GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Center for Social Science Research

Annual
Report

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2023

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About Us

George Mason University's Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) is committed to conducting publicly engaged social research that can promote social justice and inform equitable social policy. Housed within the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the CSSR builds on a long tradition of social science research for the public good. At its center are thematic research hubs engaged in quantitative, qualitative, community-engaged research inquiry, and program evaluation.

Our Priorities

- Creatively marshal social science research for problem-solving ends

- Strengthen civil society by supporting research initiatives that serve the public, build sustainable communities, and promote dignified lives

- Promote interdisciplinary engagements among scholars and practitioners to respond to deep challenges confronting local and global communities

- Draw stakeholders beyond the university and equitably engage a diversity of perspectives and expertise to build community capacity through social science knowledge

- Support students seeking careers in the social sciences through professional development programming

- Work collaboratively with communities and community organizations to build local research capacity to advance community-led interests and needs
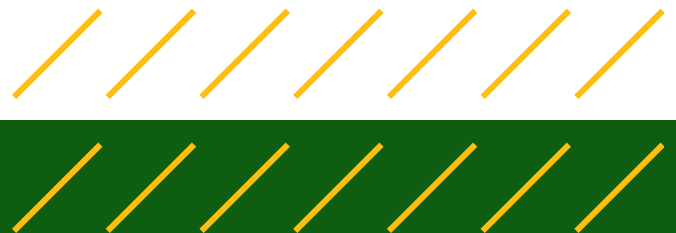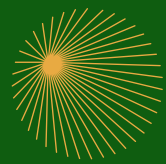
☀ Hubs and Initiatives ☀

At the center of the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) are four research hubs and several center initiatives. The research hubs are designed to promote faculty participation and align center research priorities and faculty research strengths. Research hubs, composed of faculty across departments and colleges (though principally from SOAN), graduate students and alumni from Sociology PhD program meet monthly. Through the hubs, faculty, students and alumni have opportunity to pursue individual research and conduct collaborative research projects, network, workshop current work, host conferences and symposia, and engage in open dialogue. Each research hub has been between 8-16 regular participants. Several hubs have upwards of 30 affiliates. Currently, the research hubs include Education & Health, Global South, Movement Engaged and Urban. Center initiatives are flagship projects for CSSR. They are centered in community collaborations, are anchored through community-engaged research, and are intended for direct community impact.

Hubs and Initiatives

CSSR Research Hubs:

- Education & Health
- Movement Engaged
- Urban
- Global South

CSSR Initiatives:

- Next System Studies
- Democratizing NOVA
- The Digital Commonwealth Project
- Youth Research Council
- Summer Institute in Anti-Racist & Decolonizing Research Methods
- The Social Science Research Lab
- Community Engaged Research Workshops

Education & Health Research Hub

Blake Silver, Director

Maia Punksungka, GRA

The Education & Health Research Hub brings together faculty, graduate students, community partners, and alumni affiliates at George Mason University to collaborate on research, inquiry, and organizing around social and community-engaged aspects of education and health. To foster research in this space, the hub aims to leverage these connections to spark multidisciplinary dialogue and bring funded research opportunities to the university community and our community partners. We are especially interested in the ways social science can support community-engaged research, and our ongoing -- individual and team-based -- projects support this mission.

CSSR's Education and Health Hub had a productive year in AY 2023. We grew our hub to include nearly 50 members and continued meeting regularly, sharing project updates, resources, and feedback on upcoming/ongoing projects. Our activity as a hub included the second annual Education and Health Research Hub Speaker Series, which featured the work of 5 scholars from sociology, anthropology, higher education, nursing, and linguistics. Each of the events were well attended with 30-40 attendees on average. Several of our Hub members were active in supporting the growth of CSSR's affiliated Social Science Research Lab (SSRL), a collaborative research group where undergraduate and graduate students learn and practice the skills of social science research in a team-based setting. The SSRL participants – including 4 graduate students and over 30 undergraduates, our largest group to date – began data collection on a new project that longitudinally explores the transition to post-college life for students from immigrant families. Hub members have also become leaders in multiple CSSR-wide initiatives like the Youth Research Council (YRC), the Guaranteed Income project, and the creation of our Community Engaged Research Workshops to name a few. Finally, a group of our members formed a conference committee to plan our first Education and Health Research Hub conference for Febuary of 2024. The committee has determined a virtual, multi-institutional format for the conference as well as a theme, "Students of Immigrant Origin in Higher Education: Connecting Research and Practice." The committee is working this summer to produce a call for papers.

Hub Members: Marisa Allison, Supriya Baily, Courtney Bell, Amy Best, Drew Bonner, Katrina Burkett, Kristopher Cleland, Meagan Call-Cummings, Elizabeth Demulder, Dhiman Das, Elizabeth Davis, Lili Deveneau, Fanni Farago, Gilbert Gimm, Karen Frace, Jhumka Gupta, Michelle Hand, Nancy Hanrahan, Gergana Hardy, LeNaya Hezel, Denise Hines, Anne Holton, Jill Marie Howard, Cortney Hughes Rinker, Emily Ihara, Megumi Inoue, Tharuna Kalaivanan, Katie Kerstetter, Dae Young Kim, Maoria Kirkler, Hansoo Ko, Bethany Leticq, Risto Martinnen, Erin Maughan, Connie McNeely, Marybeth Mitcham, Christopher Morris, Wonmai Punksungka, Sylvia Schreiner, Nicholas Sherwood, Deanna Smith, Eliz Storelli, Colleen Vesely, Emma Vetter, Samantha Viano, Blake Vullo, Kellie Wilkerson, Kristein Zenkov

Education & Health Research Hub Projects

GusNIP and D.C. Produce Plus Food Access Program Evaluations
Faculty Affiliate: Katie Kerstetter and Amy Best,
GRA: Drew Bonner

CSSR faculty affiliate, Dr. Katie Kerstetter led two program evaluations projects in AY 2023: GusNIP and D.C. Produce Plus. The following activities were completed: developed, administered and analyzed program participant surveys for GusNIP and Produce Plus; conducted and analyzed interview, focus group with DC Produce Plus participants, GusNIP farmers market participants, and farmers market produce retailers in DMV, and observation on GusNIP and Produce Plus farmers market locations. Identified key facilitating factors and barriers to equitable program implementation and program access for DC Produce Plus and GusNIP. Developed evaluation report and recommendations for program improvements for Produce Plus and GusNIP. The DC Produce Plus Direct, a state-funded, community-based farmers market incentive program coordinated by DC Department of Health and local community-based organization, FRESHFARM to provide access to free produce to DC residents who qualify for at least one government assistance program (e.g., SNAP, WIC, TANF, and Medicaid). The GusNIP program (also administered by the non-profit FRESHFARM) and DC Produce program's both have the goal to reduce food insecurity in historically marginalized and racially segregated communities in DC, and support and strengthen local food procurement and local food supply chains through farmers markets.

An article was published in April 2023 in the peer reviewed journal: Agriculture and Human Values based on the 2021 program evaluation report. Three graduate students and one undergraduate student were hired to assist with program evaluation research. The research project is ongoing.

