



**Social Justice Research Center**  
**2016-2017 Annual Report**  
*Kate Muir Welsh, Center Director*  
*September 2017*

On behalf of the Social Justice Research Center (SJRC), Kate Muir Welsh provides this review of the 2016-2017 Center activities as well as outlines activities for the coming year and near future.

Center Staff

Dr. Kate Welsh started as the second director of the SJRC in January 2012. The 2016-2017 graduate student assistant was Wendy Martinez. She is a second year Graduate student in the Public Administration Program. Judy Yates, Department of Secondary Education Office Associate, provided administrative support for the SJRC.

Center Expenditures

Expense Type (Example expenses)	Total 2016-2017 Expenses
SJRC Expenses (phone, copies, office supplies, director travel, graduate assistantship, misc. costs)	\$11,328
SJRC Research Grants for Faculty, Staff, and Students	\$14,635
SJRC Campus Support	\$16,702
TOTAL	\$42,665

Center Mission

The SJRC was created in 2007 as a result of the President's request to use endowment funds, specifically directed to Social Justice related purposes, in ways that would engage faculty more fully in diversity efforts on campus. The idea of a research center seemed to be the best way in which that engagement might be fostered. The SJRC mission statement, developed in 2008, continues to guide the work of the Center:

*The Social Justice Research Center (SJRC) at the University of Wyoming is an interdisciplinary center dedicated to the generation of scholarship connected to addressing practical and theoretical questions arising from the pursuit of social justice. The SJRC cultivates social justice oriented scholarship in the belief that when any segment or community experiences injustice, democratic ideals are at risk. The SJRC supports research scholars (faculty, staff and students) by providing opportunities for collegial exchange, professional development, and financial sponsorship.*



## 2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To accomplish these ends, during the 2016-2017 academic year, the SJRC engaged in the following activities:

- Expanding the SJRC
- Co-sponsoring academic presentations; and
- Supporting scholarly inquiry projects by UW students and faculty

These will be discussed more fully below.

### SJRC Work

Dr. Welsh spent most of the year as director growing the center. She accomplished the following.

- 1) Helped the GA develop protocols for center administrative procedures. These will help future SJRC graduate assistants in their work for the center. Secured funding for GA for the 2016-2017
- 2) Dr. Welsh continued working the Social Justice Group. In August 2016 the group was renamed Social Justice Advisory Committee (SJAC). This group brings together the directors/chairs of the four programs recognized by the President's Office Social Justice Endowment Fund: SJRC, Shepard Symposium on Social Justice, MLK Jr Days of Dialogue, and Good Mule Project. We meet each month to coordinate social justice campus wide efforts and programing. During the 2016-2017 academic year, SJAC cooperated in several Brown Bag Lunches to foster discussion around various social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion topics. There were a total of 4 Brown Bags, hosted by each member organization. Descriptions are found below:
  - September 22, 2016: Hosted by MLK Days of Dialogue, "The Conversation Continues" Dr. Cliff Harbor presented, "*The Role of Social Justice at Land-Grant Institutions.*"
  - October 27, 2016: Hosted by the SJRC, "Controlling the Past: Memory and Social Justice." How does society come to remember the events of the past and who controls how we remember?
  - November 17, 2016: Hosted by the Shepard Symposium on Social Justice, a showing of the documentary, "What Was Ours," followed by a discussion with two of the people that were featured in the documentary.
  - February 23, 2017: Hosted by the Good Mule, Art and Social Justice with Curators Katie Christensen and Nicole Crawford as the facilitators.
- 3) The SJRC held a Scholars Meeting on April 5, 2017 in the Union Family Room at the University of Wyoming. This meeting provided a place for the SJRC Advisory Board members and SJRC Scholars of 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 to share research ideas and updates on publications.



