



Democratizing Data:

Grassroots Strategies to Advance Human Rights

April 17–18, 2019 Vanderbilt Hall, NYU School of Law

<https://2019.nyubernsteinconference.org> #DemocratizeData

Robert L. Bernstein
Institute for
Human Rights
at NYU School of Law



NYU LAW

I am an invisible man. (...) I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids – and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me. (...) it is as though I have been surrounded by mirrors of hard, distorting glass. When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination – indeed, everything and anything except me.

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Seen as essential to understanding human life, data informs and shapes knowledge creation. It is powerful, political, and for the most marginalized can serve as mirrors of hard, distorting glass.

For generations data has been a tool of oppression, generated and harvested by colonial regimes, corporations, and government agencies alike to exert control and often exploit the poor and marginalized. The ability to define individuals and communities has often remained in the pockets of the powerful, with marginalized communities excluded from the design, collection, and analysis of the data that represents their lived realities. As the process of datafication – the rendering our lives subject to computation and algorithm – increases, the divide between those with the power to define and calculate and those subject to such processes, rapidly grows. This exclusion is sometimes deliberate and by design – aimed at supporting public policies and financial transactions that expand state control and corporate capture. But often this exclusion is born of material inequities and institutionalized bias, which is built into the very identities ascribed to individuals and communities who are categorized, tagged, and sorted by algorithms.

Whether born of an overt scheme to exert power or the result of microprocesses of labeling and computation, the results are often the same: indigenous lands are seized for profit, refugee bodies are deemed illegal, vulnerable populations are rendered invisible, and communities of color are targeted for crimes they did not commit.

In the shadow of datafication's dark side, a movement is brewing at the grassroots. When data is demystified, deconstructed, and placed in the hands of affected communities, it can be used to empower and fight injustice. From exerting control over processes of definition, computation, and machine learning, to rejecting data-driven systems outright, communities are deliberately subverting data systems imposed on them or turning the data gaze on those in power.

The 2019 Bernstein Institute for Human Rights Conference aims to bring these stories to light. The conference will draw together leading human rights practitioners and academics from across the globe to explore the possibilities of democratizing data and data processes as a pathway toward legal empowerment and realization of human rights. Speakers will reflect on the emerging field of data justice, and highlight strategies that deepen engagement of marginalized communities in understanding, collecting, shaping, subverting, and resisting the data that defines their lives.

We are incredibly grateful to the Bernstein family for their extraordinary leadership, philanthropy, and deep commitment to human rights. Through their support, the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights has made it possible to educate the next generation of human rights leaders at NYU School of Law and keep the institution at the cutting edge of legal education, research, and practice. *Democratizing Data* honors the legacy and vision of Robert L. Bernstein, a leader and tireless defender of human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world.

The conference will open with a framing panel on democratizing data, followed by six panels that discuss the need for community-led resistance efforts to challenge state and corporate control of data. The sessions will focus on innovative strategies to deepen engagement of marginalized communities in understanding, collecting, shaping, and subverting the data that defines their lives.

9:00 – 10:30am | Framing

Advancing Human Rights by Democratizing Data

Moderator Margaret Satterthwaite '99 - Professor of Clinical Law, NYU School of Law; Faculty Director, Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights, NYU School of Law

Speakers James Hudson - Managing Director, ConstellateNZ

Fieke Jansen - Ph.D. Candidate, Data Justice Lab, Cardiff University

Manjari Mahajan - Assistant Professor of International Affairs, The New School

Jhody Polk - Executive Director, Florida Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls; Soros Justice Fellow

This opening panel will collectively construct a framework for the key concepts underpinning the democratization of data. Panelists will interrogate the politics of data production and impact of data-driven processes, exploring ideas of data discrimination, data sovereignty, and data literacy. Speakers will also discuss the potential of grassroots-led strategies to transform data into a language central to the advancement of human rights.

10:30 – 10:45am | Coffee

10:45 – 12:15pm

Expressions of Data Resistance and Activism

Moderator Maryam Jamshidi - Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering,
NYU School of Law

Speakers Felipe Mesel - Lawyer, Programa de Villas, Asociación Civil por
la Igualdad y la Justicia

Peter Njane - Director, Ishtar-MSM

Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty - Director of Data Justice
Programming, Detroit Community Technology Project;
Organizer, Our Data Bodies Project

This panel will highlight community-led resistance strategies including monitoring, organizing, education, and litigation to subvert government and corporate control of data. Speakers will reflect on how these strategies demand inclusion and protection of marginalized voices.

