

University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Michelle Deutchman
Executive Director

When I accepted the job of inaugural executive director of the Center in May 2018, a number of people cautioned me that campus speech issues were a fad, and the Center would quickly become obsolete.

Three years later, it is clear that concerns and controversies about expression, academic freedom and the value and purpose of higher education are here to stay.

2021 jump-started with a test of our democracy. As a wellspring of that democracy, colleges and universities play a critical role in amplifying and inculcating civic literacy, democratic learning and robust expression.

This is where the Center comes in -- **championing free speech and civic engagement on college campuses through our innovative research, resources and programming**. We are committed to educating all campus stakeholders so they feel empowered to be active participants in a democratic society.

This has been a uniquely trying year, and we are grateful for your partnership. We look forward to continued collaboration as we prepare to face whatever challenges the future may hold.

Michelle N. Deutchman

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Howard Gillman + Erwin Chemerinsky
Chancellor, UC Irvine *Dean, UC Berkeley School of Law*



Erwin, what an extraordinary year it has been! We might have predicted that, during an unprecedented health emergency, the Center's work would be less urgent compared to the exigencies of public health and safety. But in fact, **the Center recognized the unique challenges of maintaining and even encouraging engaged activity even when we were required to be physically separated.** When I review the programs and workshops organized by the Center's programming over the past year, I'm just astonished at how well it rose to the moment.

The issues of free speech and civic engagement are no less urgent, though the specific topics are different at the moment from when the Center was founded. In the last year, many states have adopted laws prohibiting the teaching of Critical Race Theory, including at colleges and universities. These raise profoundly important questions about free speech as the laws are quite vague and are meant to stop speech expressing a particular viewpoint.





When we wrote our book we noted that debates about the scope of free speech on campus have been perennial, and these past few months have been no exception. We have seen attention-getting disputes such as MIT disinviting a professor from giving a talk or potential administrative overreach by Yale Law School administrators in response to a student's email. Seems as if every day we still have new issues to discuss and debate.

What's interesting about the examples you mention is that they arise in contexts where the First Amendment doesn't apply. MIT and Yale are private universities and the actions wouldn't infringe the First Amendment even if they occurred at public universities. **These are really hard questions and ones the Center will surely explore in 2022.**



2021 BY THE NUMBERS

575
Attendees over the two-day #SpeechMatters 2021 Conference

21 RAISE YOUR VOICE
Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Awards

04 SPEECH SPOTLIGHT
Speech Spotlight Live Events



10
2020-2021 Fellows Program Completed Research Projects

08
2021-2022 Fellows Selected

01
Special Event

02 Ask *the* Experts
Editions of Ask the Experts

06 FELLOWS in the FIELD
Fellows in the Field Interactive Workshops

"At a time when our democratic institutions have been under attack - from the violent insurrection at the Capitol to voting restrictions in Texas and elsewhere - the Center's work to promote free speech and civic engagement is more important than ever."

- John King, President and CEO, The Education Trust; Former U.S. Secretary of Education

Programs

CENTER FELLOWS

Each year, the Center selects Fellows from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds. Fellows receive a stipend to conduct a year-long research project that will further the national conversation related to expression and civic engagement on college campuses.



"My Fellowship with the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic engagement offered a unique opportunity to learn from - and with - leading scholars and practitioners working on overlapping problems. As a professional working in public policy and free speech advocacy, the chance to step back and think about the big picture from fresh angles was invaluable."

- Rebecca MacKinnon, Vice President, Global Advocacy, Wikimedia Foundation (2019-20 Center Fellow)

Fellows Class of 2020-2021

The Center's third class of Fellows is an exceptional group representing students, professors, law enforcement, local politicians and senior administrators—all of whom tackled challenging and timely issues pertaining to expression, academic freedom and campus climate. Their completed research was released in the summer of 2021.