Second Generation Immigrant (SGI) Project
Faculty: Blake Silver and Dae Young Kim,
GRA: Maia Punksungka

A longitudinal qualitative research study that examines second generation immigrants in their senior year of college who transitioning into post-college life. In Phase I, students are interviewed about their senior year experience. In wave two, students will be interviewed in about 18-24 months after graduation to understand their post-college life experiences. Currently, the research team is in Phase I of the study.

Fairfax County Economic Mobility and Guaranteed Income Project
Faculty: Amy Best and Eliz Storelli, GRAs: Courtney Bell and Emma Vetter

Fairfax County will launch a 15-month guaranteed income pilot (October 2023-January 2025) with 150 working families who reside in one of four Opportunity Neighborhoods in the county. CSSR will serve as the researchers on the pilot evaluating the program's impact and its consequence for future policy implementation. Project period: September 2022-September 2025. During AY 2023, CSSR assembled the research team led by Amy Best, met with County representatives to determine scope of work, develop the program evaluation, the research and data management plan, and secure IRB approval for the planned research. Assigned GRA created a database and annotated bibliography of sources about Guaranteed Basic Income Projects including:

- Detailed spreadsheet of all US cities conducting GBI Pilot Programs as of spring 2023. Includes number of participants, dollar amounts distributed, length of study, funding sources, news announcements, and links to findings reports if available.
- Spreadsheet with active links to GBI Podcasts.
- List of scholarly journal publications (including abstracts).
- List of books (including links and descriptions) published from 2016-present.
- List of websites (including links and descriptions) for entities conducting similar research or providing relevant services.

The Guaranteed Basic Income research resource database will be accessible to the public through CSSR website. We anticipate the project being announced formally in September 2023.

Fairfax County Green Dot Bystander Intervention Training Evaluation Project
Faculty: Amy Best, GRAs: J Orisha and Courtney Bell

Fairfax County's Department of Family Service and Violence Prevention program requested research support from CSSR for evaluating an evidence-based violence prevention bystander intervention training being piloted by the county with Northern Virginia Community College.

The collaboration between CSSR and DFS began in September 2022 and will continue in AY 2024. Met with Fairfax County staff monthly to offer research support in pilot planning. GRA assigned to project engaged the following activities:

- Completed review of existing research documenting efficacy of Green Dot curriculum and program for violence prevention.
- Identified, reviewed and presented Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMA), an efficient digital platform-based research strategy to be used for Green Dot impact evaluation.

Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services: Protective Factors for Successful Aging
Faculty: Eliz Storelli, Amy Best, and Andrew Lee (Social Science Librarian),
GRAs: Kellie Wilkerson and Fanni Farago

In 2021, Fairfax County's Health and Human Service's Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) agency invited the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) to assist county efforts to develop an evidence-based framework to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors to support older adults' well-being in Fairfax County. Since 2021, CSSR has partnered with the county to identify the protective and risk factors that influence successful aging among older adults, and the system level community-based interventions that promote these factors, conducting a scoping review in Phase I to identify a U.S. based body of evidence of successful community interventions to reduce social isolation, enrich social connectedness, social contribution (volunteer and civic action), enhance a sense of meaning and purpose, and protect against health declines associated with aging. Based on systematic review of literature the research team developed and presented an evidence-based model to identify community programs and interventions that promote protective factors and reduce risk factors for older adult well-being to the county. The conceptual model and scoping review were also presented at Eastern Sociological Society Meeting (March 2023) by Eliz Storelli and GRA Kellie Wilkerson. Currently, the scoping review is being developed as an article to submit for publication to either Activities, Adaptations, and Aging Journal or Journal of Aging and Health. In the second year of the project (AY 2022), during Phase II, the CSSR team conducted focus groups with county stakeholders to assess model applicability to Fairfax County. A revised model "5 to Thrive" was presented to county representative last year. In Phase III, we continued to work with the county on this project, consulting on a capacity map (service inventory) as the county moves toward adopting the model we developed.

Movement Engaged Research Hub

John Dale, Director

Karthik Ramanujam,
GRA

Maxwell Rollins,
GRA

The Movement Engaged Hub is dedicated to disciplined movement-engaged research relevant to social movement activists and policymakers. Movement Hub where scholars, activists, and other partners within and beyond George Mason University combine their experience, knowledge and skills in creating ideas, understandings, networks, and infrastructure to renew social movement theory and practice. We work to deepen democracy in formal politics, the economy, and in the broader civil society. Thus, through intentional engagement with community, constituency, and transnational organizations and networks, we seek to engender new visions, practices, relations, institutions, and systems that liberate human potential and emancipate our global society.

Hub Members: Nobuhiro Aizawa, Marisa Allison, Anderson Bean, Garrison Branom, Sean Doody, Melissa Gouge, Raluca Grosescu, Abdallah Hendawy, Deepika Hooda, Lester Kurtz, Michael Loadenthal, Ben Manski, Sarah Manski, Mohamed Mohamed, Manjusha Nair, Junghyun Nam, Amaka Okechukwu, Juhee Park, Carol Petty, Henry P. Rammelt, Dani Smith, Jason Smith, Sevil Suleymani, Stephanie Trapnell, Maria Valdovinos, Blake Vullo, Bradley Williams

Movement Engaged Research Hub Projects

THE
MOVEMENT
ENGAGED
RESEARCH
HUB

South East Asian Smart Cities
Faculty: John Dale, GRAs: Karthik Ramanujam and Maxwell Rollins

Designed and created interactive database on South East Asian Smart Cities with overseas partners included bibliography and several white paper for South East Asian Smart Cities.

"Digital Authoritarianism in Southeast Asia" for Japan's Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (MIETI)
Faculty: John Dale, GRAs: Karthik Ramanujam and Maxwell Rollins

This project entails researching, writing technical reports, and developing a real-time dashboard and data visualizations on digital authoritarianism in Southeast Asia. It is funded by Japan's Research Institute of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
- Created a visual basic program that would perform web scrapping for creating a corpus of content from 700+ website links from our database.
- Created and updated digital authoritarianism bibliography (rolling project) 1300+ entry bibliography
- Translated a Zotero database into an Excel database that can be used to create a corpus of website content.

Graduate students are involved in all project activities and interacting with faculty and other graduate students in Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan, and attending periodic virtual meetings with members of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry.

Movement Engaged Hub's Special Edition of peer-reviewed journal, "Frontiers in Sociology" on the Technological Transformation and Human Rights
Faculty: John Dale, GRAs: Karthik Ramanujam and Maxwell Rollins

Graduate student paper for the special issue: "Cultivating the Swarm: The Connections Between Surveillance Capitalism, Digital Authoritarianism, and Social Media: on the technological transformation and human rights" with Maxwell Rollins, Emma Vetter, Kellie Wilkerson, and Karthik Ramanujam.