12:15 – 1:15pm | Lunch

1:15 – 2:45pm

Democratizing Data Collection: The Power of Community-Generated Data

Moderator Ellie Happel '11, Staff Attorney and Haiti Project Director,
Global Justice Clinic, NYU School of Law

Speakers Daisy Arago - Executive Director, Center for Trade Union and
Human Rights

Ron James - Geography Information Specialist and Mapping
Coordinator, Amerindian Peoples Association; Mapping
Technician, South Rupununi District Council

María Mari-Narváez – Founder, Kilómetro 0

Dr. John Waters - Program Manager, Caribbean Vulnerable
Communities

Datafication often involves non-consensual, top-down processes of definition and analysis. This panel will examine the ways affected communities are taking control of these processes by using participatory research and community-led data collection projects to define and generate data that reflects their realities, and how this data is essential to human rights advocacy.

2:45 – 3:00pm | Coffee

3:00 – 4:30pm

Can We Democratize Data?

Moderator Jason Schultz - Professor of Clinical Law, Technology Law & Policy Clinic, NYU School of Law

Speakers David Carroll - Assistant Professor of Media Design, School of Art, Media and Technology, Parsons School of Design at The New School

Sara L.M. Davis - Senior Fellow, Global Health Centre and Anthropology & Sociology Department, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Seeta Peña Gangadharan - Assistant Professor, Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science; Research Justice Organizer, Our Data Bodies Project

Panelists will reflect on the urgent need for data democratization. Discussions will focus on issues of self-determination and data identities, data discrimination, data deserts, data illiteracy, and corporate control of data.

6:00pm | Dinner for Speakers and Invited Guests (Lipton Hall)

APRIL 18

9:00 – 9:30am | Breakfast

9:30 – 11:00am

Artificial Intelligence and Affected Communities

Moderator Vincent Southerland - Executive Director, NYU Law Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law

Speakers Sharon K. Hom '80 - Executive Director, Human Rights in China; Adjunct Professor of Law, NYU School of Law

Hamid Khan - Organizer, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

Rashida Richardson - Director of Policy Research, AI Now

The social implications of artificial intelligence as a tool to weaponize the poor and marginalized are widely known. This session seeks to deepen the discussion and explore community-driven demands to confront algorithmic violence, with strategies spanning from abolition to accountability.

11:00 – 11:15am | Coffee

11:15 – 12:45pm

Pushing Boundaries: Data as Art and Evidence

Moderator Nikki Reisch - Legal Director, Center for Human Rights and
Global Justice, NYU School of Law

Speakers Anusha Chandrasekharan - Senior Program Manager, PRAXIS

Katie Diamond - Communications Director, Theatre of the
Oppressed NYC

Nitin Sawhney - Assistant Professor of Media Studies, The New
School

LaTonya Tate - Executive Director, Alabama Justice Initiative;
Soros Justice Fellow

In a world where what is counted *counts*, activists are insisting that data is more than just numbers. Speakers will share creative tactics and strategies to push the boundaries of what data encompasses – with community-led initiatives defining data as art and evidence essential for healing, inclusion and liberation.

12:45 – 1:45pm | Lunch

1:45 – 3:15pm

Shifting the Gaze: Democratizing Data Analysis

Moderator Sukti Dhital - Deputy Director, Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights, NYU School of Law; Co-founder, Nazdeek

Speakers Julie Ciccolini - Research and Data Analyst, The Legal Aid Society

Cynthia Conti-Cook - Staff Attorney, The Legal Aid Society

Lavar Edmonds - Research Specialist, Eviction Lab, Princeton University

Katherine Shea - Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Global Forest Watch

Jackie Zammuto - Program Manager, WITNESS

Organizations and institutions are increasingly partnering with grassroots organizations and marginalized communities to leverage existing data sets and deploy open data for the grassroots to identify and demand accountability for human rights violations. Panelists will discuss their strategies in transforming data into something accessible, understandable, and transparent.

SPEAKERS



Daisy Arago is the Executive Director of the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR), a Philippines-based labor rights organization engaged in monitoring, research, investigation, documentation, advocacy, and capacity building for unions, workers, and community organizations. She has co-designed numerous worker-led data collection programs and campaigns, with a focus on gender equality at

the workplace, and conducted trainings on feminist participatory action research for the labor and climate justice program of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. Arago is a member of the Asia Monitor Resource Centre Regional Council, and has been involved in the International Solidarity Mission on Mining and the Electronics Watch risk assessment on the ICT industry in the Philippines. She has organized numerous labor rights seminars, forums, and conferences.