Ernesto Arciniega
Lighting the Way for Undocumented Students at UC: Free Speech, Civic and Political Engagement



Cerri Banks
Black Administrators and Black Student Activism - Media's Impact on Navigating Relationships and Transforming Learning



Cassie Barnhardt
Comparing Contemporary Campus Mobilization at Scale: Tactics, Intensity, and Media Attention



Ryan Coonerty
Skokie: Free Speech and Community



Jill Dunlap | Alice Yau
Mind the Gap: Administrators' Role in Reducing Tensions Between Campus Law Enforcement and Student Activists



Nina M. Flores
Tweets, Threats, and Censorship: Campus Resources to Support Faculty Through Incidents of Targeted Harassment



Nicholas Havey
Are Campuses Echo Chambers? Exploring the Information Networks of Student Leaders



Jennifer Lambe
Best Practices for Balancing Free Speech and Diversity in Higher Education



Elizabeth Niehaus
Self-Censorship or Just Being Nice? Understanding College Students' Moral Reasoning around Free Speech in the Classroom



Brian Soucek
Institutional Values, Academic Freedom, and the First Amendment

FELLOWS IN THE FIELD

Fellows in the Field Series:

To celebrate the conclusion of the annual Fellows Program and the official release of the Fellows' work, the Center proudly hosted Fellows in the Field. This series of six interactive digital workshops highlighted the Fellows' findings and how to apply them on campus.

Fellows Class of 2021-2022

Our fourth class of Fellows represents graduate students and faculty from across the country who are researching complex topics such as: the roles of campus whistleblowers, revisiting bias response teams and censorship in academic museums and galleries. Their projects will be released in May 2022.

"The Center is unique in the landscape of organizations supporting free speech, which have proliferated in recent years. Contrary to most, the Center is staunchly non-partisan and does not promote an ideological view on speech, despite the unfortunate politicization of the topic. The programs at the Center are always professional, innovative, and illuminating."

- Sigal Ben-Porath, Professor of education, philosophy, and political science at the University of Pennsylvania



Lynn Comella, Ph.D.
Stop Offending Me! Pornography, Free Speech, and Best Practices for Navigating Campus Controversies



Carlo DaVia
Free Speech and Moral Censorship in Humanities Curricula



Jacob Fay
Growing the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership (ICDP)



Matthew Griffith
Let's Talk About Race: Exploring How Race and Racism is Centered in Undergraduate Civic Engagement Courses



Frank LoMonte
Protecting the Campus Whistleblower: Freedom of Speech, in Policy and Practice, for Vulnerable Speakers



Ryan A. Miller, Ph.D.
Bias Response Teams Revisited: Navigating Free Speech, Equity, and Inclusion



Teri Platt
Free Speech and Civic Engagement on Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Campuses



Amy Werbel
Documenting, Analyzing, and Promoting Freedom of Artistic Expression in Academic Museums and Galleries

Programs

VOICE INITIATIVE

The Valuing Open and Inclusive Conversation and Engagement (VOICE) Initiative provides funding for UC students, staff and faculty interested in conducting research or coordinating programs that further the mission of the Center.

This year, the Center's VOICE Initiative focused on the theme of "Breaking Barriers" in campus expression and engagement. Our second VOICE cohort showcases the creativity and diversity of perspectives, programming and research in the UC system.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

"After 18 months away from campus, our students are more eager than ever to be active and effective community members. **Thanks to the VOICE grant, we have a cohort of students who are deeply engaged in our brand new CESP, learning about the principles of civic engagement and putting them into practice on campus and beyond.** After a Fall Quarter Seminar in Civic Engagement and Deliberative Democracy, our scholars will work for the rest of the academic year in the community on issues as diverse as housing insecurity, voter registration, advocating for formerly incarcerated UC students, and disaster resilience."



- **Katya Armistead**, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life; **Maeve Devoy**, Associate Director, Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life; and **Viviana Marsano**, Civic and Community Engagement Isla Vista Liaison and Senior Advisor to Campus Organizations (2021 VOICE Recipients)

2021 VOICE Recipients and Projects:



Civic Engagement Hackathon
UC Berkeley



Estamos Aquí
UC Davis



Sustained Dialogue for Community Building and Conflict Resilience
UC Davis



Davis Journal of Legal Studies
UC Davis



The Unsilencing of Students: Examining the Influence of Students of Color Voices in Transforming Professional Development & Pedagogy
UC Irvine



Complete Countdown to 2030
UCLA



Assessing Faculty Politics: How Do Members of the Professoriate Identify Politically?
UCLA



Dialogues That Matter
UC Merced



Inspiring R' Leaders Conference: Civic Action
UC Riverside



Informadxs: Understanding Science en español
UC Riverside



Digital Advocacy Week
UC Riverside



The Patriotism Project
UC Riverside



Envirosations
UC Santa Barbara



Civic Engagement Scholars Program
UC Santa Barbara



Neoliberalism, State Divestment, and the Future of the UC System
UC Santa Barbara



Practicing Accessibility and Inclusion
UC Santa Cruz



Art, Prisons, and the University: Creating a Culture of Inclusivity for Formerly Incarcerated Students
UC Santa Cruz



Finding My Civic Ethos
UC San Diego



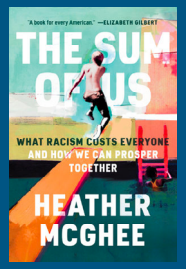
Open Dyalog
UC San Diego



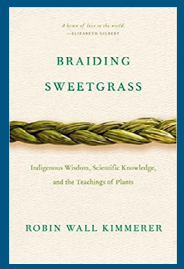
Restorative Justice Practices: Building Community and Repairing Harm
UC San Francisco

VOICE BOOK CLUB!

