

sanctuary: what next?

SEMINAR THREE: ANTI-DEPORTATION AND ANTI-DETENTION

12 November 2020

11:00 – 12:30 PST / 14:00 – 15:30 EST / 19:00 – 20:30 GMT

Chair: Peter Mancina, University of Oxford

Speakers: Souheil Benslimane, Jail Accountability & Information Line, Canada

Angela Chan, Asian Americans Advancing Justice / Asian Law Caucus, USA

Sam Grant, Liberty, UK

Mac Scott, No One Is Illegal Toronto and Carranza Law, Canada

Peninah Wangari-Jones, Racial Justice Network, UK

DISCUSSION THEMES

- 1) Abolitionism seems to be gaining momentum within alternative politics and organising – do you feel there are links between anti-immigration detention and prison abolition? Is abolition just a new ‘buzzword’ that speaks more to a radical orientation than clear policies or alternative politics? What might the political potentials or challenges be to bringing together anti-immigration detention and prison abolition?
- 2) How do you see the current entwining of immigration and criminality playing out with regards to detaining and deporting precarious status residents and what strategies are most effective to combat these narratives?
- 3) What do you see as the new digital frontiers that are driving tracing mechanisms that pick up undocumented migrants in the city? And how can we maintain an understanding of these complex systems when they shift so rapidly?
- 4) What opportunities and challenges do you see working with municipal government and (how) do you build partnerships with those in positions of power?
- 5) How has COVID-19 put into sharper focus the problems caused by entanglement between local and state law enforcement and immigration enforcement authorities.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Souheil Benslimane

Souheil Benslimane is a father and an illegalized and criminalized migrant who is currently awaiting imminent deportation to Morocco. After serving a federal sentence and being released from immigration detention in March 2018, Souheil became involved in abolitionist, as well as prisoner and migrant justice organizing as a member of the Criminalization and Punishment Education Project (CPEP), a member of the Ottawa Sanctuary City Network (OSN), and the Coordinator of the Jail Accountability and Information Line (JAIL). His first peer-reviewed article, co-authored with David Moffette is entitled “The Double Punishment of Criminal Inadmissibility for Immigrants” and appeared in Volume 28(1) of the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons.

Angela Chan

Angela Chan is the policy director and a senior staff attorney managing the Criminal Justice Reform Program at Advancing Justice–Asian Law Caucus. Angela began her work at the ALC in 2006 with a Soros Justice Fellowship, challenging language and cultural barriers impacting immigrant youth and families in the juvenile justice system. Since 2008, Angela has focused on defending and passing Sanctuary Ordinances to limit local and state law enforcement entanglement with immigration enforcement. She co-authored and collaborated with the ICE out of CA statewide coalition to pass the TRUST Act to limit responses to ICE hold requests, the TRUTH Act to require local law enforcement to provide consent forms prior to interviews with ICE, and most recently the CA Values Act (SB 54), which is the strongest and broadest Sanctuary state law in the country. Angela was named a Local Hero by the San Francisco Bay Guardian, given a Monarch Award by the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition, selected for a 40 Under 40 Leadership Award from the New Leaders Council, and named a Best Under 40 attorney by the National Asian Pacific Bar Association.

Sam Grant

Sam started at Liberty at the start of 2018 and works on ending immigration detention, protecting the Human Rights Act, mental health and military justice issues. Before joining Liberty, Sam was Campaigns Manager at René Cassin where he engaged and mobilised the British Jewish community on immigration detention, discrimination towards minorities, and modern slavery issues. He also was a volunteer for Rights Info and a founding trustee of the Advocacy Academy. He holds a Masters in Human Rights from the LSE.

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Mac Scott

Mac Scott is Carranza LLP's immigration consultant. Over his 20-year career working with immigration, Mac has accumulated several high-profile immigration cases in his arsenal and has been able to support organizing around migrant justice and poverty using his immigration legal skills. Mac became an activist at the age of 21, participating in anti-war campaigns and rallying around indigenous solidarity. His passion for justice paved the way for his professional devotion to the legal field when he began working with immigration as a volunteer for the Ontario Coalition against Poverty in 1997, a reverence that continues to this day.

Peninah Wangari-Jones

Peninah is an anti-racist activist, organiser, and director of the Racial Justice Network and currently undertaking a PhD at university of Manchester focusing on how coloniality shapes Black activism. Born and raised in Kenya, her experiences of discrimination and racism after migrating to the UK became a catalyst for fighting for racial and social justice. The past 12 years have involved working with marginalised communities affected by mental health, homelessness, poverty, addictions, domestic abuse, sex work, destitution, seeking asylum and refuge. The racial justice network is a network of individuals, communities and organisations working together to end racial injustice and address legacies of colonialism. The racial justice network is a lived-experience led and informed anti-racist organisation based primarily in the Leeds City Region and working in West Yorkshire and beyond. The network is informed by a critical intersectional approach that is sensitive to the impact of gender, sexuality, disability, social class, migration status, religion, and other such intersections.