David Carroll is an Associate Professor of Media Design and former Director of the MFA Design and Technology graduate program at the School of Art, Media and Technology at Parsons School of Design at The New School. He is known for legally challenging Cambridge Analytica and related companies in the U.K. courts to recapture his 2016 voter profile using European data protection law. Featured in

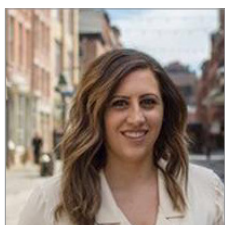
The Great Hack (2019) on Netflix, his data quest has appeared in *WIRED*, *The Guardian*, *Motherboard*, *The Boston Review*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, and the international press more widely. Formerly CEO of a failed tech startup backed by Hearst and incubated at NYC Media Lab and NY Media Center by IFP, Carroll visually organized digital archives using machine learning and social content recommendation engines. This experience helped form the basis of his research, legal efforts, and public engagement on data rights. His earlier scholarship on mobile media funded by research grants included support from the Pearson Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and Nokia Research Centers.

SPEAKERS



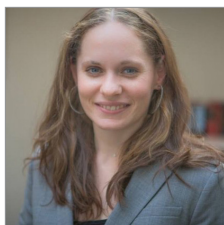
Anusha Chandrasekharan is a Senior Program Manager at PRAXIS, a development support organization in India committed to mainstreaming the voices of the poor and marginalized sections of society in the quest for equity and governance. PRAXIS engages in participatory research, capacity-building and advocacy to ensure that the most excluded and vulnerable communities have a say

in development. She helps lead PRAXIS' Ground Level Panels, a project that aims to democratize global policy making and processes through participatory research with marginalized communities, including through the use of digital storytelling and community based data collection. Previously, Chandrasekharan worked as a print journalist with several leading newspapers. She is interested in areas of gender and sexuality and has been involved in capacity-building and communications in multiple mediums such as participatory video and digital story-telling.



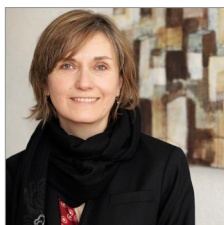
Julie Ciccolini is a Research and Data Analyst in the Special Litigation Unit of The Legal Aid Society where she conducts strategic research endeavors, data analysis projects, and advocacy campaigns in support of various criminal justice reform efforts. She is also responsible for designing and managing the Society's Cop Accountability Project database which tracks police misconduct and identifies patterns of

police abuse in New York City. The database contains publicly available information from federal civil rights lawsuits brought against the NYPD and is used to assist public defenders with their cases, identify and litigate systemic civil rights abuses, and advocate for greater police transparency and accountability. Julie recently received a master's degree in Human Rights from Columbia University. Ciccolini's concentration focused on the human rights implications of using predictive and surveillance technology in the criminal justice system.



Cynthia Conti-Cook is a Staff Attorney in the Special Litigation Unit of The Legal Aid Society in NYC where she supervises the Cop Accountability Database, leads impact litigation and law reform projects on policing, data collection, risk assessment instruments, and the criminal justice system generally as well as supporting staff in the trial offices. She recently helped launch the Society's Cop Accountability Project database

which tracks police misconduct and identifies patterns of police abuse in New York City. The database contains publicly available information from federal civil rights lawsuits brought against the NYPD and is used to assist public defenders with their cases, identify and litigate systemic civil rights abuses, and advocate for greater police transparency and accountability. Conti-Cook regularly serves as a panelist and trainer at several national, state, and city venues on topics of police misconduct, and has written articles about transparency and accountability of police disciplinary systems. Before joining Legal Aid, she was a civil rights litigator for seven years at a small Brooklyn law firm, Stoll, Glickman & Bellina, LLP, where she brought more than 100 civil rights lawsuits against police and correction officers in New York City and State.



Sara L.M. Davis is a Senior Fellow at the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. She is currently teaching, consulting and writing a book for Cambridge University Press entitled *The Uncounted: Politics of Data in Global Health*. *The Uncounted* draws on ethnographic field research, deconstruction of mathematical models, budget analysis, and observation of global health policymaking, to examine

the political economy of the “data revolution” in global health finance. Prior to academia, Davis spent 13 years as a human rights professional at Human Rights Watch, Asia Catalyst (an organization she founded), and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. As a practitioner, her work emphasized building the capacity of activists working in highly restrictive countries to master and use human rights and other international mechanisms for effective advocacy, and creating mechanisms and tools to promote donor accountability. Her publications include a book on ethnic minorities in Southwest China, and articles in *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, *International Journal of Human Rights*, *Global Health Governance*, *Health*

SPEAKERS

and *Human Rights*, and others. In 2017, she was one of three winners of the International Geneva Award. Davis earned her Ph.D. at University of Pennsylvania and held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale and U.C.L.A.