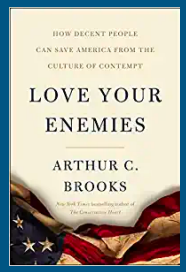
VOICE Awardees decided that quarterly meetings did not allow enough time to delve into deeper discussions so they formed a Book Discussion Group. Book topics are wide-ranging and the group has grown to include current and former Center fellows.



Winter: The Sum of Us (Heather McGhee)



Fall: Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants (Robin Wall Kimmerer)



Summer: Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save American from the Culture of Contempt (Arthur Brooks)

"As the founder of Davis Journal of Legal Studies (DJLS), I am seeking to create a body of undergraduate legal scholarship that is freely and widely accessible. **I am grateful to the Center for their generosity, which has allowed us to keep the journal free to the public.** The Center supports DJLS's mission to make legal studies and publication more accessible, diverse, and inclusive, and it has been an honor to work with the Center."

-Emma Tolliver, Undergrad Student, College of Letters and Science: English and Political Science - Public Service

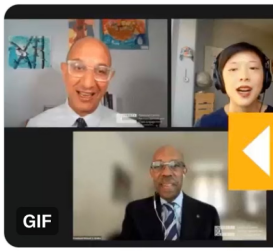
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



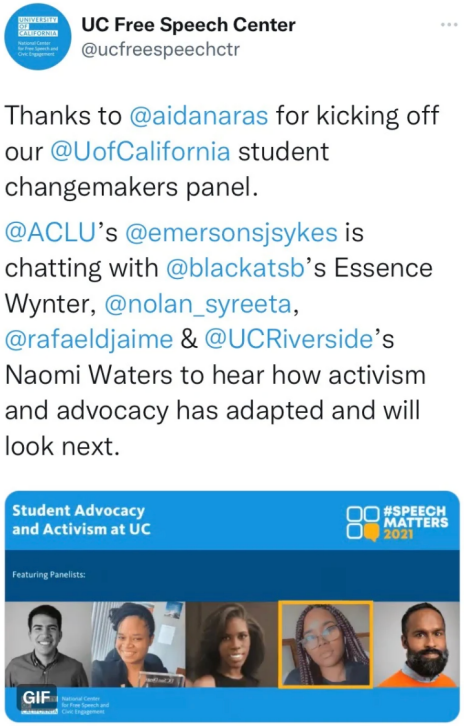
Emma Tolliver
Undergrad Student, College of Letters and Science: English and Political Science - Public Service

Davis Journal of Legal Studies (DJLS) is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate academic journal. Modeled after law reviews, DJLS was created to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to write, edit, and publish research pertaining to legal studies and law. The goal of DJLS is to advance legal discourse through public scholarship and empower undergraduate students by promoting and publishing their research.





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Events

#SPEECH MATTERS 2021

SpeechMatters 2021: Charting the Course for Campus Expression & Engagement, the Center's third annual #SpeechMatters conference, was hosted on April 20-21, 2021. We convened leading scientists, scholars, journalists, and activists for dynamic conversations about how to forge ahead in light of historic civil rights protests, the Capitol insurrection and a global pandemic. The topics featured in this virtual event showcased the numerous ways that the pandemic and the shift to remote learning upended higher education - and society at large.

2021 Event Stats:

~575 total attendees

20 distinguished speakers

26 different civil society groups in attendance

68 different universities and colleges in attendance



"#SpeechMatters is a great opportunity to hear from student activists, administrators, and academics on today's most pressing campus speech issues. I look forward to participating each year."

- Emerson Sykes, Staff Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (2019-20 Center Fellow)

Events

SPEECH SPOTLIGHT *Live!*

In January 2021, the Center launched "Speech Spotlight Live," a series of virtual events that examined pressing speech and engagement issues arising in higher education. Topics included an interview with UC President Michael V. Drake, a spirited discussion on de-platforming and the impacts of university-issued statements.

