

ARTHUR LEVITT PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER

Annual Report, 2020-2021



Hamilton

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Letter from the Director

As the Levitt Center celebrates its 40th anniversary, we are proud to report a year of growth and innovation, in spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic. This year's success is due to collaboration between Center staff, the Levitt Council, and the remarkable student workers and interns mentioned here.

Highlights of this report are the growth in Levitt Center-sponsored student and student-faculty research, especially during the winter break, and the number of new projects that engage students and faculty in applied research related to local public policy development. Our engagement with the local community, related to police reform, a Utica in Context project, the feasibility of a human rights commission, and promoting an inclusive atmosphere in courtrooms will continue next academic year in partnership with local resident fellows who will join us in the Center.

We plan to accommodate the rising demand from students and their advisors for support of research and engagement in public affairs through existing programs and our public philosophy initiative. We have also begun discussions on how we can coordinate increased cooperation with local public officials and other community stakeholders to provide policy-relevant research of consistent quality. Several projects related to local issues are in the works that will carry us through the next couple of years.

I'd like to personally thank Chris, Zack, Sharon, Rachael, and Simon, who make the Center productive and working here enjoyable.

Please contact us with your ideas. We look forward to working with you!

FRANK ANECHIARICO
MAYNARD-KNOX PROFESSOR OF LAW

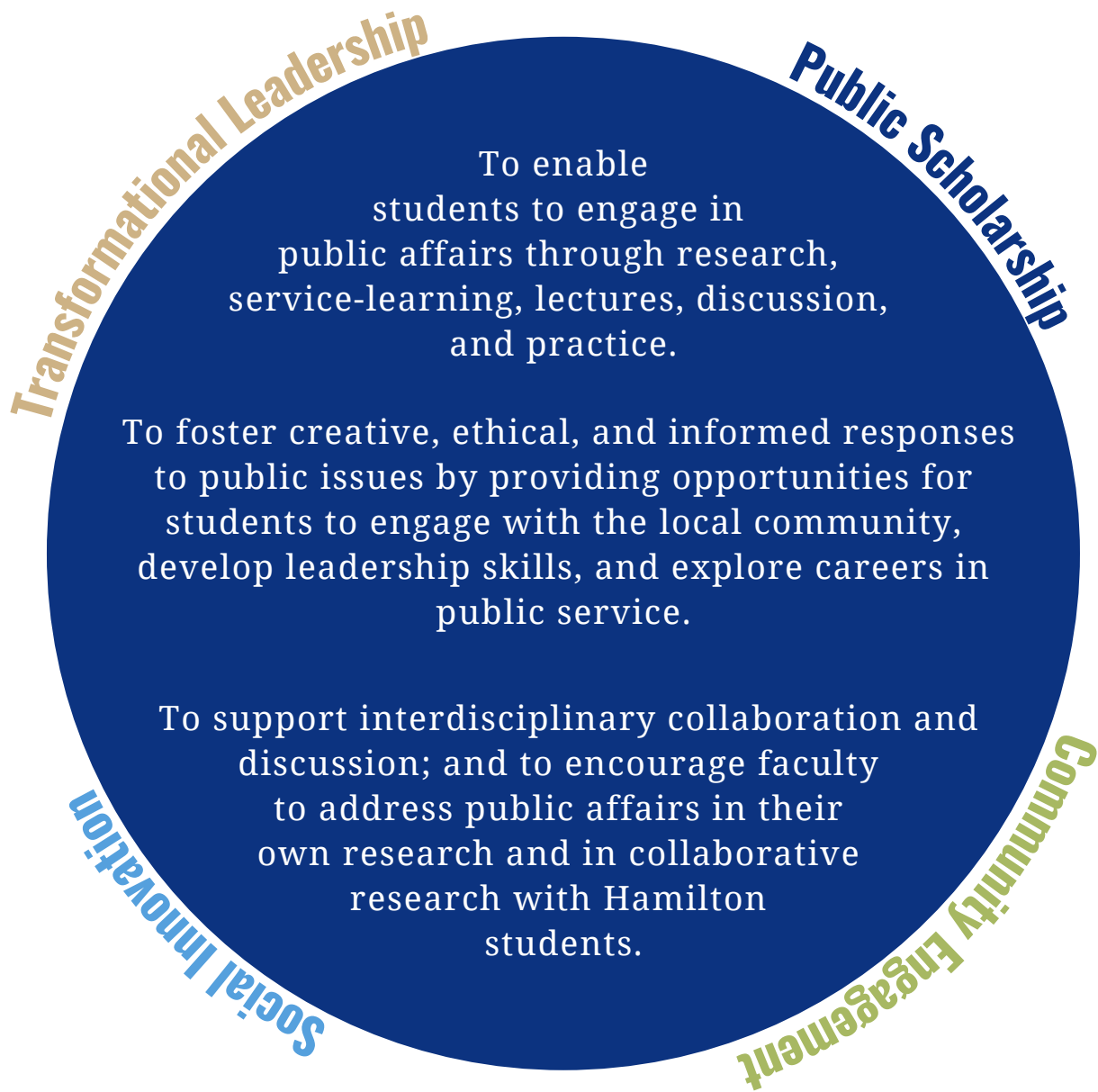
We want to extend a special thank you to the Levitt family and the Winston Foundation for their on-going support of our work and for their generous gift of new endowment for the Center.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Arthur Levitt Public Affairs Center is to strengthen and support the study of public affairs at Hamilton College.

The goals of the Center are as follows:



Public Scholarship

Our Public Scholarship programs create opportunities for academic study and deep understanding of the complexity of social problems, the constraints of action, and possibilities for change. Select student projects can be found on the Levitt Center website.