Sukti Dhital is the Deputy Director of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at NYU School of Law and a human rights lawyer with extensive international law experience in the fields of economic and social rights. Dhital also serves as a Supervising Attorney with the Global Justice Clinic at NYU Law, overseeing projects related to legal empowerment and digital surveillance. Previously, she was the Executive

Director and Co-Founder of Nazdeek, an award-winning legal empowerment organization committed to bringing access to justice closer to marginalized communities in India. She worked closely with affected community members and social movements to advance human rights through a community-driven approach, with a focus on indigenous and Dalit women. Prior to Nazdeek, Dhital was the Director of the Reproductive Rights Unit at the Human Rights Law Network, India where she assisted in securing landmark social and economic rights judgments. She has also worked at the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project and the firm of Bingham McCutchen LLP. She received a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Michigan.



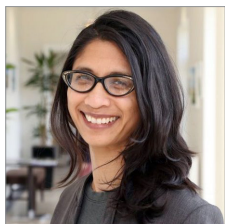
Katie Diamond is the Communications Director of the Theatre of the Oppressed NYC, an organization that partners with communities facing discrimination to inspire transformative action through theatre. Diamond has been an organizer, artist, and activist for over a decade, using both visual art and theatre as tools for social change. Her work has been featured in books, plays, comics, multi-media projects, and more.

Diamond is also the Art Director for Bergman's Flamingo Rampant imprint, a micro-press committed to producing better kids' books about gender, and the Founder and Editor of *Salacious*, a queer feminist anti-racist publication. She received her B.F.A. from Maine College of Art.



Lavar Edmonds is a Research Specialist in the Eviction Lab at Princeton University, where his research focuses on the relationship between housing policy and education policy. The Eviction Lab is a team of researchers, students, and website architects who believe that a stable, affordable home is central to human flourishing and economic mobility. In the lab, Edmonds is responsible for data cleaning and

analysis, and currently conducts studies on variation in eviction judgment amounts around the country and the effect of eviction and student mobility on academic achievement. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Edmonds received a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Mary Washington and a master's in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to arriving at Princeton, he also conducted research on academic outcomes for first-generation and traditionally underrepresented college students in Virginia, the efficacy of early childhood education programs in Philadelphia, and teacher attrition in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Seeta Peña Gangadharan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics, and a Research Justice Organizer with the Our Data Bodies Project, an initiative that looks at digital data collection and human rights in partnership with local communities, community organizations, and social support networks to show how different data systems impact

re-entry, fair housing, public assistance, and community development. She currently serves as a Program Fellow at New America's Open Technology Institute (OTI) and Affiliate Fellow of Data & Society Research Institute. Previously, she was Senior Research Fellow at OTI addressing policies and practices related to digital inclusion, privacy, and Big Data, as well as a Postdoctoral Associate in Law and MacArthur Fellow at Yale Law School's Information Society Project. Her research has been supported by grants from Digital Trust Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, Ford Foundation, and Stanford University's Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University and holds a M.Sc. from the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Ellie Happel directs the Haiti Project of the Global Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. She also serves as a Global Justice Clinic Staff Attorney. Since 2013, the Clinic has worked closely with the *Kolektif Jistis Min* (Mining Justice Collective), a coalition of Haitian human rights and social movement organizations that came together to monitor the development of the extractive industry in Haiti. The collaboration aims

to build the power of communities affected by mining to know their rights, access information, generate data, and monitor human rights violations. In addition to the Haiti Project, Ellie co-supervises the Clinic's Legal Empowerment team which is documenting legal empowerment strategies to increase access to justice for those navigating the U.S. immigration system. Happel lived and worked in Haiti between 2012 and 2017 and returns frequently in connection with her work. Prior to law school she worked in environmental justice and public health in Nicaragua, Peru and Washington, D.C. Happel is a 2011 graduate of NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern scholar. She holds a B.A. in Metropolitan Studies from New York University.



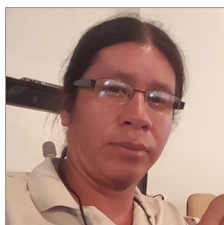
Sharon K. Hom is an Adjunct Professor of Law at NYU School of Law and Professor of Law Emerita at the CUNY School of Law where she taught for 18 years, including training judges, lawyers, and law teachers in China. In addition to her academic activities, Hom is the Executive Director of Human Rights in China, and leads their human rights, media advocacy and strategic policy engagement with NGOs,

governments, and multi-stakeholder initiatives since 2003. She has actively lobbied and participated in the UN human rights system for more than 15 years and published extensively on Chinese legal reforms, trade, technology, and international human rights. Hom was named one of the *Wall Street Journal's* "50 Women to Watch" in 2007. She received her J.D. from NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar.