Transnational Advocacy Networks and Corporate Accountability for Major International Crimes

Faculty: John Dale, GRAs: Karthik Ramanujam and Maxwell Rollins

- This European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Project (Principal Investigator: Dr. Raluca Grosesçu, University of Bucharest) is funded by the ERC under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program, and implemented by the National University of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest.
- In the spring of 2023, Hub members, in collaboration with their European counterparts, co-organized the second of five program workshops (the first was in Paris last July), which will take place in Bucharest in late-May. The workshop will convene transnational advocacy and corporate accountability scholars and practitioners from five continents and result in a book.

Science, Technology, and Human Rights Webinar Series

Faculty: John Dale, GRAs: Karthik Ramanujam and Maxwell Rollins

In collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and the Human Rights Coalition, the Movement Engaged Research Hub hosted and organized a webinar series on "Science, Technology, and Human Rights," With graduate students serving as moderators.

- Webinar: Innovation on Documenting LGBTQ+ Rights Violations in Mexico.
- Webinar: The Right to Science and Infectious Diseases: Past, Present and Future.
- Webinar: Community-Owned Water Baseline Data: Science and Human Rights for Community Power Building.

Intercampus Social Movement Workshop

Faculty: Ben Manski and John Dale

The Intercampus Social Movement Workshop is organized by the Movement Engaged Hub in coordination with leading social movement scholars from York University, The City University New York, University of California-Santa Barbara, and University of Pittsburgh. Workshops, which ran throughout AY 2022, will resume in AY 2024.

The Urban Research Hub

Rashmi Sadana, Director **Emma Vetter,** GRA **Zahra Khan,** GRA

The Urban Research Hub is a group of faculty, students, alumni, and community partners interested in critical perspectives on cities and urban life, as well as critical discourses on development, mobility, and capitalism, urban development and researching the social forms and politics that emerge from everyday life.

Individual and collaborative research projects, workshops, and seminars on topics include:
- Mobility, infrastructure, and the built environment
- Social stratification in neighborhoods
- Mapping cities and urban peripheries
- Racial and class politics of gentrification
- Vernacular cosmopolitanisms around the world

In the 2022-23 AY, the Urban Research Hub's overall aim was to provide an intellectual space for members to share and discuss urban research-related ideas while advancing individual and group research projects. This space was created at our monthly meetings; at our Fall 2022 event which was a Zoom book talk and discussion with anthropologist Tarini Bedi about her book on Mumbai taxi drivers; and at a Spring 2023 dissertation workshop of Fulbright scholar Vaclav Orcigr about his research about Prague. A second hub aim was to start a joint project in our own community about corporate urban development in National Landing (Arlington) in light of Amazon's new headquarters there. This project required library research, networking, and a field trip to the National Landing. By Spring 2023 we were planning for our first workshop about the National Landing, which occurred in person and on Zoom in March at Mason Square. The point of the workshop was to share research amongst hub members and those outside of Mason who are working on similar topics, and to brainstorm about further research. We also applied for seed funding to advance the National Landing project through the Institute for Sustainable Earth's network catalyst grant (which we didn't get but got positive feedback about). Our third aim was to develop the hub's identity. This was achieved through the photo contest, the creation of a logo, and advertising for our two events and workshop.

Hub Members: Johanna Bockman, Basak Durgun, Catyana Falsetti, Robert Fenton, Yasemin Ipek, Zahra Khan, Myeong Lee, Brian Levy, Ron S Mahabir, Junghyun Nam, Amaka Okechukwu, Amit Patel, Ashton Rene Rohmer, Emma Vetter, Janis Woodward

Urban Research Hub Projects

National Landing/Amazon's HQ2 project
Faculty: Rashmi Sadana, Johanna Bockman, Amaka Okechukwu, and Brian Levy,
GRAs: Zahra Khan and Emma Vetter

- Created a database/annotated bibliography of sources about National Landing and development Amazon's HQ2 including news articles from 2018 to present, National Landing BID's website, National Landing BID's YouTube page, National Landing BID's social media accounts: Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages and peer-reviewed journal articles about Amazon.
- Planned, organized, and executed all- day "Corporate Community Development: National Landing and Beyond Workshop: Organized sessions/presentations thematically, with keynote: Alex Monea, Assisted Professor, English Department, GMU.
- Researched papers included: "National Landing and Housing Justice" and "The Aesthetics of Planned Corporate Development: A Content Analysis of @NationalLanding."
- Created an annotated bibliography about the Wagah/Attari border.
- Hosted a "National Landing" fieldtrip.
- Conducted research on gentrification caused by smart city initiatives.
- Wrote the network catalyst grant for seed funding.

Triple Disadvantage Research Project
Faculty: Brian Levy, GRAs: Drew Bonner and Emma Vetter

- Mobile Home Ownership Dataset using NLS Investigator. Audited dataset to confirm variables included and missing from every year for every variable from 1997 to 2019. Updated the existing dataset in NLS Investigator with data from 2017 and 2019.
- Triple Neighborhood Disadvantage research activities: Conducted data collection, data cleaning and data management activities:
  - Locating and Downloading Open Crime Data Sets for the following cities: DC, Denver, Phoenix, Seattle, Detroit, Milwaukee, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas.
  - Creating a new variable of Violent crime for each data set to include new codes for the four main categories of violent crime: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault. This includes constructing codes to create the variable for each crime type, for each data set for each city.
  - Developing and recording the codes utilized for variable creation and drafting the preliminary writing for this portion of the methods section.
  - Finalized the construction of the data sets with the violent crime variable for the 15 cities.
  - Generating Violent Crime rates for each crime category, for each city, for each respective year.

The Global South Research Hub

Manjusha Nair, GRA

Karthik Ramanujam, GRA

Deepika Hooda, GRA

The Global South Research Hub fosters research on the Global South, which we consider as all those spaces and people, including in the United States, that are in the peripheries of the world order. It has built a vibrant intellectual community for graduate students and faculty across Mason. Last year the Global South Hub organized a public lecture, a book seminar, an international workshop, and a graduate student conference. Our biggest event was the Second Global South Graduate Student Conference held on May 4 and May 5, 2023 (Thursday to Friday) virtually over Zoom. The theme of this year's conference is "Staying Alive: Precarity and Survival in the Global South." Along with six panels that featured students from all over the world, we had a keynote speaker, Alf Gunvald Nilsen from University of Pretoria. We gave awards to two best student papers and certificates to all the participants. We organized a book talk on April 3, 2023, by Dr. Ijlal Naqvi, an Associate Professor at Singapore Management University, who discussed his recent book "Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan," Oxford University Press (2022). On February 3, 2023, we had a half-day workshop on Sociology of South Asia: Postcolonial Legacies, Global Imaginaries held in collaboration with Brandeis University. Along with three panels featuring panelists from India, Pakistan, and Srilanka, the symposium also featured a space for mentoring opportunities for students, and sharing and discussing work. On November 2, 2022, we organized a public lecture on The Palestinian Anti-Colonial Movement, by Dr. Anaheed Al-Hardan, is an Associate Professor of sociology at Howard University. In the summer of 2023, we are hosting Dr. Kala Sitharam Sridhar, a Fulbright scholar visiting from the Institute for Social and Economic Change in Bangalore.