2021 Summer Research Fellows

"The Effect of the Pandemic on Vermont's Bi-Partisan Anti-Vaccination Movement," Nina Lissarrague '22 with Prof. Julie Starr

"Environmental Equity and the Cosmetics Industry: The Effect of Class Upon Toxic Exposure," Sean Storr '22 with Prof. Vivyan Adair

"The Value in Imperfect Endeavors: Exploring Postcapitalist and Prefigurative Practices at East Wind Intentional Community," Olivia Chandler '23 with Prof. Priya Chandrasekaran

"Providing Improved Livelihoods for Muskoka's Residents and Visitors in the Time of Two Global Crises," Andrew Court '22 with Prof. Aaron Strong

"Recreating and Adapting the Traditional 2000's 'Girls/Boys' Manual for A New Generation," Emily Fienco '23 and Maya Figliuolo '22 with Prof. Max Majireck

"Unpacking the Imposed: The Colonial Binary, Hijras, Queers, and India," Eric Kopp '22 with Prof. Lisa Trivedi

"Development or Decline: Understanding Community Barriers to Solar Expansion in Upstate New York," Emory Goodwin '23 with Prof. Aaron Strong

"Exploring the Usage of Ancient Mediterranean Imagery by the Alt-Right," Tonwa Hauff '23 with Prof. Anne Feltovich

"Historical Analysis of American Immigration Detention Through a Focus on Neoliberal Economic Reforms and the Rise of National Security," Finlay Adamson '22 with Prof. Priya Chandrasekaran

"U.S.-Colombian Foreign Policy Depiction Through the Popular Media," Katelyn Perruc '23 and Nicole Ramirez '23 with Prof. Heather Sullivan

2021 Research Spotlight

The Value in Imperfect Endeavors: Exploring Postcapitalist and Prefigurative Practices at East Wind Intentional Community



Olivia Chandler '23 notes that her summer research was "grounded in her experience at an egalitarian, income-sharing intentional community in Missouri. [She] explored the community's relationship with capitalism, and how its members practice a less exploitative present and future for themselves outside the bounds of mainstream society. [She uses] theories of postcapitalism and prefigurative politics to argue that their complexities do not make them an unviable alternative to capitalism."

Upon submission of her summer research paper, Olivia writes, "The 1960s hippie movement in the United States inspired a surge of communal living, centered around non-violence and living in balance with the environment. The East Wind Intentional Community, an income-sharing egalitarian commune in Missouri, was born of this movement and still exists today, as people continuously look for ways to escape the "rat race" of mainstream society, 9-5 jobs, and economic insecurity arising from a globalized and neoliberal economic system.

Using a constructive lens of prefigurative politics, I argue that outsiders should stop judging intentional communities with outcome-oriented frameworks and comparisons to utopia, and I advocate we instead look at the processes and relationships present in these postcapitalist systems. I conclude that with a prefigurative postcapitalist framework, communities such as East Wind can be realistically understood as successful, serving as a model of what is possible for the rest of American society."

2021 Summer Group Research

"The Discourse of 'Diversity and Inclusion' at Predominantly White Institutions: An Ethnographic Approach," Profs. Chenyu Wang and Chaise LaDousa, and student researchers Mahi Ghia '22, Michael Ghiorsi '23, Alexis Jamaica '22, Janna Perez '23, Salwa Sidahmed '23, and Huarui (Cherry) Zhang '23

"Routine Resistance: Archaeological Analysis of Daily Life and Political Transformation at the Tilcjaete Sites, Oaxaca, Mexico," Prof. Lacey Carpenter and student researchers Josue Herrera Rivera '24, Luis Lopez '24, and Zachary Brooks '24

"Roti as Care, as Craft, as Community," Prof. Mariam Durrani and student researchers Liam Garcia-Quish '23, Philip Chivily '23, Ravena Pernanand '21, Maheen Masoud '24, and Nandini Subramaniam '22

"Lead Toxicology: A Study at the Intersections of Community Health, Genetics, Reproduction, and Behavior," Prof. Rhea Datta and student researchers Sosina Abuhay '23, Sarah John '24, and Dylan Koproski '23

"Pathways to a Zero Carbon New York: Understanding Solar NIMBYism and Barriers to Renewables Deployment," Prof. Aaron Strong and student researchers Carson Halabi '22, Madison Hurtgen '22, and Lillian Norton-Brainerd '23

"Schooling in COVID Times: How Parents Navigate Schooling Through a Global Pandemic," Prof. Mahala Stewart and student researchers Shania Kuo '23, Caroline Fruendel '24, Steven Campos '22, and Kaela Dunne '22

"What is it Like to Be Asian and Asian-American at Hamilton College, Phase II," Profs. Kyoko Omori, Steve Yao, and Pavitra Sundar, and student researchers Min Yu Huang '24, Nyaari Kothiya '23, Jason Le '23, Allie LeeHoffman '23, Crystal Lin '23, Michelle Liu '23, Rachel Lu '22, Maya Nguyen-Haberneski '23, Anna Sakamoto '23, Khuslen (T) Tulga '23, and Michelle Zheng '24