James Hudson is the Managing Director of ConstellateNZ. He was raised in the Mataatua tribal region and is of the Ngāti Awa, Tuhoe, Ngāti Pukeko and Ngaitai tribes. In his early career, Hudson practiced public and commercial law during and advised leading Māori tribes and organisations on governance and corporate matters. While practicing, he also taught part-time at his tribal university in

indigenous jurisprudence and constitutional law. Hudson then took up an academic position at Massey University and led several significant research collaborations amongst Māori and Crown research institutes looking at Maori governance and development. While at Massey University, he completed his Ph.D. and constructed an integrated outcomes framework to measure tribal progress and resilience. Most recently, Hudson leads data innovations in local and central government contexts, including a report of data measuring the wellbeing of Maori in Auckland, a co-designed framework between Auckland Council and Maori organisations and families in Auckland, and a partnership between Statistics NZ and Maori to co-design a set of indicators to measure the wellbeing and sustainability of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Ron James is a Geography Information System (GIS) Specialist and Mapping Coordinator for the Amerindian Peoples Association, a non-governmental organization that seeks to promote and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples of Guyana. In addition, James is a part-time Mapping Technician for the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), the legal representative body for 21 villages in the South

Rupununi. In these roles, he provides technical support for the monitoring programs run by the SRDC and the Upper Mazaruni District Council. For several years, both District Councils have been monitoring violations of their land rights - especially environmental degradation and illegal mining - using custom made questionnaires on smart phones to capture data which is used for advocacy purposes. Presently, James is coordinating the extension of these programs to include monitoring the adverse impacts of mining on water in the Upper Mazaruni region and Wapichan territory in Guyana.

SPEAKERS



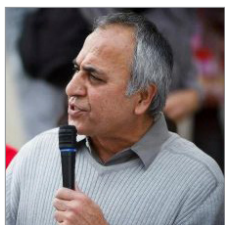
Maryam Jamshidi is an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering at NYU School of Law. She is a lawyer and writer with over ten years of experience working on issues relating to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Her scholarship uses private national security litigation to explore contemporary developments in private and procedural law, and to shed new light on understandings of traditional liberal

democratic and constitutional values. In line with this focus, Jamshidi's current research analyzes the increasing privatization of U.S. national security and demonstrates how it undermines and underscores an important, but less-appreciated public interest: popular sovereignty. Her last article, *How the War on Terror Is Transforming Private U.S. Law*, was published in the Washington University Law Review. Prior to joining NYU Law, she represented clients in civil litigation matters relating to foreign relations and national security law issues, including foreign sovereign immunity and alleged material support of terrorism. She also served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Jamshidi is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, received an M.Sc. in Political Theory from the London School of Economics, and an A.B. in Political Science from Brown University.



Fieke Jansen is a Ph.D. candidate at the Data Justice Lab at Cardiff University. The Data Justice Lab examines the intricate relationship between datafication and social justice, highlighting the politics and impacts of data-driven processes and big data. Jansen is interested in re-politicizing data and technology, by understanding its historical, social, cultural, and political context in Europe. Her research

focuses on the impact of implementing data driven decision-making in European police forces on marginalized communities. Prior to starting her Ph.D., she worked at Tactical Tech, a Berlin-based NGO, as the project lead for their Politics of Data program. There she developed educational materials, engaged in data literacy efforts, and engaged in research. Before Tactical Tech, Jansen worked at the Hivos, a Dutch development organization, on several programs at the intersection of human rights, internet, and freedom of expression.



Hamid Khan is an organizer with the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. The mission of the coalition is to build community-based power to dismantle police surveillance, spying, and infiltration programs. The coalition utilizes multiple campaigns to advance an innovative organizing model that is Los Angeles-based but has implications regionally, nationally, and internationally. Khan has a long-standing and deep

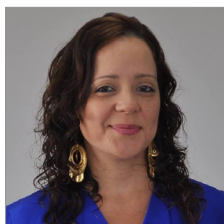
commitment to social justice for marginalized communities in Southern California. As founder and executive director of the South Asian Network, Khan helped to create the first community-based organization dedicated to informing and empowering South Asians in Southern California. He also serves on the board of Political Research Associates, an organization that seeks to advance progressive thinking and action by providing research-based information, analysis, and referrals.