Hub Members: Anu Aneja, Isabel Arriagada, Iccha Basnyat, Garrison Branom, Arvind Geetha Christo, John Dale, Rahimat E Emozozo, Catyana Falsetti, Deepika Hooda, Niklas Hultin, Yasemin Ipek, Huwymin Lucia Liu, Ivan Kislenko, Lester Kurtz, Mariam Kurtz, Judith Efouefack Lewetchou, Connie McNeely, Christopher Keller Morris, Junghyun Nam, Kevin Nazar, Carol Petty, Karthik Balaji Ramanujam, Cortney Hughes Rinker, Rashmi Sadana, Sevil Suleymani, Ricky Smith, Blake Vullo, Amanda Warner, Margaret Zeddies

CSSR
Long-term Initiatives

CSSR is responsible for several long-term, center-wide initiatives. These include: Next Systems and Democratizing NOVA (DNOVA), the Youth Research Council (YRC), The Social Science Research Lab (SSRL), the Summer Institute in Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research Methods (SIARD) and our newly launched Community-Based Research Workshops. Our initiative both community and university partners and are a synthesis of educational and community outreach, research and program and institution building.

NEXT SYSTEM STUDIES at Mason

DNOVA

Youth Research Council (YRC)

The Social Science Research Lab (SSRL)

REVOLUTIONIZING RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE
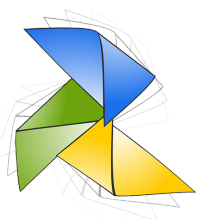
Next System Studies

Ben Manski, PI

James Condo, Communications Specialist

Kellie Wilkerson, GRA

Nathaniel Smith

Next System Studies examine questions of systemic design, change, and movements. As a new area or study, one purpose of next system studies is to establish space, resources, and recognition for scholarship and public engagement on next system questions. Another is influencing and to some extent reorienting established disciplines around next system questions. Thus, next system scholarship involves:

- Production of practical knowledge of use to policymakers, communities, activists, and others about systemic design, change, and movements;
- Community engaged research uniting practitioners, students, and senior scholars in collaborative work; and,
- The raising of new cohorts of community leaders, policymakers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, managers, academics, and other specialists educated in the methodology and theory of next system studies.

The second year of Next System Studies at CSSR involved expansions of our research and teaching programs, a continuation of our public engagement, the beginnings of an international network of next system scholars, and a ramping up of program fundraising and development. In 2022-2023, we completed the first stage of our Democratizing NOVA (DNOVA) project, finishing our mapping and analysis of at least 160 democratization initiatives in the region. Alongside DNOVA, we introduced the Digital Commonwealth Project, an effort that relies on a process we call "community designed digital technology" in building an online platform to facilitate community wealth building and other next system initiatives in the region. We also organized the first meetings of a new NSS Constitutionalism Research Hub. These three research areas each involved multiple graduate and undergraduate students, including members of our second cohort of Next System Fellows. Members of 2023 Next System Fellows also performed internships with Railroad Workers United, Move to Amend, the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, and the Human Rights Campaign. Public engagement this year involved five Next System Speakers (Dr. Stacey Sutton, Dana Brown, Ronnie Galvin, Eleanor Finley, and David Rovics), presenting invited talks at four universities on Next System Studies, as well as co-anchoring the Decolonizing Economics Summit 2023. Our most significant accomplishment of the year involved hosting and organizing "The Promise of Next System Studies," a two-day workshop attended by 55 academics and practitioners from 17 universities and a dozen solidarity economy organizations. Finally, we made major investments in program growth this year, moving our web presence to a new top-level domain at nextsystem.gmu.edu, securing new office space in the FUSE center at Mason Square, recruiting partners from other institutions at academic conferences in seven countries, filing five major funding applications (in the range of $100k-$3.1m), and hiring a Strategic Development Officer to advance our fundraising and development efforts. The workshop was coordinated with community-based partners The Democracy Collaborative's Next System Project and the U.S. Solidarity Economy Network.

Democratizing NOVA

Ben Manksi, PI

Kellie Wilkerson,
Project Manager

Catyana Falsetti,
Researcher

Democratizing NOVA (DNOVA), a 10 year project of community engaged research dedicated to hastening the transition of northern Virginia to a society that is truly sustainable, democratic, and just. DNOVA is a Next System Studies and CSSR community-engaged civic research project of dedicated to deepening democracy in northern Virginia ("NOVA"). We engage with efforts to build community, economic, and political democracy in northern Virginia. To this end, our team (comprised of Mason faculty, staff and students) has been conducting an inventory of current and past initiatives in and around northern Virginia. Examples include:

- publicly and/or community owned and operated services, utilities, banking, and enterprises;
- worker, consumer, resident, and community cooperatives and credit unions;
- community controlled currency, exchange, trading, and supply chain management systems;
- community property, land trusts, and commons;
- community owned and operated media;
- participatory alternatives to policing;
- participatory forms of public administration and governance;
- open government policies and other transparency reforms;
- expansion of the franchise, citizenship, residency, and personhood;
- voter initiatives, referenda, and other forms of direct democracy in elections; home rule and community rights laws; and many others

The Digital Commonwealth Project

Dhruv Deepak, Project Manager

Ben Manski, Co-PI/PD

John Dale, Co-PI/PD

The Virginia Digital Commonwealth (VDC) project, begun in early 2022, joins leading technologists with community groups, civic leaders, labor, business, and academic scholars to design and deliver a democratic and accountable digital platform for community wealth, service provision, civic participation, climate resilience, and mutual aid. This digital platform will channel resources for democratic economic development – for example, through the expansion of worker and community cooperatives.

Nearly 800,000 Virginians live in poverty; nearly a third live in regions facing the triple- jeopardies of widespread underemployment, service deserts, and heightened climate risk. These ills persist amidst an abundance made possible by the ongoing "Fourth Industrial Revolution" (e.g. metaverse, blockchain, and artificial intelligence). Unfortunately, solving problems of poverty and development is not part of the business model for leading tech firms. Notably the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 mandates community wealth strategies, requiring that American technology investments demonstrate commitments to "build and retain wealth" regionally through "the expansion of employee owned businesses and cooperatives" and locally rooted finance. To uplift all Virginia, the VDC joins expertise in technology development and community wealth building. Our project unites the world's leading community wealth experts with regional business, labor, farm, and community leaders, and with leading developers of the spatial web, AI, and blockchain/holochain. We employ a community-designed digital technology practice to assure the locally-appropriate development and widespread adoption, use, and benefits of the Virginia Digital Commonwealth.