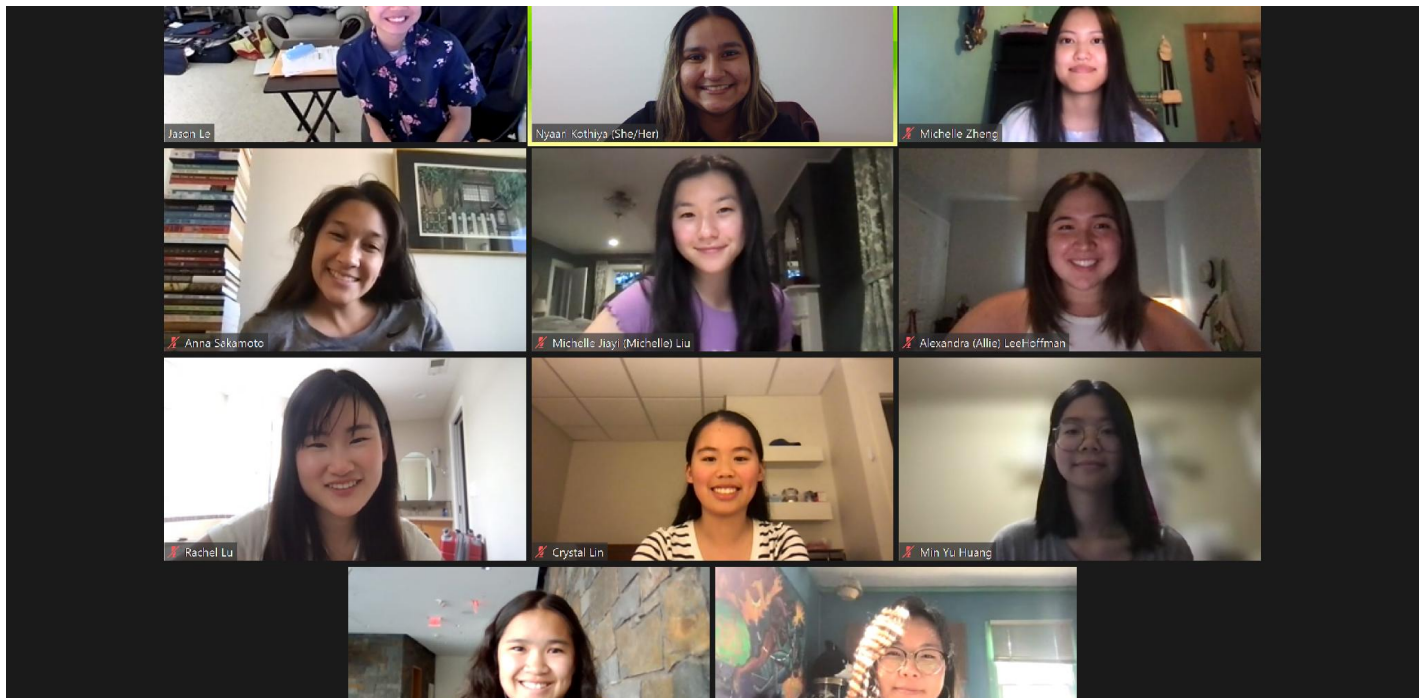
"Senegal Liberations Project," Prof. Rebecca Wall and student researchers Isabelle Crownhart '23, William Burstein '24, and Emma Tomlins '23

2021 Summer Group Research Spotlight

What is it Like to be Asian and Asian American at Hamilton College?

Professors Kyoko Omori, Steve Yao, and Pavitra Sundar collaborated with 11 research students: Crystal Lin '23, Maya Nguyen-Haberneski '23, Min Yu Huang '24, and Rachel Lu '22 conducted historical research on Asians and Asian Americans at Hamilton; Allie Lee Hoffman '23, Khulsen Tulga '23, and Michelle Liu '23 looked at statistics from the College's Office of Institutional Research; Anna Sakamoto '23, Jason Le '23, Nyaari Kothiya '23, and Michelle Zheng '24 collected personal narratives.

This summer group wrote that their project's objectives were threefold: "to learn about a large picture of Asian and Asian American students at Hamilton College, with the foundational knowledge of Asian and Asian American studies, as well as film studies; to collect individual stories through historical search and interviews, and to use the outcome from their Levitt Center Winter project about various narrative strategies in Asian and Asian American films to tell the stories of Asian and Asian American students at Hamilton." For detailed information about this project, please visit the beautifully crafted website created by this group: <https://hamiltoncs.org/asians-hamilton/>



2020-21 Winter Group Research

The Levitt Center took advantage of the unusually long winter break demanded by the COVID pandemic to fund Winter research Fellows and faculty-led Groups. This wildly popular program allowed us to fund 44 projects, comprised of 83 students and 41 faculty members (31 student-led projects and 12 faculty led Groups).

Winter Faculty-led Research Group Projects

- "The Barriers to and Potential for Natural and Working Lands Carbon Sequestration to Facilitate Effective Climate Action in New York State," Prof. Aaron Strong and student researchers Clare Barbato '22, Chris Inkiow '22, and Rebecca Ridgway '21
- "Students of Color and the Discourse of 'Diversity and Inclusion' at Predominately White Institutions," Prof. Chenyu Wang and student researchers Sophia Coren '21, Janna Perez '23, and Huarui (Cherry) Zhang '23
- "Archaeology as Advocacy: Celebrating Cultural Heritage and Promoting Sustainability in Transylvanian Mining Communities," Prof. Colin Quinn and student researchers Elizabeth Arnold '22, Aidan Leahey '22, and Isabelle Roselli '22
- "Analysis of Media Portrayal of Computer Use by Gender," Prof. Emily Conover and student researcher Carter Steckbeck '22
- "Militarized Policing and Political Stability," Profs. Erica De Bruin and Sharon Rivera, and student researchers Nicole Eisenberg '21, Diana Perez '21, Ha Tran '22, and Gregory Varney '22
- "The Turn toward Racial Social Justice in Mindfulness and Yoga," Prof. Jaime Kucinkas and student researchers Kahleel Bernard '23, Shania Kuo '23, Natalia Reboredo '24, and Isabel Rutkey '22
- "What Was It Like, What Is It Like, to be 'Asian' at Hamilton College?" Prof. Kyoko Omori and student researchers Divyan Karuri '21, Nyaari Kothiya '23, Jason Le '23, and Anna Sakamoto '23
- "New World Nature Medicine and Empire in the Early Modern Atlantic World," Prof. Mackenzie Cooley and student researchers Elizabeth Atherton '22, Philip Chivily '23, and Emma Tomlins '23
- "Schooling Under COVID-19: How Families Navigate School and Care During a Global Pandemic," Prof. Mahala Stewart and student researchers Ashley Garcia '22, Jahmali Matthews '22, Hope Medina '21, and Hannah Petersen '22
- "Politics and Policy of COVID," Profs. Phil Klinkner and Gbemende Johnson, and student researchers Carina Krusell '22, Matthew McGoey '21, Sajan Palanki '21, and Majestic Terhune '21