Manjari Mahajan is an Assistant Professor of International Affairs at The New School. Her work lies at the intersection of Science and Technology Studies, Development Studies, and Anthropology, with research and teaching on topics ranging from the ecologies and politics of data production for development and health, politics of expertise, philanthrocapitalism, intellectual property, social

and economic rights, among others. Mahajan's empirical focus has been on India and South Africa, and more recently, on global organizations such as the Gates Foundation and the influence it exerts on global health not only through its financial clout but also through shaping knowledge platforms. She is the author of the forthcoming book titled *Constituting Global Health: Expertise and Emergency in the AIDS Epidemics of India and South Africa*. Her next book is on how global health agendas are being shaped by philanthropic organizations in the United States. Before joining The New School, Mahajan had a two-year postdoctoral fellowship from the Social Science Research Council and the Institute for Public Knowledge at NYU. She is on the Faculty Advisory Board of the India-China Institute at The New School. Mahajan received her Ph.D. in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University in 2008 and holds a M.Sc. in Science Policy from SPRU at Sussex University, and a B.A. from Harvard University.

SPEAKERS



María Mari-Narváez is a Puerto Rican writer, communicator, and change activist with an extensive background in police accountability and civic engagement. She is the founder of Kilómetro 0, an organization dedicated to securing state accountability and promoting citizen power in the areas of community safety, justice, and participation.

Mari-Narváez has co-authored several books

including *Del desorden habitual de las cosas* (Capicúa, 2015), *Fuera del quicio* (2008, Editorial Santillana), and *En libertad, entrevistas a los ex prisioneros políticos puertorriqueños* (Editorial Claridad, 2001). She holds a M.A. in Journalism and Latin American Studies, and has completed Ph.D. courses in History and Gender Studies at the University of Puerto Rico.



Felipe Mesel is a human rights lawyer at Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ), an NGO dedicated to furthering democratic practices and rule of law in Argentina to increase civic participation, eradicate discrimination, and enable marginalized communities to exercise their rights under law. Mesel works alongside marginalized communities, with a focus on demanding public services for individuals

living in informal settlements through community-driven data collection and strategic litigation. At ACIJ, he also co-leads an interdisciplinary action-research project that examines urban segregation in the informal settlements of Buenos Aires, La Paz, and Quito, with a particular focus on how legal empowerment methods drive rights awareness and protections. Mesel is a law graduate and also teaches at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences in the areas of Political Rights, Sociology, and Social Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Peter Njane is a human rights defender and the director of Ishtar-MSM, a leading community-based organization and clinic focused on health issues pertaining to men who have sex with men (MSM) in Kenya. Peter has pioneered and promoted the inclusion of MSM health needs for over 10 years and was a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya. He successfully co-led advocacy

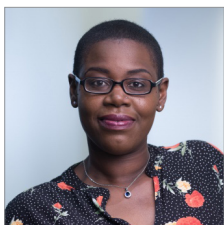
efforts to stop a government effort to use biometrics as part of an HIV study, working in a community-driven network comprised of civil society groups. Njane serves as the Key Population representative of Kenya Coordinating mechanism of the Global fund and openly, without shame engages with the Kenyan Ministry of Health to ensure that MSM have access to quality HIV prevention and treatment services across the country.



Tawana "Honeycomb" Petty is a mother, social justice organizer, youth advocate, poet, and author. She is the Director of Data Justice Programming for the Detroit Community Technology Project. She also co-led a three-city participatory research project called the Our Data Bodies Project which looked at digital data collection and human rights in partnership with local communities, community organizations, and

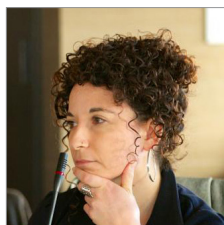
social support networks to show how different data systems impact re-entry, fair housing, public assistance, and community development. She is a four-time self-published author, co-founder of *Riverwise Magazine*, a member of the Detroit Digital Justice Coalition, a Detroit Equity Action Lab fellow, and a board member of the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. Petty is also the founder and director of Petty Propolis, a Sponsored Project of Allied Media Projects, where she gets to grow through organizing transformative art and education initiatives. She is a past recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award, the Woman of Substance Award, the Women Creating Caring Communities Award, the Detroit Awesome Award, the University of Michigan Black Law Student Association's Justice Honoree Award, was recognized as one of Who's Who in Black Detroit in 2013 and 2015, and was awarded the Wayne State Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Peacemaker Award in 2018.

SPEAKERS



Jhody Polk is a 2018 Soros Justice Advocacy Fellow and the Executive Director and Founder of the Florida Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls. She also founded the first Participatory Defense Hub in Florida, a community organizing model for people facing charges, their families, and communities to impact the outcomes of cases and transform the landscape of power in

the court system. She is also the director of the Alachua County Reentry Coalition and a community organizer with the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. Polk served as the central Florida organizer on the successful campaign to restore voting rights to over 1.5 million Floridians, and is a dedicated member of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, the League of Women Voters, National Lawyers Guild, and Fight Toxic Prisons.