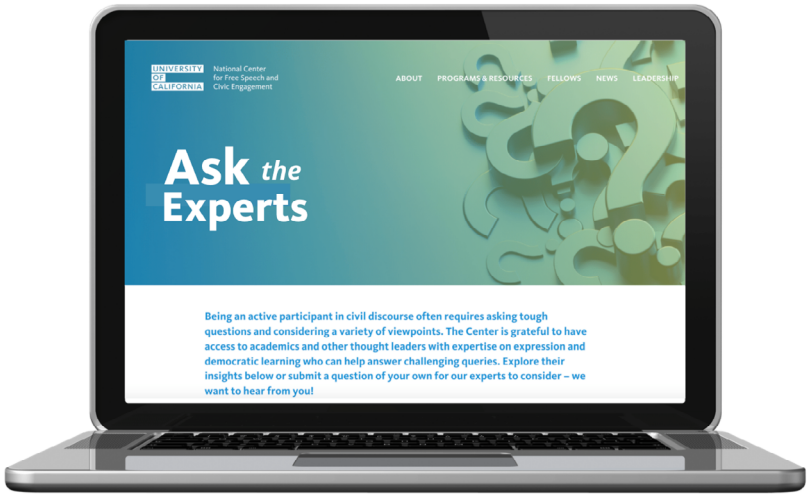




We bookended the year with a timely analysis of the impact of the January 6th insurrection on democracy and a conversation about recent threats to academic freedom.

RESOURCES

In September, the Center created its new "Ask the Experts" feature, which asks academics and other thought leaders to consider challenging queries related to free expression and democratic learning. The first two installments focused on the return to in-person learning and the challenges of balancing free expression with diversity and inclusion efforts.



The Center also published two new guides:



First Amendment resources

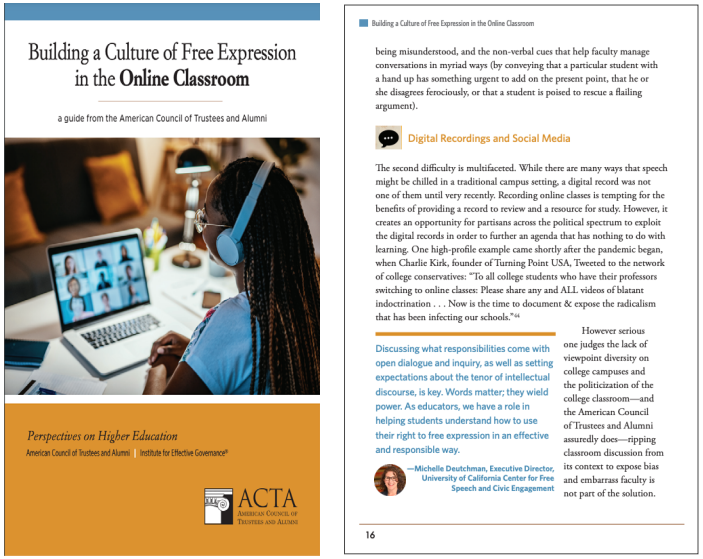
To help campuses design effective ways to educate students about their free expression rights.



Civil Discourse resources

To assist all campus stakeholders in facilitating difficult conversations effectively.





American Council of Trustees and Alumni's report



On April 8, 2021, Executive Director Michelle Deutchman spoke on the virtual panel, "The Alumna, the Administrator, and the Advocate – Free Speech on College Campuses," hosted by California State University San Marcos.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Supporting and connecting with the larger expression, civic engagement and higher education communities is integral to the Center's work. This year we collaborated with a number of influential organizations and institutions including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni and the Knight Foundation.

A key Center priority is training and educating new generations of students, scholars and practitioners about the integral role speech plays in strengthening our social fabric. **Throughout 2021, the Center facilitated workshops at community colleges, state universities and national conferences. These workshops included undergraduate and graduate students, law enforcement, administrators, staff and faculty.**

MEDIA HITS

City on a Hill Press

The Daily Nexus

EdSource

The Hechinger Report

Hot off the Pod: Bringing Free Speech Full Circle with Michelle Deutchman

Inside Higher Ed

The Triton

UC Santa Cruz

"In a time when academic freedom of expression is threatened, debates about limiting speech rage on college campuses nationwide and key elements of civil society are weakened by a lack of faith in institutions, the University of California National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement is bringing focus and academic rigor to the kinds of conversations that are needed now more than ever."