2020-21 Winter Research

Winter Student-led Research Projects

- “Senegal Liberations Project,” Prof. Rebecca Wall and student researchers Joseph Fraser '21, Charlotte Guterman '21, and Erica Ivins '21
- “The Philosophical Endeavor of Community-Engaged Teaching,” Prof. Todd Franklin and student researchers Jo Dine '22 and Alex Reboredo '22
- “Assessing the Impact of Racism, Classism, Sexism, Homophobia, Ageism and Able-ism on the Experience, Reporting and Remediation of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, in the Time of COVID-19, in our Region,” Prof. Vivyan Adair and student researchers Claire Campbell '22, Juliana De Simone '21, Carson Goos '21, and Natalie Halpin '21
- “Voices of Latinx Mothers Within the Special Education System in the South Bronx,” Anyi Rescalvo '22 with Prof. Chenyu Wang
- “The WNBA as a Site of Placemaking,” Josten Perez '22 with Prof. Alex Manning
- “The Power of Awkwardness,” Honor Allen '21 with Prof. Alex Plakias
- “Opportunities and Challenges of Open Government Data Initiatives,” Joel Harper '21 with Prof. Alexsia Chan
- “Majority Minority County Mortality Rates during the COVID-19 Pandemic: an Economic Study,” George Diebel '23, Huzair Latif '23, and Maya Mathews '23 with Prof. Ann Owen
- “The COVID Conundrum for International Students at Hamilton,” Jiaheng Cai '21 with Prof. Barbara Britt-Hysell
- “FinTech, Financial Inclusion, and Income Inequality,” Taron Kui '22, Weihan Lin '22, and Qian Ren '23 with Prof. Christophre Georges
- “Yes, Women Compose!” Jiin Jeong '21 with Prof. Heather Buchman
- “Data and Tools for Assessing the Impacts of a Changing Spring Climate in Central and Northern New York,” Rachel Pike '21 and Abigail Roller '21 with Prof. Heather Kropp
- “Hamilton Hookups: A Hoax?” Kat Roberts '22 with Prof. Jaime Kucinkas
- “Consuming Ideology: Advertising, Algorithms, & Individuation,” Kyra Richardson '21 with Prof. Jay Bloom
- “The Perception of the Role of Religion within Homeless Shelters,” Abigail Moone '23 with Chaplain Jeff McArn
- “The Role of Human Resources Professionals in Organizational Change and Worker Voice & Participation,” Drew Anderson '21 with Prof. Joel Winkelman

2020-21 Winter Research

Winter Student-led Research Projects

- “The Treatment of Incarcerated People with Mental Illness in VA,” Tomas Alvarez-Perez '22 and Anokhi Manchanda '22 with Prof. Katheryn Doran
- “Creative Connections in STEM,” Lily Brackett '21 with Prof. Kristen Burson
- “Hyperpop: A Distorted Mirror, Pop and Subversion,” Anthony Christiana '22 with Prof. Lydia Hamessley
- “Virtual Philosophy: Deconstructing Power Dynamics and Building Community Through Innovative Pedagogy at the HS Level,” Cameron Blair '21, Eliza Jones '22, and Riley Nichols '21 with Prof. Marianne Janack
- “The Good of Boredom: An Experiential and Aesthetic Analysis,” Henry Curcio '21 with Prof. Marianne Janack
- “Representing the Female Body,” Dorothy Poucher '21 with Prof. Marianne Janack
- “To Preserve or to Eat: an Enviro-economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation's Effects on Indigenous Communities,” Peter Case '21 with Prof. Maurice Isserman
- “The Experiences of Women in STEM: A Deep Dive into Departmental Culture,” Sam Brown '21 with Prof. Megan Smith
- “A Fly in the Buttermilk: The Mental Health of Black Students Attending a Predominately White Institution,” Diamond Jackson '21 with Prof. Meredith Madden
- “The Impact of COVID-19 on Poverty-Risk,” Avani Pugazhendhi '22 with Prof. Mo Alloush
- “The Effects of Intergroup versus Intragroup Relations in Excessive Use of Force,” Olivia James '23 with Prof. Patricia Sanchez
- “Exploring the Private Immigration Detention Industry Through a Case Study of the Northwest Detention Center,” Finlay Adamson '22 with Prof. Priya Chandrasekaran
- “Changemakers: Anthology of Thirty Inspirational Female-Identifying Climate Change Leaders,” Amy Harff '21 with Prof. Priya Chandrasekaran
- “Infrastructure and Environmental Justice: Analyzing the Impacts of the Port of Tacoma's LNG Facility on the Puget Sound Community,” Keir Adamson '22 with Prof. Rebecca Wall
- “Seasonal Blues,” Zeyan Tang '21 with Prof. Robert Knight
- “Creative Coping,” Sadye Bobbette '21 with Prof. Steve Ellingson
- “Social Change and the Novel,” Lucille Kline '21 with Prof. Suzanne Keen
- “Same-sex Marriage: An Extension of 19th-Century Ideals of Domesticity,” Rachel Lu '22 with Prof. Suzanne Taylor