Nikki Reisch is the Legal Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice and a supervising attorney in the Global Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. Her work focuses on corporate accountability, economic inequality and environmental justice. Her practice areas also include immigrant rights, national security, and the surveillance state, with an emphasis on the intersection between international law and

domestic civil rights. She previously clerked for Judge Marsha S. Berzon on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and Judge Raymond J. Lohier Jr. on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to studying law, Reisch worked as an advocate with NGOs challenging adverse impacts of international financial institutions and climate change policies on communities in the Global South. She received her J.D. from NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern and Institute for International Law and Justice Scholar, and her B.A. from Yale University. Her book, *Tax, Inequality and Human Rights* (co-edited with Philip Alston) will be published by Oxford University Press in spring 2019.



Rashida Richardson is the Director of Policy Research at AI Now, a research institute examining the social implications of artificial intelligence. At AI Now, she designs, implements, and coordinates research strategy and initiatives on the topics of law, policy, and civil rights. Prior to AI Now Richardson worked as Legislative Counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), the New York state affiliate of the

American Civil Liberties Union, where she led the organization's work on privacy, technology, surveillance, and education issues. Prior to the NYCLU, she was a staff attorney at the Center for HIV Law and Policy, where she worked on a wide-range of HIV-related legal and policy issues nationally, and she previously worked at Facebook Inc. and HIP Investor in San Francisco. Richardson currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project and the Board of Directors of the College & Community Fellowship. She received her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law and a B.A. from the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University.



Margaret Satterthwaite is a Professor of Clinical Law, Faculty Director of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights, Faculty Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, and the Director of the Global Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. Her clinical work focuses on advancing human rights by making rights advocacy accountable to affected communities, and her research interests include

economic and social rights, methodological innovation in human rights, and vicarious trauma among human rights workers. Before joining the academy, she worked for a number of human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights First, and the Commission Nationale de Verité et de Justice in Haiti. She has authored or co-authored more than a dozen human rights reports and dozens of scholarly articles and book chapters. Satterthwaite serves on the boards of Digital Democracy and the Global Initiative for Economic and Social Rights. She received her J.D. from NYU School of Law where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, her master's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her B.A. from Eugene Lang College of The New School.

SPEAKERS



Nitin Sawhney is the Assistant Professor of Media Studies at The New School and the Faculty Fellow with the Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography and Social Thought (GIDEST). His research, teaching and creative practice engages the critical role of technology, civic media, and artistic interventions in contested spaces. He examines social movements and crisis contexts, though

forms of creative urban tactics, participatory research, performance and documentary film. Sawhney has conducted digital storytelling initiatives with Palestinian youth in refugee camps since 2006 and co-directed the award-winning documentary film *Flying Paper*, co-produced with children in Gaza with support from National Geographic. He established the Engage Media Lab at The New School to support participatory media programs and research with youth in Jerusalem and New York. In 2011-12, Sawhney led OccupyDataNYC, a series of hackathons and exhibitions visualizing socio-political data and tactics of urban protest, conducted with activists and researchers at The New School, NYU, and CUNY. As part of his GIDEST fellowship, he is currently researching how various forms of contestation and agonism in collective social contexts challenge and transform participatory design. Sawhney completed his Ph.D. at the MIT Media Laboratory and taught at the MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology.



Jason M. Schultz is a Professor of Clinical Law, Director of NYU's Technology Law & Policy Clinic, Co-Director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy, and Area Lead in Law & Policy for the AI Now Institute. His clinical projects, research, and writing primarily focus on practical frameworks and policy options to help traditional areas of law such as intellectual property, privacy, consumer

protection, and civil rights adapt in light of new technologies and the challenges they pose. His most recent work focuses on the social and legal implications of machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things. During the 2016-2017 academic year, Schultz was on leave to work at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he served as Senior Advisor on Innovation and Intellectual Property to U.S. Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith. With Aaron Perzanowski, he is the author of *The End of Ownership: Personal Property in the Digital*

Economy (MIT Press 2016), which argues for retaining consumer property rights in a marketplace that increasingly threatens them. Prior to joining NYU, Schultz was an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic at the UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). Before joining Boalt Hall, he was a Senior Staff Attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), one of the leading digital rights groups in the world and before that practiced intellectual property law at the firm of Fish & Richardson, PC. He also served as a clerk to the Honorable D. Lowell Jensen of the Northern District of California. He is a member of the American Law Institute.



Katherine Shea is a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at Global Forest Watch (GFW). She supports the GFW's initiative in monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning, with the aim of communicating achievements externally and helping GFW and its partners learn from their successes and setbacks. Before joining GFW, Katherine worked at the UN World Food Program as a program

officer in Ecuador followed by a position as monitoring and evaluation lead in Indonesia. She earned an M.P.A. from Cornell University with a concentration in International Development.



