



UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement's

Second Class of Fellows Complete Impactful Research on Matters of Free Expression and Civil Discourse

Eleven renowned scholars and practitioners complete research exploring issues related to expression and engagement in college communities

Irvine, CA, August 27, 2020 – The University of California [National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement](#) announced the completion of 10 unique research projects from its second class of fellows, designed to address issues that are central to advancing campus discourse and civic engagement in higher education and beyond. The fellows' research continues the Center's important work of helping educational institutions and communities foster environments that protect free expression, encourage activism and promote diversity and inclusion.

"We are proud of the research our fellows have conducted to explore timely and challenging questions related to the First Amendment and free expression in a variety of contexts," said Executive Director Michelle Deutchman. "Their exceptional work will contribute to a rich legacy in this area of study and will impact a variety of communities for the better—especially as educators, administrators and students navigate new challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The release of the projects marks the end of a year-long fellowship program with the Center. As part of their fellowship, each participant spent a week at one of the 10 UC campuses to dialogue with students, faculty, administrators and others to gather crucial insights that informed the educational materials and guides they created.

Below are the [Center's 2019-2020 fellows](#) and their completed research:

Melissa Barthelemy, PhD Candidate in Public History, UC Santa Barbara

- ["Let There Be Light: Freedom of Expression on Campus," a Student Affairs Toolkit](#)

Jonathan Friedman, Director of PEN America's Campus Speech Program

- ["Free Speech Guides for Diversity Offices, Student Affairs and Residence Life"](#)

Nikita Gupta, Director of the GRIT Coaching Program at UCLA

- ["Transforming Moments of Conflict Through Embodied Research: A Guide for Student Affairs Professionals"](#)

Spoma Jovanovic, Professor of Communication Studies at University of North Carolina, Greensboro

- ["Free Speech & Public Spaces: Voice, Activism and Democracy"](#)

Rebecca MacKinnon, Director of Ranking Digital Rights at New America

- [“Reclaiming Free Speech for Democracy and Human Rights in a Digitally Networked World”](#)

Saugher Nojan, PhD Candidate in Sociology, UC Santa Cruz

- [“Examining Civic and Political Engagement and Campus Climate Among University of California Muslim Students”](#)

Lara Schwartz, Professorial Lecturer for the School of Public Affairs and Director of the Project on Civil Discourse at American University and **Andrea Brenner**, Sociologist, Curriculum Designer, and College Transitions Educator

- [“Let Freedom \(and Respect\) Ring: Fostering Civil Discourse and Free Speech in the Classroom and Beyond”](#)

Emerson Sykes, Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union

- [“Free Speech for Student Activists: A First Amendment Workshop for Student Leaders”](#)

Shira Tarrant, Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies at California State University at Long Beach

- [“Sex.Talk.Toolkit.”](#)

John Wilson, Co-Editor of AcademeBlog.org

- [“Freedom of the Press on Campus”](#)

The Center will host a series of workshops this fall featuring the work of the 2019-2020 fellows. For more information on the workshops or to learn more about the Center and its fellowship program, visit the Center’s website at reespeechcenter.universityofcalifornia.edu/.

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About the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

The Center explores how the fundamental democratic principles of free speech and civic engagement must adapt to the challenges and opportunities of modern society. Through research, advocacy, debate and discussion, the Center helps ensure that the next generation of leaders is prepared to defend and advance these values.

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