Public Philosophy: Book XI

Book XI is a journal of literary philosophy featuring a small selection of philosophically-informed creative works drawn from hundreds of submissions every quarter. Former Levitt Center Faculty Director, Professor Marianne Janack serves as editor-in-chief to a student staff that helps manage, edit, and design each issue. This year, *Book XI* published 4 issues: "Unthemed," "Personal Essays," "Body," and "Dialogues". comprised of 25 works from a diverse array of contributors on a wide variety of topics and representing many literary forms including poetry, personal essays, and short stories. Visit bookxi.org to experience it for yourself!

2020-21 Speaker Series

The Levitt Center sponsored 22 talks, panels, and discussions (both by Zoom and in-person) over the past year, two of which were funded by the Arthur Coleman Tuggle Lecture Fund and six of which were supported by the Continental Fund. Some of the events examined specific aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to mitigate its impact, traced the evolution of the American Right and American politics in general, examined contemporary issues around the recognition of marginalized identities and nations, analyzed geopolitical conflicts, and investigated aspects of state repression and policing.

- September 10, 2020: "COVID-19 in New York State and the Policy Response" with Dr. Howard Zucker
- September 10, 2020: "Trans Kids: Being Gendered in the 21st Century" with Associate Professor of Sociology Tey Meadow (Columbia University)
- September 14, 2020: "From Frenemies Toward a Point of No Return: The Breakdown of US-China Relations" with Assistant Professor of Government Alexsia Chan
- September 16, 2020: "The Fundamentals of COVID-19, Contact-Tracing, and Campus Safety", Professor of Biology Herm Lehman
- September 24, 2020: "Digital Ground Game: Inside a COVID-Era Congressional Campaign" with Visiting Assistant Professor of Government Joel Winkelman and GOVT 200 students
- September 30, 2020: "The Bipartisan Closing of the Partisan Mind" with Assistant Professor of Political Science Matt Luttig (Colgate University)

2020-21 Speaker Series continued

- October 1, 2020: "Counterinsurgency and American Policing" with Associate Research Professor Stuart Schrader (Johns Hopkins University)
- October 7, 2020: "Fashioning the Unseen: Blackness, Invisibility, and our Moment of Reckoning" with Professor of Africana Studies Donald Carter
- October 9, 2020: "Stress Test: The 2020 Elections and the Prospect of Systemic Crisis" with Associate Professor of Political Science Sam Rosenfeld (Colgate University)
- October 20, 2020: "The 2020 Election: Some Context—and Some Predictions" with Thomas and Dorothy Litwin Professor of American Studies Glenn Altschuler (Cornell University)
- October 28, 2020: "White Christian Nationalism and Trump" with Associate Professor of Sociology Andrew Whitehead (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis) and Associate Professor of Sociology Samuel Perry (Oklahoma University)
- November 18, 2020: "Mothering While Black" with Associate Professor of Sociology Dawn Dow (University of Maryland, College Park)
- November 24, 2020: "Making Motherhood Work" with Assistant Professor of Sociology Caitlyn Collins (University of Washington in St. Louis)
- February 24, 2021: "Challenges of Social Distancing" with Associate Professor of Biology Andrea Townsend and Assistant Professor of Psychology Keelah Williams
- March 19, 2021: "Trump Retrospective & Path Forward: Foreign Policy & National Security" with Assistant Professor of Government Erica De Bruin, Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Relations Alan Cafruny, Assistant Professor of Government Alexsia Chan, and Chamberlain Fellow and Visiting Professor of History Ty Seidule
- April 2, 2021: "Trump Retrospective & Path Forward: Domestic Policy & Issues" with Associate Professor of Government Gbemende Johnson, James S. Sherman Memorial Professor of Political Science and Professor of Government Phil Klinkner, Professor of Economics Paul Hagstrom, and Professor of Biology Herm Lehman
- April 7, 2021: "Indelible Markers: The Haitian Revolution and the US, Past and Present" with Associate Professor of Africana Studies Nigel Westmaas
- April 14, 2021: "State Repression in the Digital Age" with Professor of International and Cyber Security Anita Gohdes (Hertie School in Berlin)

Engaged Citizenship

Our engaged citizenship programs connect students from the classroom to the community to put theory into practice. Through these experiences, students develop a stronger sense of what is happening in the community and how it affects the people who live there. These programs include SHINE, VITA, SHECP, the Police Reform Practicum, and our newly launched Community Impact Associates program.

Project SHINE

Project SHINE is a service-learning program that connects students with the opportunity to act as English tutors to refugees and immigrants in the Utica area. Five students participated in a virtual version of the program developed by the Midtown Utica Community Center in response to the pandemic. Many thanks to Barbara Britt-Hysell, Daileny Guerrero, and all involved to make the program happen this year.

VITA

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax help to low to moderate income families who cannot or choose not to prepare their own tax returns. Eight students volunteered with the United Way of the Mohawk Valley to deliver tax preparation services virtually. We are especially grateful for Margie Morgan-Davie and Kristen Synakowski for making the program a success this year.

Farewell & Thank You to Barbara Britt-Hysell

In June 2021, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program Director Barbara "Britt" Britt-Hysell retired after 17 years of service to Hamilton College. Britt's passion and dedication to Project SHINE inspired a generation volunteers. We are forever grateful for our collaboration!