- 4) Formed a committee of past/current SJRC advisors and campus affiliates for preliminary planning of the SJRC's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary at UW.
- 5) The SJRC has opened a Fall Call for Proposals for supplemental research funding. The SJRC accepts applications for funding in the spring of each academic year, but the SJRC Grant Committee has decided to extend opportunities for funding. The deadline for applications for the Fall Call for Proposals is September 29, 2017.

#### University Events and Academic Presentations

During 2016-2017 the SJRC worked with colleges, departments, and university groups to co-host events. Each of the speakers brought to campus gave an additional talk as part of the Social Justice Scholars Series. They were asked to answer

- ✓ What is social justice?
- ✓ What is the theoretical foundation of your social justice scholarship/work?
- ✓ What research methodologies does you use in your social justice scholarship/work?
- ✓ What should a social justice scholar know and be able to do?

The speakers the SJRC supported with co-sponsoring group are listed below:

- Aparna Rajagopal-Durbin, Founding Partner of the AVARNA Group. Aparna hosted two workshops on April 7, 2017 surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of the workshops was for UW faculty and staff and it focused on how to build a holistic plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Furthermore, Aparna presented tools for navigating through diversity, equity, and inclusion within faculty/staff departments and organizations. The second workshop was for UW students, in which Aparna focused on tools for handling implicit bias and difficult conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Shaun King, Black Lives Matter speaker. In cooperation with the Good Mule, the SJRC helped fund Shaun King's visit to UW. Shuan King uses social media to highlight, amplify, and discuss news of police brutality, racial discrimination, and other civil rights issues.
- *Fluidity of Gender*: Sculpture by Linda Stein. In partnership with the SJAC, Art and Gender Studies Departments, the SJRC helped fund the *Fluidity of Gender* art exhibition – which, “explores the continuum between the binaries of masculinity and femininity, while inspiring the compassion, empathy and bravery it takes to become an upstander rather than a bystander.”

#### Scholarly Projects Funded

A second major initiative of the SJRC is to support scholarly projects proposed by students (graduate and undergraduate) as well as by faculty. In the 2016-2017 academic year, we funded 7 research projects. The funded projects for the 2016-2017 academic year, along with their project investigator, are identified in Appendix B. Scholars are expected to complete the following.



- Present work at the Spring 2016 Shepard Symposium for Social Justice;
- Use funds according to the project description, and if funds are to be used for a different purpose, agree to seek and receive written approval from the SJRC Director;
- Meet with the SJRC Director and other scholars of the Center at least three times in spring 2014 and fall 2015;
- Work with David Macaulay, Scholarly Communication Librarian to upload an abstract of their work to Wyoming Scholars Repository (<http://repository.uwyo.edu/>)
- Present a tangible product, article for publication or its equivalent of the project to the SJRC, and
- List the Social Justice Research Center as a supporter of the project in any scholarly dissemination efforts.

In addition, the SJRC funded undergraduate and graduate students to attend academic development opportunities:

- PGM ONE Summit: the SJRC sponsored two graduate students to attend the People of the Global Majority in the Outdoors, Nature, and Environment (PGM ONE) Summit. The Summit took place on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Berkley, CA. The focus of the summit was to convene emerging and established professionals of the global majority from the outdoor and environmental sectors to share, learn, heal, celebrate, build community, and sharpen their analysis of equity in their field.
- The Dreamer Study Abroad Program: Jose Guillermo Rivas Barrera (a current graduate student in the counselor Education program) and Bianca Infante (a junior studying International Studies and Spanish) are DACA students that traveled to Mexico through the Dreamer Study Abroad Program in order to conduct ethnographic research and attend a conference at Colegio de la Frontera Norte. Jose and Bianca plan to create a Dreamers Resource Center to provide resources and a safe and welcoming environment for DACA and undocumented students at UW.
- Wyoming Pathways from Prison: a trans-disciplinary and trans-professional statewide collaborative that aspires to support currently and formerly incarcerated people in navigating the waters of higher education and life more generally. In cooperation with the Wyoming Pathways from Prison advisory committee (Susan Dewey, Betty Abbott, Alec Muthig, Bonnie Zare, and Cathy Connolly), the SJRC has helped fund several initiatives from the Wyoming Pathways from Prison. Among their achievements, WY Pathways from Prison



have maintained a consistent presence teaching at the women's prison, and are seeking to expand this work into men's facilities as well.

- Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS National Conference): the SJRC helped fund the Women Active in Letters and Social Change (MALCS) conference hosted by the University of Wyoming in the Summer 2016. This Summer Institute took place in August 3-6, 2016, and brought Chicana, Mexican, African, and Indigenous women to the UW campus to discuss a variety of issues including agriculture, law, literature, and writing, education, health, human rights, environment, research, science and technology, and other topics relevant to our community.
- Wyoming Latina Youth Conference: a science outreach initiative for young Latinas (junior high and high school girls from across Wyoming). In October 2016, the University of Wyoming hosted the Wyoming Latina Youth Conference headed by the Department of Latina/o Studies. In cooperation with Dr. Cecilia Aragon (Department Chair of Latina/o Studies), the SJRC helped lower the costs of meals, transportation, and lodging for some young Latinas coming from across the state. During the conference young Latinas experienced a bilingual day of workshops on astronomy, geo-visualization, biodiversity, mindfulness, the explored the relations between art and science.

## **2015-2016 GOALS/ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

### **1. Center Organization**

1. Continue to work with Advisory Board.  
*Very productive year working with the board. We formed sub-committees and expanded the breadth of the center.*
2. Expand Advisory Board to fill vacant seats.  
*The board is almost complete. It still needs a representative from the College of Business and the School of Energy Resources.*
3. Create editorial calendar to have bi-weekly communication with campus.  
Communication may include newsletters, website additions, and visits to departments.  
*Advisory board member participate in monthly blogs on social justice topics of their choice*
4. Support social justice activities on campus.  
*Continued financial and personnel support of SSSJ and MLKDOD. Also continued the Social Justice Group with meetings monthly.*
5. Others as determined by Advisory Board.



## 2. Scholarly Efforts

1. The Center will bring the Spring 2016 research awardees together for shared communication/dialogue about the projects in which they are engaged.  
*Brought 2016 awardees together with Spring 2017 scholars. They shared stories of their projects.*
2. Form a social justice research reading group on campus.  
*Ongoing since March 2016. Joi Thomas, Assistant AD for Administration, coordinates and the SJRC pays for books. SJRC will continue reading group with the help of the SJRC advisory board.*
3. Aid UW departments' outreach efforts to bring social justice researchers onto campus.  
*Worked with many different departments to bring scholars to campus.*

## **2017-2018 GOALS/ACTIVITIES**

### 2017-18-1. Center Organization

1. Host SJRC open houses for faculty, staff, students, and community members.
2. Continue to work with Advisory Board.
3. Expand Advisory Board to fill vacant seat.
4. Create editorial calendar to have bi-weekly communication with campus.  
Communication may include newsletters, website additions, visits to departments.
5. Support social justice activities on campus.
6. Update SJRC Website.
7. Others as determined by Advisory Board.
8. Host the SJRC's 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration at UW, October 17, 2017.

### 2017-18-2. Scholarly Efforts

1. The Center will bring the 2016-2017 research awardees and future 2018 scholars together for shared communication/dialogue about the projects in which they are engaged.
2. Form a social justice research reading group on campus.
3. Aid UW departments' outreach efforts to bring social justice researchers onto campus.
4. Investigate bringing together social justice center directors for a conference.



## Appendix A: Advisory Board Documents

### Social Justice Research Center Advisory Board

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To create the Advisory Board, the SJRC Director contacted the previous board to ask members if they wished to continue. Many of them did. Additional members were asked throughout the Spring Semester.