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External Resources

Tings Chak *Undocumented the Architecture of Immigration Detention* <https://tingschak.com/undocumented-the-architecture-of-migrant-detention>

Angela Chan and Peter Mancina, *Turning the Golden State into a Sanctuary State* https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SB54-Report_FINAL.pdf

Criminalization and Punishment Education Project <https://cp-ep.org/>

Human Rights Watch *Immigration Detainees in Canada Desperate for Release* <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/07/immigration-detainees-canada-desperate-release-transparency>

The Intercept *Ruth Wilson Gilmore makes the case for abolition* <https://theintercept.com/2020/06/10/ruth-wilson-gilmore-makes-the-case-for-abolition/>

Fiona Jeffries & Jennifer Ridgley (2020) Building the sanctuary city from the ground up: abolitionist solidarity and transformative reform, *Citizenship Studies*, 24:4, 548-567, DOI: 10.1080/13621025.2020.1755177

Justice for detained firefighter Boun Keola advocacy kit https://docs.google.com/document/d/14vNipXGDVmhb-wpmdP_i1B5StNCeIQRsco0GRxYDRg/edit

Justice for detained firefighter Boun Keola: The Guardian *He fought wildfires while imprisoned. California reported him to ICE* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/sep/22/california-inmate-firefighter-ice-deportation>

Justice for detained firefighter Boun Keola Change.org

<https://www.change.org/p/gavin-newsom-demand-that-gov-newsom-pardon-detained-firefighter-boun-keola-and-stopicetransfers>

LA Times *Supporters of Ethiopian migrant facing deportation seek Newsom Pardon* <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-22/gavin-newsom-pardons-deportation-threat-trump-liyah-birru>

Liberty Care Don't Share: <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/issue/care-dont-share/>

Migration Policy Institute *Revving up the deportation machinery: enforcement and pushback under Trump* <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/revving-deportation-machinery-under-trump-and-pushback>

Mother Jones *Whistle-blowers say ICE detention center used deceptive tricks to conceal COVID outbreak* <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/07/whistleblowers-say-ice-detention-center-used-deceptive-tricks-to-conceal-covid-outbreak/>

NY Times *Prison Abolition* <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/17/magazine/prison-abolition-ruth-wilson-gilmore.html>

Racial Justice Network *Stop the Scan*: <https://racialjusticenetwork.co.uk/stop-the-scan/>

Harsha Walia *Undoing Border Imperialism* <https://www.akpress.org/undoing-border-imperialism.html>

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About the series:

Sanctuary: What's Next? is a pioneering online seminar series taking place in November 2020. The overall aim is to take stock of and reinvigorate urban strategies of resistance to national and sub-national anti-migrant policies. Speakers include activists, advocates, NGOs, frontline workers and municipal government officials across pioneering sanctuary cities in the USA, Canada, and Europe.

The series will provide a platform to draw connections between the political economy of cities, the security practices at the heart of contemporary racial and colonial capitalism and the migration apparatus. In paying close attention to the messaging, practices, and tactics enacted by these organisers, there is much to learn about both the nature of the contemporary capitalist security state as well as how it might be possible to contest it.

The organising team:

Sanctuary: What's Next? An International Forum For, With and By Undocumented Migrants is convened by Dr Rachel Humphris (Queen Mary University of London), Graham Hudson (Ryerson University) and Kathy Coll (University of San Francisco).

It is part of the project 'Welcoming Cities? Understanding Sanctuary in Securitized States' funded by The Leverhulme Trust, UK.

The series has been organised in partnership with:

Angela Chan, Asian Law Caucus

<https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/members/angela-chan/>

Kathleen Coll, University of San Francisco

<https://www.usfca.edu/faculty/kathleen-coll>

Graham Hudson, Ryerson University Toronto

<https://www.ryerson.ca/criminology/about-us/faculty-staff/faculty/hudson-graham/>

Rachel Humphris, Queen Mary, University of London

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/politics/staff/profiles/humphrisrachel-.html>

Syed Hussan, Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

[@hussansk](https://www.hussansk.com)

Peter Mancina, University of Oxford

<https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/people/peter-mancina>

Mac Scott, Carranza LLP

<https://www.carranza.on.ca/our-people/bio/macdonald-scott>