Vincent Southerland is the Executive Director of NYU Law's Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law. He has dedicated his career to advancing racial justice and civil rights. Southerland comes to NYU Law after serving as an Assistant Federal Public Defender with the Federal Defenders for the Southern District of New York since 2015. Prior to his time at the Federal Defenders, he spent seven years at the NAACP Legal

Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), where he was a Senior Counsel. While at LDF, he engaged in litigation and advocacy at the intersection of race and criminal justice, including the successful representation of death-sentenced prisoners across the American South and juveniles sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. He also led LDF's advocacy efforts around race and policing, and was lead counsel in school desegregation and employment discrimination matters. He previously served as a staff attorney

SPEAKERS

at The Bronx Defenders, and an E. Barrett Prettyman Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center. He began his career as a law clerk to the Honorable Theodore McKee, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the Honorable Louis H. Pollak, of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Southerland holds an L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, received his J.D. from Temple University School of Law and his B.A. from the University of Connecticut.



LaTonya Tate is a 2018 Soros Justice Fellow and the Founder and Executive Director of the Alabama Justice Initiative based in Birmingham, Alabama. Her fellowship is dedicated to integrating effective community-based practices, including Participatory Defense, into Alabama's probation and parole practices. Tate is a retired Probation and Parole Officer formerly with the Florida Department of

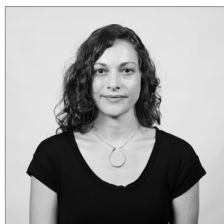
Corrections, where she worked for nearly a decade. She holds a B.S. and M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration and Security from the University of Phoenix.



John Waters is the Head of Programs at the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), and Director of CVC's Robert CARR Centre for Action Research. CVC is the Caribbean's largest regional coalition of civil society organizations and community leaders, representing over sixty civil society organizations that work with highly stigmatized populations in the areas of sexual and reproductive

health and human rights. A medical doctor by training, Waters has worked in the Sexual and Reproductive health field with Key Populations for the last 20 years – with expertise in clinical practice, managing teams, participatory research, monitoring and evaluation of programs, M&E methodologies and indicators; monitoring and evaluating multi-country largescale health programs; conducting data quality assessments, interpreting performance results; report writing and promoting research uptake. This expertise has enabled him to manage exciting and complex projects mainly focused on health systems strengthening, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, family planning, tuberculosis, and gender based violence. Waters has

extensive experience working in resource-limited settings in the Caribbean and Latin America. Trained in community engaged research approaches, much of his research work has been conducted in partnership with local community members and organizations, as well as local authorities.



Jackie Zammuto is a Program Manager at WITNESS, an organization that makes it possible for anyone, anywhere to use video and technology to protect and defend human rights. She leads WITNESS' programmatic work in the United States, focusing on the use of video for advocacy and evidentiary purposes in the thematic areas of police accountability, immigrant rights, indigenous rights and beyond. In

2018 she launched Profiling the Police, a collaboration with a Brooklyn-based community organization to explore new methods of using video collections and open source data to expose abuses by the NYPD and begin to illustrate how police abuse is part of a larger systemic problem. She also helps coordinate the development and distribution of WITNESS' training resources and online platforms, overseeing the production of materials like the Video as Evidence Field Guide and Forced Evictions Advocacy Toolkit. Zammuto has over seven years of experience training and collaborating with grassroots activists, educators and organizers on issues related to forced evictions, militarized policing, gender-based violence, climate justice, and more. Prior to WITNESS, Zammuto worked as a Producer and Project Manager for the award-winning Free State Studios. She holds a B.S. in Broadcast Production Journalism and Women's Studies from the University of Colorado.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the team at the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights for their tireless work in support of this conference: Bryan Brown, Programs Manager, for his meticulous work in managing the event and Deirdre N. Dlugoleski, Research Fellow, for her excellent research and administrative support. We extend thanks to the partners of the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights for their vision and leadership in the development of the conference: Sharon Hom, Executive Director of Human Rights in China; Jerome Cohen, Faculty Director, and Ira Belkin, Executive Director of the U.S.-Asia Law Institute; Michael Posner, Director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights; and Nikki Reisch, Legal Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice. Special thanks to the Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights Advisory Board members for their leadership and guidance, and to the Tuttleman Foundation, Strive Masiyiwa and the law firms of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and Wachtell, Lipton, Rose & Katz for their generous support.

And finally, thanks to John Emerson and SooYoung VanDeMark for their wonderful design work.

Sukti Dhital, Deputy Director,
Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights

Margaret Satterthwaite, Faculty Director,
Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights



<https://2019.nyubernsteinconference.org>
#DemocratizeData