University Partners
- Virginia Commonwealth University - Dr. Victor Chen, Associate Professor of Sociology
- University of Richmond - Dr. Thad Williamson, Associate Professor of Leadership Studies
- George Mason University - Dr. Karen Akerlof, Assistant Professor of Science Communications, Environmental Social Science, and Sustainability

Community Partners
- Code for Northern Virginia (a Code for America Brigade) - Jeffery Elkner
- The Democracy Collaborative - Joe Guinan, Sarah McKinley, and Neil McInroy
- The Spatial Web Foundation - Dr. Sarah Manski
- Fairfax County NAACP - President Michelle Leete
- Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce - My Lan Tran
- Northern Virginia Labor Federation - Virginia Diamond
- Virginia Solidarity Economy Network - Matthew Slaats
- Richmond City Council, sponsors of Richmond's Participatory Budgeting pilot program- Whitney Brown and Kristen Nye

Youth Research Council

Amy Best | **Meagan Call-Cummings** | **Khaseem Davis** | **Bethany Monea** | **Courtney Bell,** GRA | **Jeff Keller**

The Youth Research Council (YRC) is a research collaborative and community-based experiential learning innovation that meets throughout the academic year. The YRC was founded in 2021 to gather 30-40 racially and ethnically diverse youth as co-researchers each year ("YRC Fellows"), alongside university-based researchers from George Mason University (GMU), to conduct research on an issue important to those youth and then to provide research findings to local decision makers along with recommendations for policy changes. The Youth Research Council is a partnership of Mason's Early Identification Program and the Center for Social Science Research. It is currently being supported by a 2022 CHSS ARIE small grant and a 2023 AIRE grant "Building a Diverse Pipeline of Anti-Racist Social Scientists: A Three-Pronged Approach."

The YRC follows a youth participatory action research (YPAR) model. We begin from the view that students' lived experiences and local, context-based practitioner knowledge (e.g., teachers, policymakers), when analyzed using systematic methods and analyses, constitute strong research evidence that can be utilized for decision making. Following this model, the first YRC cohort (AY 2022) decided to gather evidence through surveys, interviews, data blitzes about the mental health effects of racial microaggressions on high-school-aged youth in Northern Virginia. This research continued in AY 2023.

The YRC's long-term mission is to build community capacity and racial equity through youth-generated research for local policy uptake, forge a more durable and diverse student pipeline for the social sciences; expand youth civic action guided by social science evidence, and serve as a bridge between community area schools and the university. Mason's YRC embraces a scaffolded model of learning with the goal to integrate students at various stages of the social science pipeline. High school students serve as YRC Fellows, while undergraduate and graduate students serve as research mentors and research assistants. Year 2 culminated in a Youth Research Council Exhibition held in May 2023 attended by YRC fellows, their families, teachers and administrators from participating schools, and members of the Mason community.

YRC fellows also delivered 2 conference presentations in AY 2023. Five YRC fellows presented "Youth Research Councils and Social Change" at the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) meetings in February 2023. Eight YRC Fellows and one Mason undergraduate presented a poster on "Racial Microaggressions in School and their Mental Health Impacts" at the American Education Research Association (AERA) conference in April 2023. The YRC was awarded a conference travel grants from AERA for the fellows at attend. YRC fellows also assisted in creating a 10-minute video of the YRC process and student experiences with microaggressions. This summer, several YRC fellows are collaborating with university researchers on writing journal articles and a white paper.

In AY 2022, faculty researchers submitted an LOI to William T. Grant Foundation's Improving the Use of Research Evidence and were invited to submit a full proposal focused on youth research councils and youth generated evidence for policy use at municipal and school-district levels. The research team submitted a first proposal "Youth Research Council: Democratizing Research to Optimize Evidence Use" in Spring 2022. Though not funded, the reviews were favorable and the program officer encouraged we revise and resubmit the proposal, which we did in Spring 2023.

YRC Fellows at ESS 2023

Revolutionizing Research for Social Change

REVOLUTIONIZING RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL CHANGE:
A SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ANTI-RACIST AND DECOLONIZING RESEARCH METHODS

Amy Best   **Meagan Call-Cummings**   **Sharrell Hassell-Goodman**   **Rob Graham**   **Khaseem Davis**   **J Orisha,** GRA

CSSR hosted its second annual Summer Research Institute, Revolutionizing Research for Social Change, June 5-9, 2023, a week-long workshop on anti-racist and decolonizing research methods. The goal of the summer institute is to build a cohort of revolutionary researchers who engage anti-racist and decolonizing research principles and practices. Too often, the standard tools of social science research reproduce the very systems of power and subjugation social science seeks to understand and change. During the week-long (in-person) workshop on anti-racist and decolonizing research methods, students develop and engage research tools to revolutionize social science inquiry. During this Summer Research Institute, participating fellows:

- Explore the racial and colonial history of social science research methods.
- Examine the connections between power and knowledge.
- Develop tools for ethical, equitable and inclusive research practice as researchers.
- Create research protocols grounded in anti-racist and inclusive practices.
- Learn and share strategies for equitable and transparent research partnering with historically marginalized communities and groups.
- Build skills in participatory and community-based research practice for change in policy and practice.
- Grow peer networks and connect with research mentors for ongoing collaboration beyond the workshop.

The Summer Institute emphasizes appreciative social science approaches to inquiry in order to not reproduce or worsen, through our research methods, the very problems we seek to understand and address. We see the Summer Institute as part of a broader project to recover and reclaim approaches to knowledge creation that have been subjugated through colonial history and racial exclusion; to provide tools for knowledge building that is equitable, restorative and just, and not extractive; to conduct research with communities and groups that benefits them, builds trust, and honors the expertise people have about their own lives and communities.

The Summer Research Institute in Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research Methods is also committed to building a more diverse cohort of social researchers. Central to that effort is building the types of networks and support that help students to navigate academic settings, forge a sense of belonging in them, and create new opportunities that center the knowledges, identities, and experiences of underrepresented groups. Each morning is spent with panels with speakers representing a broad range of social science fields: psychology, history, anthropology, sociology, education, and research method strategies including: interviewing and oral history, sharing circles, ethnography, critical quantitative methods, historical-comparative research and archival methods. These are followed by mentoring lunches. Mentors are faculty engaged in anti-racist and/or decolonizing research approaches and administrators from across the university engaged in programming to promote inclusion, equity, and diversity. Afternoons are spent in practice workshops. Institute fellows spent one day at Point of View thanks to the generosity of the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. Sessions on wellness and wellbeing in the academy were also built into the schedule.

We received 250 completed applications and admitted 28 Summer Institute Fellows in 2023. Four fellows were from the following graduate programs at Mason: sociology, anthropology, psychology, and higher education. The majority of Fellows were from graduate programs: geography, law, education, sociology, anthropology, public health, social work, psychology, Latino studies, bioethics, global governance and security, with 2 undergraduates. Summer Institute Fellows came from universities across the U.S.: University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Arizona, University of California Riverside, University of Chicago, University of Oregon, University of Maryland, University of South Florida, Washington State University, Howard University, North Carolina State University, UC Santa Barbara, University of Wisconsin, Swarthmore College, University of North Texas, Texas A&M, and Royal Roads University (Canada).