-Tamara Keith, White House Correspondent, NPR, Center National Advisory Board Member

UC President Michael Drake Stars on Speech Spotlight Live

CITY ON A HILL PRESS

CA Chancellor Oakley backs college leaders after blowback for denouncing Capitol violence

EdSource

Facing post-graduation "firsts" and uncertainty about DACA's future, undocumented students turn to each other for support

THE HECHINGER REPORT

New Civic Engagement Scholars Program Seeks To Provide Accessible Route for Student Activism

DAILY NEXUS

ABOUT THE CENTER

Chair



Michael V. Drake
President
University of California

Executive Director



Michelle Deutchman
Executive Director

National Advisory Board Co-chairs



Howard Gillman
Chancellor
UC Irvine



Erwin Chemerinsky
Dean
UC Berkeley School of Law

National Advisory Board



Harvey Brody
UC Regent Emeritus



Vijaya Gadde
General Counsel, Twitter



Tamara Keith
White House Correspondent, NPR



John King
President and CEO, The Education Trust; Former U.S. Secretary of Education



Anne Kornblut
Director, New Initiatives for News Partnerships, Facebook



Monica C. Lozano
President and CEO, College Futures Foundation



Avi Oved
Student, UCLA Law School



Bret Stephens
Columnist, New York Times



Geoffrey R. Stone
Professor, University of Chicago Law School



George Will
Columnist, Washington Post

Staff



Brenda Pitcher
Executive Assistant

Current Academic Advisory Board

Farrell Ackerman
UC San Diego - Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Human Developmental Sciences Program

Ahmad Atif Ahmad
UC Santa Barbara - Professor, Religious Studies; Chair of the Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom, and Awards

Ashutosh Bhagwat
UC Davis - Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Law and the Boochever and Bird Endowed Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality

Amy Binder
UC San Diego - Professor, Sociology

Simone E. Chambers
UC Irvine - Professor, Political Science

Michael Mark Cohen
UC Berkeley - Associate Teaching Professor, African American Studies & African Diaspora Studies

John Ganim
UC Riverside - Distinguished Professor, English

Jody Greene
UC Santa Cruz - Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning; Director of the Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning; Professor of Literature

Andrea Hasenstaub
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor of Otolaryngology –

Jeffrey Kopstein
UC Irvine - Professor of Political Science Head and Neck Surgery

Suneil K. Koliwad
UC San Francisco - Associate Professor, Medicine, Diabetes Center; Gerold Grodsky, PhD/JAB Chair in Diabetes Research

Christopher Kutz
UC Berkeley, C. William Maxeiner Distinguished Professor of Law

Sean Malloy
UC Merced - Professor of History and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES

Catherine Ramirez
UC Santa Cruz - Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies

Seana Shiffrin
UCLA - Professor of Philosophy and Pete Kameron Professor of Law and Social Justice

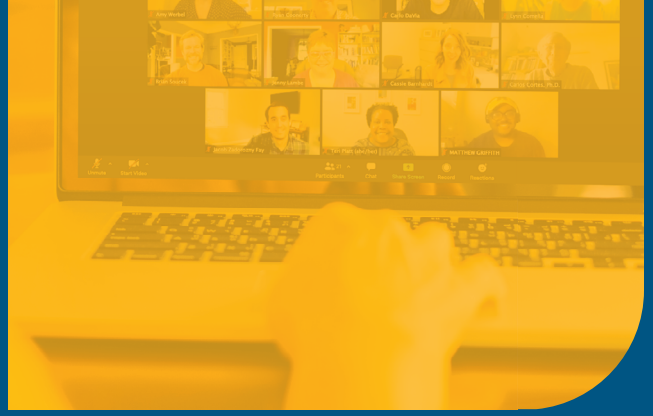
Hendry Ton
UC Davis - Associate Vice Chancellor for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at UC Davis Health and a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science

Nella Van Dyke
UC Merced - Professor, Sociology

John Villasenor
UC Los Angeles - Professor, Electrical Engineering, Law, Public Policy & Management

France Winddance Twine
UC Santa Barbara - Professor of Sociology and Vice-Chair of Sociology Department

Jose Wudka
UC Riverside - Professor, Physics and Astronomy; Divisional Dean Physical Sciences & Mathematics



To learn more about the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement, visit:
freespeechcenter.universityofcalifornia.edu

Contact us at:
freespeechcenter@uci.edu

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement