



SEMINAR SIX: ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

20 November 2020

9:00 - 10:30 PST / 12:00 - 13:30 EST / 17:00 – 18:30 GMT

Chair: Vernetta Avril, S4 Collective and **Rachel Humphris**

Speakers: Tanya Aberman, Elizabeth Barrera and Brantella Williams, S4 Collective, Canada

James Blatchley-Asfa, Citizens UK

Kimberly Garande, We Belong, UK

Angelina Romano, RISE-SF, United School District San Francisco, USA

DISCUSSION THEMES

- 1) What types of stories and campaigns have worked / not worked to advance precarious status students in education?
- 2) What should educational institutions be doing (and what not) for example, loan schemes, training campus security, peer support, scholarships?
- 3) What is working well in spaces that have increased access and what needs to be improved?
- 4) How can we build political consensus with different audiences for campaigns to extend rights of precarious status residents to education?
- 5) What strategies might there be for stopping education being a site of border control – data sharing, security on campus, others?
- 6) Is there any role for working at the city-level in these campaigns?

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BIOGRAPHIES

Tanya Aberman

Tanya has been working to increase access to education for sanctuary students in different capacities for over five years. She has developed and coordinated community and university-based access to education programs, working with academic and community stakeholders, while focusing on and prioritizing the experiences and needs of sanctuary students. She has also co-authored several pieces based on the need for increased access to education. Tanya has a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Concordia University, an MA from the University of Sussex in Gender and Development, and a PhD in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies from York University.

Elizabeth Barrera

Elizabeth Barrera is a Nahua multidisciplinary artist residing in Tkaronto. With background in criminology and Indigenous studies, Elizabeth seeks to understand the various intersections that affect newcomer youth who have to navigate the immigration system. She is also passionate about advocating for a curriculum that will switch the narrative from a western and colonized view to an Indigenous-based pedagogy.

James Blatchley-Asfa

James has been a community organiser for 8 years. James has pioneered a whole-university approach to organising with King's College London and has co-founded Parent Power and the Citizenship Payment Plan as part of this. James also leads Citizens UK's Diaspora Organising Team that focuses on developing leaders of migrant descent and campaigning on issues that are important to migrant and refugee communities.

Kimberly Garande

Kimberly is the Outreach Officer at We Belong. She was born in Zimbabwe and migrated to the UK aged 9. She applied for student finance in 2015 and realised that her immigration status would be a barrier to going to university because it meant she wasn't eligible for a student loan. In the same year, Kimberly attended a Leadership Academy, which provided support and importantly awareness that she was not alone. Through family support, Kimberly began her studies at Canterbury Christchurch University and alongside gained work experience as a Culturocity Facilitator. She promoted youth development through creative learning of equality and diversity principles. Kimberly began her role at We Belong in October 2019, and is dedicated to changing how current society relates to migrants. She wants sustainable justice for the fates of other young migrants like herself.

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Angelina Romano

Angelina Romano is a school social worker and District Coordinator for San Francisco Unified School District's Refugee and Immigrant Supports in Education (RISE-SF), a k-12 program focusing on school-based Newcomer Immigrant Programming and Sanctuary Education. Angelina has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2001, advocating for young people through her work at non-profit community clinics, youth shelters, group homes, and outpatient programs. After graduating UC Berkeley, School of Social Welfare in 2007, Angelina began serving the immigrant community at SFUSD by opening a Wellness Center at Newcomer High School and later at San Francisco International High School. In 2014, in response to the humanitarian crisis of young people and families fleeing violence and crossing the U.S. southern border, Angelina founded a district program called Caminos, to serve as a centralized, district-wide program to serve Spanish speaking asylum seekers. After a 2016 student-led Board of Education resolution calling on increased supports for undocumented families, Caminos became RISE-SF, expanding to support all refugee and immigrant young people and families and striving to ensure our communities have equitable access to education.

Brantella Williams

Brantella Williams is a 3rd-year Political Science student at York University and an active member of the S4 Collective since its creation. In addition to being a student, she is also a workshop facilitator for the People for Education (PFE), in partnership with the Students Commission of Canada (SCC). She has also completed numerous Equitas workshops, including "Speaking Rights," and hosted numerous virtual workshops with S4 Collective. Her four-year-old daughter Aaliyah is her constant motivator. Brantella enjoys listening to soundtracks of movies, watching period pieces, and exploring natural landscapes. A quote that Brantella lives by begins, "You cannot take your freedoms for granted. Just like generations who have come before you, you have to do your part to preserve and protect those freedoms..." - Michelle Obama

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External Resources

<https://www.citizensuk.org/childrenintocitizens>

<https://cfey.org/2019/11/no-soy-other-a-spotlight-on-latinx-young-people-in-the-uk/>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c459ab1f2e6b156c9342d0a/t/5d09f90d10395e0001d7df4f/1560934675559/NIAL-Final.pdf>

<https://www.s4collective.org/post/metamorphosis-launched>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rebaMFbW664>

Caroline Oliver & Vanessa Hughes (2018) Bordering education: migrants' entitlements to post-compulsory education in the United Kingdom, *International Studies in Sociology of Education*, 27:2-3, 128-144, DOI: 10.1080/09620214.2018.1426997

We are not 'dreamers' <https://mydocumentedlife.org/2020/08/21/new-immigration-book-we-are-not-dreamers-co-edited-by-leisy-j-abrego-and-genevieve-negron-gonzales/>

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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

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>