The 2023 Summer Institute is a collaboration of:

- Center for Social Science Research
- Early Identification Program
- Office of Research Integrity and Assurance
- Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning
- Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment
- Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- College of Education and Human Development Division of Ed Psychology and Research Methods

The Summer Institute was fully funded by an AY23 AIRE grant "Building a Diverse Pipeline of Anti-Racist Social Scientists: A Three-Pronged Approach" Co-PI: Meagan Call-Cummings, College of Education and Human Development; Co-PI: Amy L. Best, College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Co-PI: Khaseem Davis, Early Identification Program; Co-PI: Sharrell Hassell-Goodman, College of Humanities and Social Sciences and funding from CeCIL. In AY 2024, The Summer Institute will be primarily funded by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning. The first summer institute was held in July 2022 and funded with generous support from Office of Research Integrity and Assurance and Office of Community Engagement and Civic Learning.

The 2023 cohort at GMU's Point of View campus

The Social Science Research Lab (SSRL)

Blake Silver, PI   **Kellie Wilkerson**   **Maia Punksungka**   **Fanni Farago**   **Tharuna Kalaivanan**

The Social Science Research Lab (SSRL) is a collaborative research group where undergraduate and graduate students learn and practice the skills of social science research in a team-based setting. The collaborative approach developed by SSRL focuses on bringing multiple perspectives to the process of asking research questions, developing a research protocol, collecting/analyzing data, and communicating research findings. FSSRL emphasizes public sociology, working to include a diverse range of communities in the production of knowledge and to share that knowledge with communities where it can have an impact. For instance, the members of SSRL have developed research workshops for students at Mason, including Sociology Capstone students, the Honors College Peer Mentors, and several OSCAR URSP students. SSRL also shares its findings with practitioners and is currently developing programs to foster dialogue on the experiences of college students.

Led by Dr. Blake Silver and four Public Sociology doctoral students: Kellie Wilkerson, Maia Punksungka, Fanni Fargo, and Tharuna Kalaivanan, SSRL represents a partnership between the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, the Honors College, and the Center for Social Science Research. While the lab focuses on social science research, students from any major are invited to join. Currently, SSRL has members from sociology, creative writing, biology, computer science, government, economics, neuroscience, and criminology to name a few. The full lab membership meets once a month during the academic year, with additional ad-hoc meetings for smaller groups to work on focused elements of research projects.

Active Undergraduate Student Members: Alycia George, Anna McElhinny, Eileen Nolan, Fazeela Wadan, Freddy Lopez, James Condo, Jonathan Assefa, Kara Crawford, Kasandra Dizon, Kashmala Mahmood, Kartina Burkett, Maryam Mohammed, Mikaela Jatsuka Pozo, Saahil Iyer, Sanskar Bista, Shams Al Jassar, Sydney Reuter

SSRL Presentations and Publications

Over the past four years, SSRL has used collaborative approaches to social science research to support several projects on educational transitions. These projects have provided opportunities for students to present work at regional and national conferences for scholars and practitioners, including at the annual meetings of the:

- Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region II & III
- American Educational Studies Association (AESA)
- American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
- Mid-South Sociological Association (MSSA)

Members of SSRL have published their research in several peer reviewed journals. Our recent publications can be found in:

- Qualitative Sociology
- Journal of Women and Gender in Higher Education
- Journal of the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition
- Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice
- Journal of College Student Development

Community Engaged Research Workshop
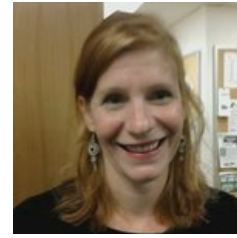
Amy Best, PI

Emma Vetter, GRA

CSSR is committed to grow research capacity and work toward greater data justice with and in local communities. This year CSSR developed and piloted a community-based workshop series introducing community members to elements on social science research with community partner United Community https://www.unitedcommunity.org/

- Developed a curriculum for a 5-part workshop series
- Developed a 100 slide PowerPoint with 5 learning modules:
  - How do develop a research question and what is "research?"
  - How to plan, conduct, and analyze data from interviews, focus groups, oral histories, and testimonials
  - How to plan, conduct, and analyze data from ethnographic observations
  - How to plan, conduct, and analyze data from survey research
  - How to create and write a research report/paper

Extending this initiative, we are in the process of developing a community research resource page intended to provide community groups access to hands-on information for conducting, analyzing, and sharing social science research for community change.

We are developing a series of short video tutorials focused on using open-source digital tools for research to complement the 100 slide 5 modules that will be posted on the CSSR website:

- How to use Zotero for literature searches
- How to use Google sheets for survey research and analysis
- How to code qualitative data
- How to use Canva for infographics for sharing research findings

CSSR organizes a large number of professional and scholarly talks, webinars, conferences, workshops and symposia each. These are listed below. Many of our educational and training activities are attended by students, faculty, practitioners and community members, held either on campus and off campus, and are often sponsored jointly with our numerous community and university partners.

Revolutionizing Research for Social Change Workshop: A Summer Institute in Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research
- Hosted by: CSSR
- Dates: 07/25/22-07/29/22
- Description: An in-person, week-long workshop on anti-racist and decolonizing research with opportunities to connect with mentors for ongoing collaboration.

Blackness in Higher Education: Navigating Dual Pandemics
- Hosted by: CSSR Education & Health Research Hub
- Date: 09/23/22
- Description: CSSR's Education & Health Research Hub is excited to announce our 2022-23 Speaker Series, featuring new research on social and community-engaged aspects of education and health from scholars at George Mason University. This year's series includes 5 virtual events where scholars from anthropology, English, higher education, nursing, and sociology will present their work. Each event starts with a formal talk, followed by time for questions and discussion with audience members. All members of the Mason community are invited to attend.

Europe Underdeveloped African: Celebrating 50 Years of Walter Rodney's Classic
- Hosted by: CSSR Global South Research Hub
- Date: 10/12/22
- Description: Join the CSSR Global South Research Hub and Mason's Department of Sociology & Anthropology for a celebration of 50 years of Walter Rodney's classic, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa. Speakers include Matt Meyer, Mariam Kurtz, and Eric Chinje.

Reciprocal Knowledge-Building in Community-Based Language Documentation and Revitalization

- Hosted by: CSSR Education & Health Research Hub
- Date: 10/14/22
- Description: Description: CSSR's Education & Health Research Hub is excited to announce our 2022-23 Speaker Series, featuring new research on social and community-engaged aspects of education and health from scholars at George Mason University. This year's series includes 5 virtual events where scholars from anthropology, English, higher education, nursing, and sociology will present their work. Each event starts with a formal talk, followed by time for questions and discussion with audience members. All members of the Mason community are invited to attend.

CSSR Urban Research Hub Presents a Book Talk with Tarini Bedi, PhD, "Mumbai Taximen: Autobiographies and Automobiles in India"

- Hosted by: CSSR Urban Research Hub
- Date: 10/20/22
- Description: Join the CSSR Urban Research Hub for a book talk with Tarini Bedi as she discusses her book, Mumbai Taximen. In this first book-length study of Mumbai's taxi industry and of the livelihoods that surround it, Tarini Bedi draws from the lives and voices of chillia taxi drivers who have sustained a hereditary trade for more than a century. While most understandings of automobility remain tied to Western assumptions, patterns of driving, (sub)urbanization, and engagements with the road, realities in the Global South differ. Mumbai Taximen provides a correction to this imbalance from Mumbai through a timely exploration of South Asian social, material, political, labor, and technological histories and practices of motoring and automobility.

