



## **Social Justice Research Center** **2018-2019 Academic Year Report** *Kate Muir Welsh, Center Director*

On behalf of the Social Justice Research Center (SJRC), Kate Muir Welsh provides this review of the 2018-2019 Center activities as well as outlines activities for the coming year and near future.

### Center Staff

Dr. Emily Monago, Chief Diversity Officer and Dr. Eric Teman, College of Education and SJRC Advisory Board Member, were acting co-directors for the SJRC during Dr. Kate Welsh's 2018-2019 sabbatical. Dr. Kate Welsh started as the second director of the SJRC in January 2012. The 2018-2019 Graduate Assistant was Conor Mullen, a second-year graduate student in the Social Work and Environment & Natural Resource programs. Kaila Mills, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, provided administrative support for the SJRC.

### Center Expenditures 2018-2019 figures

<u>Expense Type (Example expenses)</u>	<u>Total 2018-2019 Expenses</u>
SJRC Expenses (phone, copies, office supplies, director travel, graduate assistantship, misc. costs)	\$30,502.58
SJRC Research Grants for Faculty, Staff, and Students	\$21,630.50
SJRC Campus Support	\$4,187.40
Total	\$56,320.48

### 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.*



## 2018-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

To accomplish these ends, during the 2018-2019 academic year, the SJRC engaged in the following activities:

- Offering financial and organizational support to social justice relevant programming on campus,
- Co-sponsoring academic presentations; and
- Supporting scholarly inquiry projects by UW students and faculty

These will be discussed more fully below.

### SJRC Work

- 1) Hosted an Open House event at the SJRC on November 5, 2018 to welcome previous years' scholars back and to meet with interested members of the community.
- 2) Helped the GA address technical difficulties related to the SJRC mailing list that will enable SJRC to continue to expand its membership and better accommodate grant applicants. Secured funding for GA for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- 3) Supported efforts with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council through attendance and organizational contributions of the GA.
- 4) Began planning for a revitalizing of a social justice book club and the SJRC blog, which experienced setbacks and transitions in 2017-2018.
- 5) Supported AADS Black History Month events with funding for speakers at a one-day Black History Month conference.
- 6) Supported MLKDOD events with organizational support (GA was a member of the planning committee). Events in the series that were directly supported by the SJRC included:
  - a. Open Mic at Coal Creek Coffee Company
  - b. Community T-shirt Making Party at Gem City Art Studio
  - c. March & Rally Open Poster Making Session at Gem City Art Studio
  - d. Black 14 Panel Discussion
- 7) The Spring 2019 Call for Proposals for supplemental research funding received twenty-four applications. The SJRC funded ten.
- 8) Supported Shepard Symposium on Social Justice events with organization support (GA was a member of the planning committee as well as the awards committee). Events in the series that were directly supported by the SJRC included:
  - a. Shepard Symposium Awards Ceremony
  - b. 2017 SJRC Scholars presentations by Scott Freng, Joe Moose, and Taryn Jim
- 9) Supported Pathways from Prison Symposium with funding that contributed to expenses related to audio/visual presentation and the symposium's livestream broadcast.



- 10) Purchased artwork from the 44th Juried University of Wyoming Student Exhibition, titled *OK Google, Who Am I?* by student Garrett Cruzan.
- 11) Held a Scholars Meeting on April 9, 2019 in the Conference Room 506 at the University of Wyoming's Coe Library. This meeting provided a place for the SJRC Advisory Board members and SJRC Scholars of 2017-2018 academic year (See Appendix B for scholars), and the new 2018-2019 Scholars (See Appendix C for scholars) to share research ideas and updates on publications.

#### University Events and Academic Presentations

During 2018-2019 the SJRC worked with colleges, departments, and university groups to co-host events. The speakers the SJRC supported with co-sponsoring group are listed below:

- **Wyoming Latina Leadership Conference**, held in October 2018. Wyoming Latina Youth Conference is a science outreach initiative for young Latinas (junior high and high school girls from across Wyoming). In cooperation with Dr. Cecilia Aragon (Director of Latina/o Studies), the SJRC helped lower the costs of scholarships, organizational operating budget, and graduate internships for UW Latina students. During the conference young Latinas experienced a bilingual day of workshops on STEM, leadership, wellness, and creativity.
- **Pathways from Prison Symposium**, held in March 2019. The purpose of this two-day, solution-oriented symposium is to advance the field of education in prison, as well as efforts to support formerly incarcerated people in their transition from incarceration to freedom. The SJRC helped to cover costs related to audio/visual presentation and the symposium's livestream broadcast.

#### Scholarly Projects Funded

A third major initiative of the SJRC is to support scholarly projects proposed by students (graduate and undergraduate) as well as by faculty and staff. In the 2018-2019 academic year, we funded 10 research projects. The funded projects for the 2018-2019 academic year, along with their project investigator, are identified in Appendix B. Scholars are expected to complete the following.

- Present work at the Spring 2020 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 fall 2019 and spring 2020;
- Work with David Macaulay, Assistant 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.

## **2018-2019 GOALS/ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

### **1. Center Organization**

1. Maintain the center's ongoing initiatives during the academic year while Director Kate Welsh is on leave for sabbatical.  
*With the help of our Advisory Board, our acting co-directors Drs. Emily Monago and Eric Teman, as well GA Conor Mullen, the SJRC accomplished its regular goals, along with a few additional efforts.*
2. Continue to work with Advisory Board.  
*Challenging, but productive year working with the board during staff transition, but subcommittees were maintained including grant review, blog/website, and membership.*
3. Expand Advisory Board to fill vacant seats.  
*The board did not fill any of its standing vacancies but attempts to recruit were made from the Art Museum and Global Studies Programs. Longtime contributor Christi Boggs (ECTL Instructional Designer and Office of Distance Education Support) was officially welcomed to the board. Efforts to continue to fill standing vacancies will continue in the Fall of 2019.*
4. Generate content for the SJRC blog and website.  
*Advisory board members did not participate in monthly blogs on social justice topics of their choice and while the blog/website subcommittee did develop some foundations for addressing this issue with initiatives designed to open the blog up to more contributors and various forms of content other than written posts (ex. videos, photos, podcasts), the SJRC blog and website are in need of attention in 2019.*
5. Support social justice activities on campus.  
*Continued financial and personnel support of SSSJ and MLKDOD.*
6. Others as determined by Advisory Board.

### **2. Scholarly Efforts**

1. The Center will bring the Fall and Spring 2017 research awardees together for shared communication/dialogue about the projects in which they are engaged.  
*Brought 2018 awardees together with Spring 2019 scholars. They shared stories of their projects and ideas related to the broader field of social justice research.*
2. Form a social justice research reading group on campus.  
*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 several different departments and organizations to bring scholars to campus, including AADS, WIND, Latina/o Studies, Wyoming Latina Youth Conference, MLKDOD, and Office Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.*



## **2019-2020 GOALS/ACTIVITIES**

### **2019-20-1. Center Organization**

1. Organize department visits and teach-in opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and community members.
2. Continue to work with Advisory Board.
3. Expand Advisory Board to fill vacant seats.
4. Update Mailmerge system to accept more SJRC member affiliates and more effectively distribute news and calls for proposals to faculty, staff, students, and community members.
5. Formalize procedure for responding to and awarding informal funding requests.
6. Assist ODEI GA Josh Sainz with development of graduate student leadership curriculum in social justice.
7. Support social justice activities on campus.
8. Generate content and seek out contributors for SJRC blog/website.
9. Others as determined by Advisory Board.

### **2018-19-2. Scholarly Efforts**

1. The Center will bring the 2018 research awardees and future 2019 scholars together for shared communication/dialogue about the projects in which they are engaged.
2. Assist with the reformation of a social justice research reading group on campus (SJ/DEI Reading Group).
3. Aid UW departments' outreach efforts to bring social justice researchers onto campus.
4. Investigate bringing together social justice center directors for a conference.
5. Improve application instructions and form to better accommodate interested funding applicants.
6. Improve accounting and funding thread for scholars to receive funding in a timelier manner.