Photo courtesy of Hamilton College.

SHECP Internships

The Levitt Center has continued to partner with the Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP) to create poverty studies programs and present students with the opportunity to pursue public-interest internships across the country. This year's participants are:

- Mackenzie Christensen '22 (Shepherd's Clinic)
- Bryce Febres '22 (National Community Action Foundation)
- Carolyn Gevinski '22 (North Penn Legal Services)
- Liza Greene '22 (Vermont Community Garden Network)
- Whitney Hintz '23 (Mental Hygiene Legal Service)
- Anusha Karki '24 (BRC Chemical Dependency Crisis Center)
- Jenna McCarthy '23 (Prevention Council of Roanoke County)
- Jack Ruppert '23 (Pearl River County Public Defender's Office)

COMMUNITY IMPACT SUMMER ASSOCIATES

The Levitt Center launched the Community Impact Summer Associate program in 2021 to give three students internship experience working directly with community partners and Levitt Center staff, including:

- Cole Kuczek '23 – The College-Community Partnership for Racial Justice, Explored the history and mechanisms to launch a Human Rights Commission in Oneida County.
- Anokhi Manchanda '22 – The College-Community Partnership for Racial Justice, Developed criteria for evaluating local municipality police reform plans based on policing best practices.
- Madeline Pavlovich '22 – The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, Created an inventory of available data to determine baseline and metrics for success of a community impact center in the Cornhill Neighborhood of Utica.

The students also collaborated on a digital project exploring Utica's history through the lens of contemporary issues, titled "Utica in Context."

Police Reform in Utica

In Fall 2020, in partnership with community leaders, faculty from six local area colleges and universities launched a series of initiatives to shed light on the complex issues related to racial equity and criminal justice reform. Initiatives included a half-credit practicum featuring an 8-part webinar series of local public officials, community activists, thought-leaders, and academics which also aired on local TV. The Levitt Center also supported a public opinion survey of residents' evaluation and experience of the local criminal justice system and interviews with criminal justice officials. Students gained valuable experience designing and analyzing the poll, as well as researching best practices that formed the basis of a Town Hall event, municipal workshops on police reform, and reports shared with local officials. The results of this work can be viewed at community4justice.org.



Patrick Johnson, consultant on race relations, right, joins Anthony Colon, vice chairman of MVCC Board of Trustees, center, and Frank Anechiarico, from the Department of Government at Hamilton College, as they take questions from the media Wednesday during the launch of the College/Community Partnership for Racial Justice Reform at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute on Genesee Street in Utica. *RON JOHNS / OBSERVER-DISPATCH*

Law & Justice Lab Speaker Series

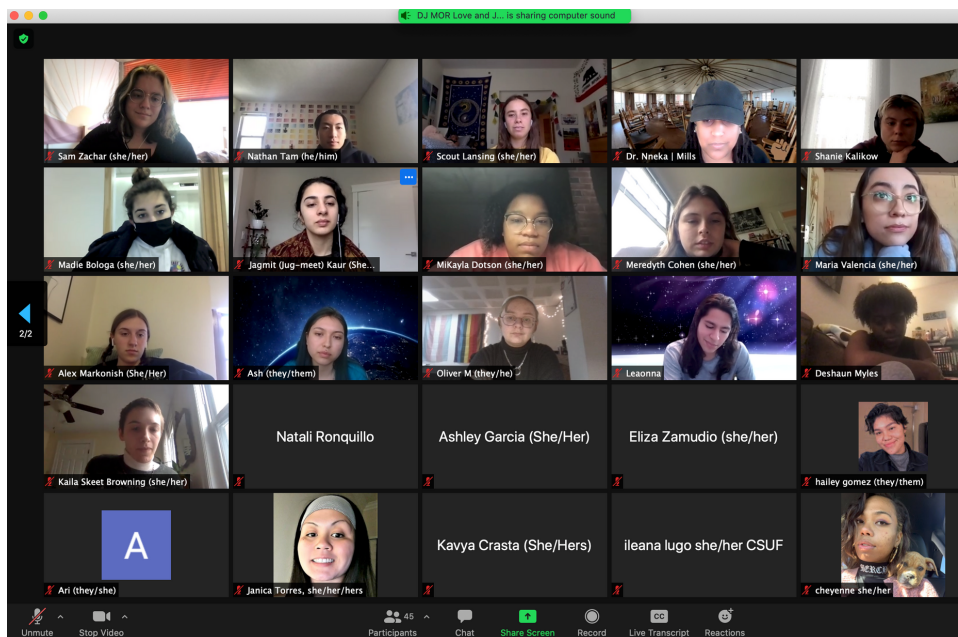
- September 23, 2020: "Black Lives Matter: The Movement and Its Importance to All of Us" with Associate Professor of History Clemmie Harris (Utica College), Professor of Practice-Economic Crime Management Bernard Hyman, JD (Utica College), and Utica City Councilman Delvin Moody
- September 30, 2020: "What is Systemic, or Institutional, Racism?" with Dr. Anthony Baird (VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Utica College), Dr. Mark Montgomery (Chief Diversity Officer at SUNY Polytechnic Institute), Professor of Philosophy and Africana Studies Todd Franklin, and Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Community and Behavioral Health Program Veronica Tichenor (SUNY Polytechnic Institute)
- October 7, 2020: "Why is Diversity Not Enough? Training and Best Practices for Policing" with Director of Law Enforcement Programs Troy Little (MVCC), Retired Captain of NYS Police & Director of Public Safety at Utica College Musco Millner, and Maynard-Knox Professor of Law & Director of Public Policy Frank Anechiarico
- October 14, 2020: "Understanding the Use of Force" with Professor of Practice-Economic Crime Management Bernard Hyman, JD (Utica College), Steve Lockwood (Plaintiff's Attorney in Police Misconduct Lawsuits), and Associate Professor of Law Mark Polkosnik (Herkimer College)
- October 21, 2020: "Justice in the Process" with Panelists Judge Ralph Eannace (Utica City Court), Oneida County District Attorney Scott McNamara, Ray Kyles (Office of the NY Attorney General), and Patrick Johnston (Save Our Street); Moderator: Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Community and Behavioral Health Program Veronica Tichenor (SUNY Polytechnic Institute)
- October 28, 2020: "Punishment and Corrections" with Edward North Chair of Greek and Greek Literature and Professor of Literature and Creative Writing Doran Larson, Courtney Muhammad (Prison Ministry), and Lee Carr (Re-Entry Initiative)
- November 4, 2020: "How are We Handling Domestic Violence and Mental Health Interventions?" with Oneida County Family Court Support Magistrate Jawwaad Rasheed, Kevin Lewis LMFT, Hamilton College Title XI Coordinator Catherine Berryman, Judge Christopher Giruzzi (Utica City Court), and Oneka Roach-Campbell, Esq., LLM (Refugee Citizenship Project)
- November 11, 2020: "Interview with Police Officials on Law Enforcement Reform" Moderators: Former Syracuse Chief of Police Frank Fowler and Retired Captain of NYS Police & Director of Campus Safety at Utica College Musco Millner; Panelists: Oneida County Sheriff Robert Maciol, Utica Chief of Police Mark Williams, and Rome Chief of Police Kevin Beach
- January 27, 2021: "Conclusion: Next Steps Toward Accountability and Reform" with Maynard-Knox Professor of Law & Director of Public Policy Frank Anechiarico, Professor of Practice-Economic Crime Management Bernard Hyman, JD (Utica College), Associate Professor of Government Gbemende Johnson, and Associate Professor of Law Mark Polkosnik (Herkimer College)

Transformational Leadership

Our Transformational Leadership programming helps students recognize, develop, and practice the kinds of leadership skills that are essential for creating personal and societal change. It provides students opportunities to work with people outside of their usual networks, learn about themselves both as leaders and effective group members, and contribute something real in the process.

Highlander Leadership Program

The Highlander Leadership Program was led by Prof. Margo Okazawa-Rey this spring. As part of a course on student activist leadership, students in this program participated in a virtual training led by facilitators at the Highlander Education Center in Tennessee. This worker's rights and civil rights center has trained the likes of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, and continues its transformational work today. This year's participants include: Madeline Bologa '21, Kavya Crasta '21, Ashley Garcia '22, Kathryn Kearny '21, Lynn Kim '21, Scout Lansing '21, Alexandra Markonish '23, Riley Nichols '21, Emely Rojas '21, and Maria Valencia '21.



"After experiencing and engaging with this content, overall, I felt more inclined to think critically specifically about power and justice. When and how can power successfully serve as a tool to put an end to various forms of violence and injustices?"
Student Participant

Levitt Leadership Institute

The Levitt Leadership Institute (LLI) is generally a two-week intensive training program with the mission of helping students recognize, develop, and put into practice the leadership skills integral to creating personal and social change. Because of COVID-19, LLI 2021 was redesigned by Susan Mason as a .5 credit course taught remotely over the Winter break. It focused on skills of virtual leadership. This year's participants include:

Sophia Archos '21, Leslie Arevalo '21, Alexander Axton '21, Kathryn Biedermann '22, Mackenzie Christensen '22, Haley Driscoll '21, Katina Gardilcic '23, Elizabeth Groubery '21, Emlyn Harris '23, Declan Hayes '21, Alissa Jobe '22, Shaghayegh Lashgari '21, David Li '24, Karen Liu '22, Emily Ly '21, Rebecca Matthews (visiting student), Maroun Mezher '23, Alexandra Millar '22, Nonso Mogor '21, Adina Mujica '24, Wriley Nelson '22, Matthew Prus '24, Cecilia Rojas '21, Chris Victor '21, Eleanor Wefing '23, Casimir Zablotki '22, Lingli Zou '22

Special Thanks to Susan Mason



After four inspiring years, Susan Mason is retiring as the Director of the Levitt Leadership Institute. Susan was a creative and energetic partner to all of us at the Center. She led the Levitt Scholars Program for many years, was actively involved in our social innovation programming, mentored many a Levitt Research Fellow, and reimaged the Levitt Leadership Institute, allowing students for the first time to take it as part of a credit-bearing course.

Thank you, Susan, for all your time and commitment to our students and to the Center, for your energy and enthusiasm, and for the many innovative ideas you shared with us over the years. We miss you and wish you a relaxing and fulfilling retirement.

Social Innovation

Our social innovation initiatives prepare and support students as they work to understand persistent social challenges, develop their creativity and self-awareness, and learn to design novel solutions with sensitivity and in partnership with members of their community.

Social Innovation Fellows

The Social Innovation Fellows (SIF) program is a Levitt Center initiative designed to prepare and support students who aim to use innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to address persistent social challenges. These projects can be implemented in a variety of ways: through a for-profit business, a non-profit or student-run organization, with improvements to existing institutional processes, constructing a new network of existing organizations or using some other method. Whatever the mode of implementation, these innovations aim to bring creative, entrepreneurial, and disruptive approaches to solving social challenges.