The Palestinian Anti-Colonial Movement

- Hosted by: CSSR Global South Research Hub
- Date: 11/02/22
- Description: Global South Research Hub, CSSR presents a public lecture by Anaheed Al-Hardan. Anaheed Al- Hardan is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Howard University and author of the award-winning Palestinians in Syria: Nakba Memories of Shattered Communities (Columbia University Press, 2016)

Reproductive Coercion: Redefining the Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Sexual and Reproductive Health

- Hosted by: CSSR Education & Health Research Hub
- Date: 11/11/22
- Description: CSSR's Education & Health Research Hub is excited to announce our 2022-23 Speaker Series, featuring new research on social and community-engaged aspects of education and health from scholars at George Mason University. This year's series includes 5 virtual events where scholars from anthropology, English, higher education, nursing, and sociology will present their work. Each event starts with a formal talk, followed by time for questions and discussion with audience members. All members of the Mason community are invited to attend.

After Mussolini: A Warning Against Future Proto-Fascisms & the Far Right's Threat to Humanity & the Environment

- Hosted by: CSSR Next System Studies Hub
- Date: 11/17/22
- Description: A roundtable discussion on emergent fascisms featuring activists, scholars, and musicians from around the world.

Webinar: Visible.lgbt: Innovation on Documenting LGBTQ+ Rights Violations in Mexico

- Hosted by: CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS
- Date: 12/08/22
- Description: The CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS invite you to join a webinar focusing on the collection of rich and sensitive data from locations of violence enacted against LGBTQ+ communities.

CSSR Weekly Writing Group

- Hosted by: Amy Best/CSSR
- Date: Every Friday throughout the year
- Description: Join the Center for Social Science Research for a weekly writing group for graduate students and faculty each Friday 9:30-12:00 am (EST). CSSR Director, Amy Best will lead these writing sessions. Each session will be hosted in Zoom. This is a weekly drop-in group.

Writing Successful Fellowships in Graduate School

- Hosted by: CSSR/IIR/PSA
- Date: 02/14/23
- Description: Join us for a panel discussion with current and past fellowship recipients: Associate Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Rashmi Sadana, Sociologist, Dr. Carol Petty (GMU Sociology, PhD, 2021) and Sociology ABD, Maria Valdovinos Olson (GMU Sociology, expected PhD, 2023) during our February Professional Development Hour on Zoom Tuesday, February 14, 12:00-1:00. During the hour students can expect to learn about how to identify appropriate fellowships, tips for writing strong proposals, how to identify and utilize university resources, and framing a research project's broader impacts.

'I Gotta Feeling' Something's Here: Understanding How Military-Connected Students Accrue Cultural and Social Capital

- Hosted by: CSSR Education & Health Research Hub
- Date: 02/24/23
- Description: CSSR's Education & Health Research Hub is excited to announce our 2022-23 Speaker Series, featuring new research on social and community-engaged aspects of education and health from scholars at George Mason University. This year's series includes 5 virtual events where scholars from anthropology, English, higher education, nursing, and sociology will present their work. Each event starts with a formal talk, followed by time for questions and discussion with audience members. All members of the Mason community are invited to attend.

Webinar: The Right to Science and Infectious Diseases: Past, Present, and Future

- Hosted by: CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition
- Date: 03/09/23
- Description: The CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS invite you to join a webinar focusing on the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications ("right to science") and the reasons why this right is necessary and important.

Dana Brown: The Next System of Healthcare

- Hosted by: CSS Next System Studies Hub
- Date: 03/21/23
- Description: This Next System Speakers Series talk will explore both the current landscape of the U.S. healthcare sector and proposals for a democratized healthcare system that produces better and more equitable outcomes for both population health and the economy.

IIR/CSSR/PSA Professional Development Series: Getting it "Done"

- Hosted by: IIR/CSSR/PSA
- Date: 03/22/23
- Description: As part of the IIR/CSSR/PSA joint professional development series, we are hosting a Zoom panel discussion related to a common graduate student problem. Many students get "stuck" as they are moving ahead from a topic to a concrete research question; or from an outline to a full document. Our panel will discuss how to get past this point and not obsess on the perfect dissertation or thesis but rather how to complete a quality product in a reasonable time.

CSSR Urban Research Hub Workshop: Corporate Community Development

- Hosted by: CSSR Urban Research Hub
- Date: 03/31/23
- Description: In 2018, Amazon announced Northern Virginia as the site for its second headquarters. National Landing represents a rebranding of the Crystal City, Pentagon City, and Potomac Yard neighborhoods by Amazon and the lead developer, JBG Smith. Since the announcement, the area is being carefully crafted to fit the overall brand image of Amazon—one that meets all the criteria of a globally shared place-branding checklist, including a brand name, unifying artistic elements, updated infrastructure and green spaces. We have come together as a group of researchers to raise the issues that have resulted from corporate community development as they relate to not only National Landing but also other urban development projects globally. The CSSR Urban Research is hosting a workshop to discuss this important topic.

Book Talk | Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan

- Hosted by: CSSR Global South Research Hub
- Date: 04/03/23
- Description: Join the Global South Research Hub for a book talk by Ijlal Naqvi, who will be discussing his recent book "Access to Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan", Oxford University Press (2022). Dr. Naqvi is Associate Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean at the School of Social Sciences of Singapore Management University.

Eleanor Finley "Rojava, Democratic Confederalism, and the U.S."
- Hosted by: CSSR Next System Studies Hub
- Date: 04/11/23
- Description: In this Next System Speakers Series talk, Eleanor Finley provides an introduction to the Rojava Revolution of 2012, focusing on the unique concepts and historical analysis that guide the Kurdish Freedom Movement's priorities and initiatives.

'As Tame as a Holiday Postcard': A Conspiracy Narrative About Big Pharma as Critique of Power in Modern Democracies
- Hosted by: CSSR Education & Health Research Hub
- Date: 04/14/23
- Description: CSSR's Education & Health Research Hub is excited to announce our 2022-23 Speaker Series, featuring new research on social and community-engaged aspects of education and health from scholars at George Mason University. This year's series includes 5 virtual events where scholars from anthropology, English, higher education, nursing, and sociology will present their work. Each event starts with a formal talk, followed by time for questions and discussion with audience members. All members of the Mason community are invited to attend.

Webinar: Artificial Intelligence and the Rise of Digital Repression
- Hosted by: CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS
- Date: 04/20/23
- Description: The CSSR Movement Engaged Research Hub and AAAS invite you to join a webinar focusing on the rise of AI and Digital technologies, and their increased use by the state and government in tracking and controlling citizens.