College	Representative
1. American Heritage Center	Amanda M. Stow
2. College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Erin Irick
3. College of Arts and Sciences	Marcus D. Watson / Nick Crane
4. College of Business	
5. College of Education	Eric Teman / Judy Yates
6. College of Engineering & Applied Sciences	Teddi Hofmann Freedman
7. College of Health Sciences	Christine Porter
8. College of Law	Melissa Alexander
9. Information Technology/ IT-Client Support Services	Alec Muthig
10. Office of Distance Education Support/ College of Education	Reed Scull
11. School of Energy Resources	
12. Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources	Maggie Bourque
13. UW Libraries	David Macaulay
14. Wyoming Institute for Disabilities	Michelle Jarman

Highlight indicates vacancy

### Social Justice Research Center Advisory Board Member Job Description

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The Advisory Board of the Social Justice Research Center provides guidance to the SJRC Director. Each member serves a three-year term. Members may renew their terms if desired.

Responsibilities of board members include the following:

- Attend two board meetings per semester
- Serve on a SJRC Advisory Board sub-committee
- Share SJRC information with their unit's faculty, staff, and students
- Participate in SJRC events
- Represent the SJRC at conferences
- Connect faculty, staff, and students with the SJRC
- Write SJRC article/abstract for SJRC newsletter or website once a year
- Find external funding sources for SJRC activities

\*Please find a full description of our SJRC Advisory Board Members on the SJRC website.

<http://www.uwyo.edu/sjrc/advisorygroup/>



## **Appendix B: SJRC Funded Scholarly Initiatives (Spring 2016)**

The following projects received funding to support their projects.

**Adam Herrera** (\$2,720) Staff (UW Foundation)  
"30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Park Paving Project"

**Bernard A. Steinman, Virginia Vincenti, Kenneth Gerow** (\$4,000)  
Faculty (Department of Family and Consumer Sciences)  
"Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Elder Financial Exploitation by Relatives and Powers of Attorney"

**Cheyenne Pettit** (\$1,500) Graduate Student (Department of History)  
"Shell Shock, Social Stigma and Canada During and After the First World War"

**Denise Muro** (\$1,000) Graduate Student (Global and Area Studies)  
"Social Implications of Aid-Providing Agencies Portrayals of Displaced Women in the Region of Germany"

**Eric Nigh** (\$2,100) Graduate Student (International Studies/Global & Area Studies)  
"US Intermediaries and Agents Intervention in Iraqi Society – Implications for US Foreign Policy and Development"

**Lilia Soto** (\$2,000) Faculty (American Studies/Latina(o) Studies)  
"Napa Valley Uncorked: Mexicans in the Wine Country"

**Lydia Nganga** (\$500) Faculty (Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education)  
"Teacher Education for Social Justice: Connecting the Global to the Local"

**Scott Freng** (\$2,640) Faculty (Department of Psychology)  
"Exploring the Two-Dimensional Model of Prejudice Toward African Americans: A GIS Study"

## **Appendix C: SJRC Funded Scholarly Initiatives (Spring 2017)**



The following projects received funding to support their projects

**Barbara Logan** (\$2,800) Faculty (Gender and Women’s Studies Program)  
“Profiting from Poverty: Parallels between the Costs of Imprisoning the Poor in 19th Century England and Trump’s Immigration Proposals”

**Sarah M. Duncan** (\$1,535) Graduate Student (English Department/Creative Writing Graduate Program)  
“My Family Used to Be Irish: Mapping the Construction of Racial Whiteness and Identity”

**Nevin Aiken** (\$3,400) Faculty (Political Science and Global & Area Studies)  
“Addressing the Injustices of the Past: Socioeconomic Deprivation and Intercommunal Reconciliation in Northern Ireland”

**Kirsten Havig** (\$1,500) Faculty (Division of Social Work College of Health Sciences)  
“The Experiences of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Wyoming: A Photovoice Project”