented immigrants with criminal records have been in the United States for decades. The expectation that they will simply leave if there are no legalisation options is unreasonable, especially since many have parents, spouses, and children in the United States.

There needs to be an appeal process such that undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes can come forward and have their cases heard. The alternative to providing an appeals process is clear: these undocumented immigrants with criminal records will stay in the United States, where they will be forced to live in the shadows. With no avenue for legalisation, their incentive to be law-abiding citizens will be very low.

An appeal process for immigrants convicted of crimes makes sense

Many people, even those who favour immigration reform, think that there should be a zero-tolerance position with regard to people convicted of crimes. That position, however, is shortsighted for at least two reasons: 1) these people are unlikely to leave simply because they are denied the opportunity to legalise; and 2) many of these people will have built up a substantial amount of equities during their time in the United States, and judges should have the opportunity to review their cases.

US immigration system moves towards reform

Under the current proposal, a 35-year old with an established business in Mexico who came to the United States on December 15, 2010 will qualify for legalisation and eventual citizenship, whereas a 40-year old who came to the United States in 1983 at the age of two, and has a marijuana possession charge from 1999 will be ineligible for legalisation. This scenario only makes sense if you think that all people convicted of crimes in the United States are irredeemable.

The truth is that the United States is overzealous in its enforcement of drug laws, having locked up millions of primarily black and Latino men since the 1980s. People who have lived their entire lives in the United States and have one criminal conviction from ten, twenty, or thirty years ago deserve a hearing in immigration court. Let’s allow immigration judges to decide whether or not they deserve deportation. Unfortunately, the proposed bill does not provide these immigrants with a day in court.
No judicial discretion for immigrants with a criminal past

The proposed bill also fails to rectify the deeply flawed lack of judicial discretion in aggravated felony cases for people legally present in the United States.

Since the 1990s, people convicted of crimes classified as aggravated felonies face mandatory deportation. This means they are deported without a discretionary hearing where family and community ties can be considered. Once an immigration judge determines a person has been convicted of a crime that can be classified as an aggravated felony, they face mandatory and automatic deportation, no matter what the extenuating circumstances might be. These rules even apply to legally present immigrants.

The absence of discretion in aggravated felony cases means that legal permanent residents who have lived in the United States for decades, have contributed greatly to society, and have extensive family ties in the country, are subject to deportation for relatively minor crimes they may have committed years ago. Immigration judges do not have the opportunity to take people’s family and community ties into account in aggravated felony cases. Nor can judges take into account weak or non-existent linkages to their countries of birth.

The deportation of legal permanent residents without judicial review is in clear violation of Article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which the United States has ratified. The ICCPR states:

An alien lawfully in the territory of a State party to the present covenant may be expelled therefrom only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with law and shall, except when compelling reasons of national security otherwise require, be allowed to submit the reasons against his expulsion and to have his case reviewed by... a competent authority.

It is remarkable that the United States denies due process protections to legal permanent residents facing deportation, given that these are among the most important Constitutional protections in the United States.

President Obama expressed support for the restoration of judicial review for aggravated felony cases. Although the moniker "aggravated felony" makes one think we are talking about serious crimes, often they are not. Aggravated felony is an immigration term used to refer to almost any crime for which the sentence is one year or more. It also can refer to a combination of two drug charges. Thus, possession of a tablet of Xanax on one occasion and one marijuana cigarette on another occasion has been considered an aggravated felony.

Diallo: Legal permanent resident deported for marijuana possession

In my research in Guatemala City, I met Diallo, who was deported because of an aggravated felony conviction. It is likely the case that, if Diallo had the opportunity to have his case reviewed by a judge, he would have been granted relief.

I met Diallo, who speaks with a strong Boston accent, in the cafeteria of the call centre where he works in Guatemala City. His voice broke and his eyes filled with tears as he explained to me that he spent two and a half years in immigration detention fighting his immigration case. Diallo, who had lived in the United States for nearly 30 years, was deported for being caught with marijuana seeds on one occasion and a marijuana cigarette on another occasion, a decade later.

Inside Story Americas - Pushing for reform

Diallo moved to the United States when he was eight years old, in 1980. He and his mother sought asylum in the United States because of death threats they received in Guatemala during the civil war. They were granted asylum, and Diallo and his mother became legal permanent residents of the United States.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Diallo was arrested when police found a few marijuana seeds in his car. He had to pay a $50 fine for marijuana possession. After that, Diallo stayed out of trouble for nearly a decade. But, in 2000, he was pulled over and the police officer found a marijuana cigarette in the car, for which he had to pay another $50 fine. Had Diallo been a US citizen, the only consequence for simple marijuana possession would have been these $50 fines. However, in federal law, two drug convictions can constitute an aggravated felony.

In 2004, Diallo was arrested again. When law enforcement agents discovered that he had two prior convictions of marijuana possession, he was sent to immigration detention and ordered deported. Diallo fought his deportation order, but was forced to do so from behind bars. After two and a half years in detention and over $15,000 in legal fees, Diallo discontinued the appeals process. His only recourse was to argue that the two drug convictions were not an aggravated felony. The fact that mother and daughter are US citizens was irrelevant in this aggravated felony case. When he was deported to Guatemala in 2008, his diabetic mother had to find a way to pay her own medical bills and to care for Diallo’s daughter, over whom he had had custody since she was an infant.