This year, our program was again led by Anke Wessels, who teaches an award-winning course on social innovation at Cornell University. We are very grateful for her creative redesign of SIF as a remote program which allowed eight students and one staff member to participate despite the constraints of COVID-19. This years Student participants include:

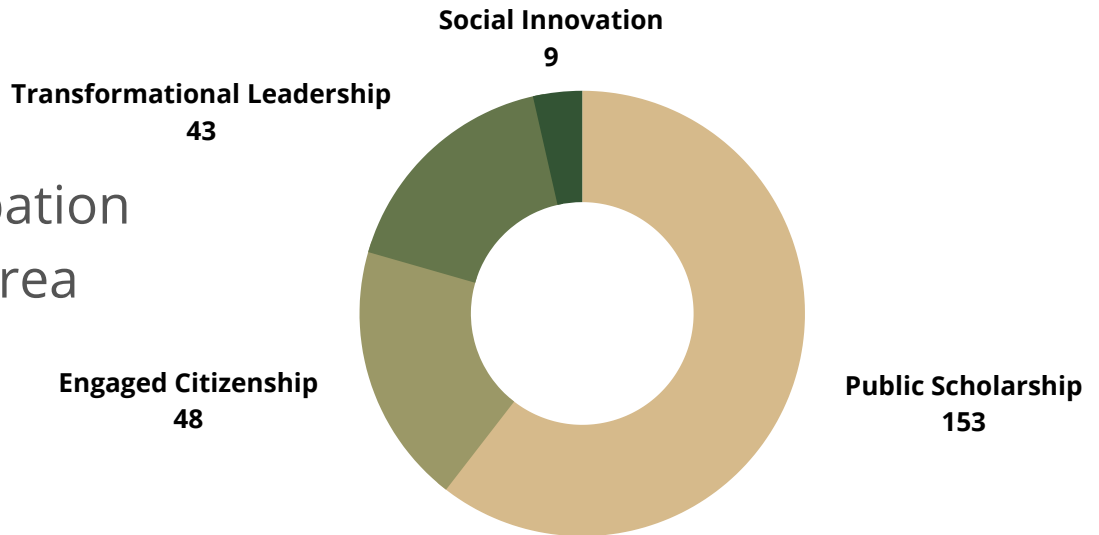
Qian Ren '23, Lily Qiu '22, Alexandra Reboredo '22, Catherine McFarland '22, Audrey Choi '24, Dylan Badillo '23, Ha Tran '22, Whitney Hintz '23

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 constraints, no students were able to implement their projects. Other Social Innovation initiatives were also paused including the Innovator-in-Residence programs, the Post-Graduate Social Innovation Fellowship, and other social innovation workshops. We hope to be able to restart these programs in the future.

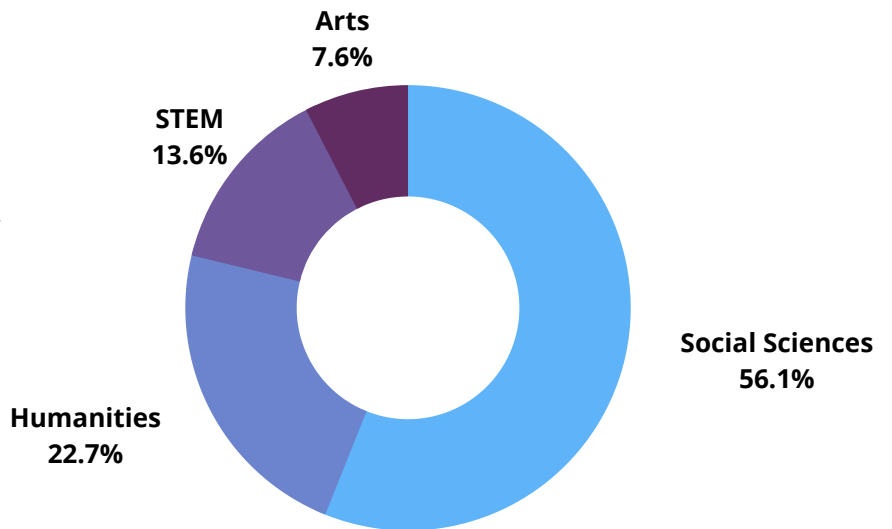
Student and Faculty Participation

Altogether, 253 students and 62 faculty members from across the college participated in Levitt Center programs during the 2020-2021 year. Because of COVID-19-related disruption, a number of social innovation and transformational leadership programs were canceled, and some public scholarship programs were added.

Student Participation by Program Area



Faculty Participation by Division



The Levitt Council and Levitt Center Staff

Faculty Director

- Frank Anechiarico, Maynard-Knox Professor of Government and Law

Administrative Staff

- Rachael Clark, Office Coordinator
- Zack Schuman, Assistant Director for Community-Based Learning
- Simon Stanco, Communication and Media Intern
- Sharon Topi, Leadership Programming Coordinator
- Chris Willemsen, Administrative Director

Levitt Council

- Frank Anechiarico, Maynard-Knox Professor of Government and Law, Chair
- John Bartle, Director of the Inequality and Equity Program and Associate Professor of German, Russian, Italian, and Arabic
- Erica De Bruin, Director of the Justice and Security Program and Assistant Professor of Government
- Herm Lehman, Director of the Public Health and Well-Being Program and Professor of Biology
- Alex Plakias, Director of the Sustainability Program and Assistant Professor of Philosophy
- Mo Alloush, Assistant Professor of Economics
- Mackenzie Cooley, Assistant Professor of History
- Mark Cryer, Associate Professor of Theatre
- Jaime Kucinkas, Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Kyoko Omori, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures
- Julie Starr, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Student Staff members

- Anton de Arbeloa '21
- Gianni Hill '21
- Anokhi Manchanda '22
- Zoe Sauve '23
- Olivia Skriloff '22

LEVITT

Hamilton

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