## Appendix A: Advisory Board Documents

### Social Justice Research Center Advisory Board

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The SJRC Advisory Board is made up of volunteers who represent various entities on campus. The list below is the 2018-19 membership. Vacancies as highlighted in yellow.

College	Representative
1. American Heritage Center	
2. College of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Erin Irick
3. College of Arts and Sciences	Nick Crane, Marcus Watson**
4. College of Business	Andy Arnette
5. College of Education	Reed Scull, Judy Yates*, Eric Teman**
6. College of Engineering & Applied Sciences	Teddi Freedman*
7. College of Health Sciences	Christine Porter
8. College of Law	Melissa Alexander
9. Information Technology/ IT-Client Support Services	Alec Muthig
10. College of Education	Reed Scull
11. School of Energy Resources	
12. Haub School	Maggie Bourque
13. UW Libraries	David Macaulay
14. Wyoming Institute for Disabilities	Michelle Jarman
15. Shepard Symposium Representative	Danielle Cover
16. Shepard Symposium Representative/ECTL	Christi Boggs
17. Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	Emily Monago

\* As of the fall 2019 semester, Judy Yates and Teddi Freedman have taken leave from their roles on the SJRC advisory board – we will hope to welcome them back if/when they are ready. \*\* As of the fall 2019 semester, Eric Teman and Marcus Watson have resigned from UW.

### 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



## **Appendix B: SJRC Funded Scholarly Initiatives (Spring 2018)**

The following projects received funding to support their projects:

**Colleen Denney** (\$1,670.00) Faculty (School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice)  
"Australian Women's Suffrage: A Visual Investigation."

**Scott Freng** (\$2,343.75) Faculty (Psychology)  
"Mapping Different Forms of Prejudice Toward African Americans: Exploring State Level Outcomes."

**Joe Moose** (\$575.00) Graduate Student (Geography)  
"Racialization in and through professional baseball in the United States"

**Taryn Jim** (\$1500.00) Graduate Student (Communication Disorders)  
"Ethnographic Interviewing with Native American Caregivers"



## Appendix C: SJRC Funded Scholarly Initiatives (Spring 2019)

The following scholars received funding to support their projects:

**Lynora Anderson** (\$1800.00) Undergraduate Student (Arts & Sciences)  
"Justice John Marshall Harlan: The Great Dissenter and a Champion of Equal Protection Under the Law"

**Cecilia Aragon** (\$3000.00) Faculty (Theater & Dance)  
"Wyoming and Hawai'i Partnership: Local and Global Community Engagement and Collaboration Through Storytelling and Service-Learning Projects"

**Rachael Budowle** (\$2278.26) Doctoral Student (Anthropology)  
"Assessing Community Resilience in a Wind River Indian Reservation Home Gardening Project with Participatory Social-Ecological Network Analysis"

**Nicole Crawford** (\$2500.00) Staff (UW Art Museum)  
"Stealing Culture: The Intersection of Criminal Law and Museums"

**Fredrick Douglas Dixon** (\$2799.00) Faculty (African American Diaspora)  
"The Origin and Rise of Chicago's Black Community College Campus Movement"

**Juan Garcia Cardona** (\$1600.00) Graduate Student (Modern and Classical Languages)  
"Use of Code-switching in the Educational Context of Heritage Speakers"

**Madison Marquer** (\$2517.00) Graduate Student (Geography)  
"Identifying and Working to Correct Gender-based Discrimination within the Gaming Community"

**Cleo Matthews** (\$838.00) Graduate Student (American Studies)  
"The Political Potential of Trauma-Informed Policies and Practices"

**Conor Mullen** (\$1871.74) Graduate Student (Social Work and Environment & Natural Resources)  
"Empowerment Through Skateboarding: Photo Novella with Displaced Youth in Greece"

**Jerry Stott** (\$977.00) Faculty (School of Politics, Public Affairs, and International Studies)  
"The Role of Aesthetics in the Defense of Public Lands: A Case Study of the Alternative National Parks Movement and the Battle over Bears Ears National Monument"