People like Diallo should have their cases heard in immigration court. Moreover, immigration reform should include provisions for people like Diallo to appeal their cases from abroad and to come home to their families.

The Supreme Court later decided that two minor drug convictions do not constitute an aggravated felony. However, that 2010 decision came too late for Diallo - who is stuck in Guatemala City. Diallo and others like him should be allowed to appeal their cases from abroad.

The alternative is that people like Diallo’s daughter will grow up without their parents in the United States and undocumented people who have criminal convictions will remain in the shadows.

The time for immigration reform has come, and those immigrants who have old and minor criminal convictions should not be left behind.
2014-2015: Global Raciality: Empire, Post-Coloniality, and Identity

Call for Proposals

Deadline to Apply: February 14, 2014

For the 2014-2015 grant-making cycle, the UCCNRS invites proposals that address the theme of Global Raciality: Empire, Post-Coloniality, and Identity. This is the fifth annual request for proposals (RFP) issued by the Center. We encourage research that explores linkages between global issues and racial dynamics such as the explicit racial dimensions and implications of foreign policy. We are especially interested in proposals that address continuities in racial systems in comparative-historical frameworks and transnational perspectives, and in those that examine the dynamic relationship between metropolitan and peripheral racial systems. In addition, we are interested in questions of racial identity and racialized experience in the global context of imperialism and the post-colonial.

Full Request for Proposals will be available on our website on January 1, 2014.

Congratulations to our Steering Committee on their Many Achievements


Sunaina Maira has authored a new book, Jil Oslo: Palestinian Hip Hop, Youth Culture, and the Youth Movement, which is forthcoming from Tadween Press in Fall 2013. This research on the politics and cultural production of the Oslo generation ("jil Oslo") of Palestinian youth was funded by a grant from Muwatin: The Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy.


Amy Lonetree received the Anne Ray Residency Fellowship for the 2013-2014 academic year at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, NM. In addition she also received the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center Stipend Award for this same project.

Ines Hernandez is the Co-Director of a three-year Social Justice Initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation. The overall theme of the initiative is ‘Social Justice, Culture, and (In)Security.’ She will be lead Director in 2014-2015, when the initiative addresses global indigeneities in relation to the main theme.
COMING SOON...

The Nation and Its Peoples
Citizens, Denizens, Migrants

Edited by John Park and Shannon Gleeson

With this volume, The University of California Center for New Racial Studies inaugurates a new book series with Routledge. Focusing on the shifting and contradictory meaning of race, The Nation and Its Peoples underscores the persistence of structural discrimination, and the ways in which “race” has formally disappeared in the law and yet remains one of the most powerful, underlying, unacknowledged, and often unspoken aspects of debates about citizenship, about membership and national belonging, within immigration politics and policy. This collection of original essays also emphasizes the need for race scholars to be more attentive to the processes and consequences of migration across multiple boundaries, as surely there is no place that can stay fixed—racially or otherwise—when so many people have been moving. This book is ideal as required reading in courses, as well as a vital new resource for researchers throughout the social sciences.

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II. Race, Agency, Identity

8. Steve McKay, “Racializing the High Seas: Filipino Migrants and Global Shipping.”

III. Institutions and Structures


For more information on this title, please visit: www.routledge.com/9780415658904
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We are on the web!
www.uccnrs.ucsb.edu

UCNRS Campus Mini Grant Program

UCNRS funds research-oriented or research-promoting activities in the broad field of new racial studies. Launching UC campus-based research projects or working-groups, supporting research-oriented curriculum development, or assisting UC campus-based research collaborations with public agencies and non-profits, schools, or community organizations, are the key goals of this initiative.

Research Working Groups

A Research Working Group is a collaboration developed by a group of UC faculty located on different campuses. RWG grants fund collaborative efforts to develop a research program on a significant problem in the broad field of new racial studies. Small seed grants are available for proposals to launch RWGs. These are one-year grants aimed at facilitating the development of promising proposals for external funding.

Campus Based Activities

Campus-based activities are collaborations among faculty or graduate student-based groups (or some combination of these) located on a particular UC campus. UCCNRS also supports campus-community research collaborations and research collaborations including UC research staff and administrators as appropriate. All supported Campus Activities must have at least one UC ladder-rank faculty PI. While we will consider proposals for events such as symposia, speakers’ series, and conferences, these events must have a clear research direction.

Stay in touch with the UCCNRS!

UC faculty and graduate students may affiliate with us through our website: click on the “People” tab. We also invite affiliates to make use of our (moderated) networked virtual publications program: submit research papers and other appropriate publications.

Upcoming EVENTS

4th Annual Conference: The Racial State
UC Hastings, Friday, May 16th, 10-4pm

Keynote Speaker: Danielle Allen, Ph.D.

Our keynote speaker, Danielle Allen, is the UPS Foundation Professor at the School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. She is a political theorist who has published broadly in racial theory, political philosophy, and the history of political thought. Widely known for her work on justice and citizenship in both ancient Athens and modern America, Allen is the author of Talking to Strangers: Anxieties of Citizenship since Brown v. Board of Education (2004) among other works.

For additional information about the conference and to register: http://www.uccnrs.ucsb.edu/webforms/uccnrs-2014-conference-registration-non-presenters