Second Global South Graduate Student Conference
- Hosted by: CSSR Global South Research Hub
- Date: 05/04/23
- Description: We are excited to announce that the Global South Research Hub housed within Center for Social Science Research at George Mason University is organizing the Second Global South Graduate Student Conference to be held on May 4 - 5, 2023.

### Keynote Address: Global South Graduate Student Conference

- Hosted by: CSSR Global South Research Hub
- Date: 05/05/23
- Description: We are excited to announce that professor Alf Gunvald Nilsen will be delivering the keynote address at this year's Global South Graduate Student Conference. He will be delivering the address on the topic "Authoritarian Populism in the Southern Interregnum".

Youth Research Council Exhibition

- Hosted by: CSSR Youth Research Council
- Date: 05/13/23
- Description: The Youth Research Council (YRC) is a youth-led research collaborative and community-based experiential learning council. Join us for a presentation of diverse data on racial equity research collected by high school students in Northern Virginia.

Revolutionizing Research for Social Change: A Summer Institute in Anti-Racist and Decolonizing Research Methods

- Hosted by: CSSR
- Date: 06/04/23-06/10/23
- Description: An in-person, week-long workshop on anti-racist and decolonizing research methods with opportunities to connect with mentors for ongoing collaboration.
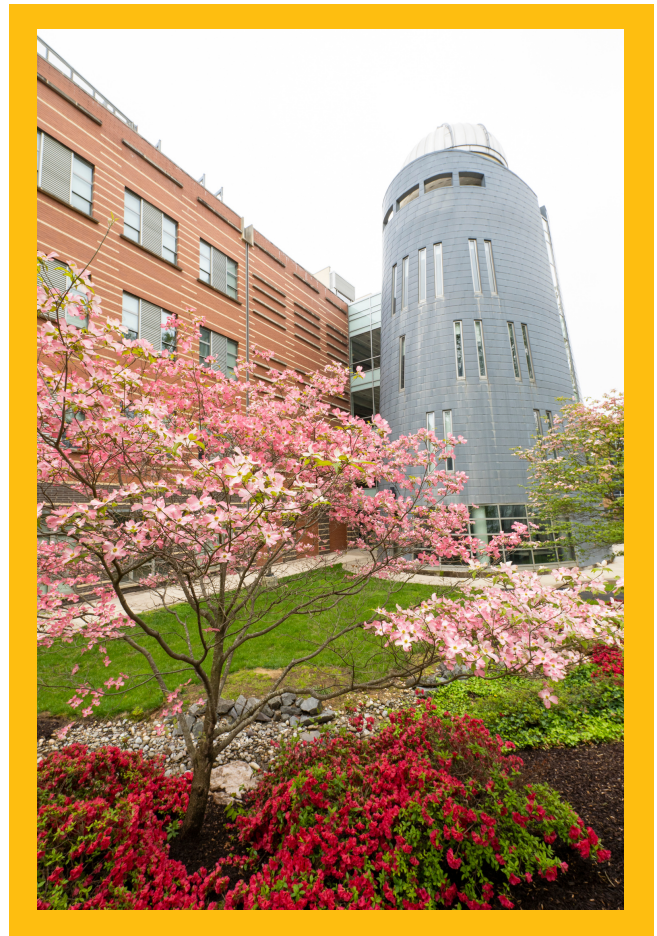
Additional Mentoring and Activities

Undergraduate and Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows mentored or financially supported

Graduate students, whether formally assigned as a GRA at CSSR or not, are active in all research hubs where they are mentored by faculty and have opportunity to participate in program planning and research projects coordinated through the hubs. Graduate and undergraduate students are active in supporting the Next Systems and the DNOVA initiatives and the Social Science Research Lab. 3 undergraduate Arlington Fellows interned at CSSR on the DNOVA project in AY 2023 and CSSR had 1 undergraduate summer intern who worked with CSSR director, Amy Best on a food capacity mapping project in Fairfax County and with faculty Dae Young Kim on a research project on K-pop analyzing qualitative and quantitative data.

The nine graduate students funded through the Sociology PhD program were assigned to CSSR research hubs and initiatives in AY 2023 are: Kellie Wilkerson, J. Orisha, Karthik Ramajuman, Maxwell Rollins, Courtney Bell, Deepika Hooda, Zhara Khan, Emma Vetter, Maia Punksungka. GRAs are responsible for organizing monthly research hub meetings and maintaining research hub listserv, managing Twitter and LinkedIn accounts for each hub in addition to helping to support ongoing research projects that are part of CSSR hubs and initiatives.

Additional educational or training activities for student affiliates or post-doctoral fellows/ Training and Dissemination Activities

The Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) and the Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) together with the Public Sociology Association (PSA) run monthly Professional Development Workshops: Topics (listed above) have included research-related trainings: Arc GIS, Zotero, InVivo, preparing for the academic jobs, and applied social science jobs in the public and private sector. We hosted several alumni panels in AY23 CSSR also supports a weekly virtual writing group for sociology graduate students and department faculty Fridays 9:30-12:00. Launched in January 2021, the writing group operates as a drop-in group, with 5-8 attendees each week, run year-round.

Translational Activities

In addition to the partnerships discussed above, CSSR also serves the University Ambassador to Washington Evaluators and helps support the publication of The Sociologist, the quarterly magazine of the DC Sociological Society.

The CSSR Team

CSSR Director:
- Amy Best

Office Manager:
- Katharine Rupp

Administrative Assistants:
- Garrison Branom
- Stacey South

Hub directors:
- John Dale
- Manjusha Nair
- Rashmi Sadana
- Blake Silver

Initiative Directors:
- Amy Best
- Khaseem Davis
- Meagan Call-Cummings
- Ben Manski
- Blake Silver

Graduate Assistants:
- Courtney Bell
- Drew Bonner
- Lili Deveneau
- Fanni Fargo
- Arvind Geetha Christo
- Eirini Giannaraki
- Deepika Hooda
- Zahra Khan
- Ismail Nooraddini
- Sarah Nidia Ochs
- J Orisha
- Kevin Nazar Pastor
- Maia Punksungka
- Karthik Balaji Ramanujam
- Maxwell David Rollins
- Emma Vetter
- Kellie Wilkerson

CSSR Affiliate Faculty:
(Highlighted- Does not include all):
- Nobuhiro Aizawa
- Marisa Allison
- Dhiman Das
- Raluca Grosescu
- LeNaya Crandall Hezel
- Katie Kerstetter
- Ivan Kislenko
- Jason A. Smith
- Roberta Splater-Roth
- Josh Tuttle
- Avi Mayville
- Randy Lynn
- Matt Birkhold
- Jeremy Campbell

CSSR Advisory Board:
In AY 2023, CSSR formed its advisory board and held its first advisory board meeting in Fall 2022.

Advisory Board members:
- Andrea Robles
  - Research and Evaluation Manager, AmeriCorp
- Nancy Hanrahan
  - Associate Professor of Sociology, SOAN, GMU
- Dae Young Kim
  - Associate Professor of Sociology, SOAN, GMU
- Randy Lynn
  - PhD Sociology alumni (2015), Independent Public Sociologist

Contact Us

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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Center for Social Science Research