



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

**THE EDMOND & LILY SAFRA CENTER
FOR ETHICS SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN
TEACHING AND RESEARCH ABOUT
PRESSING ETHICAL ISSUES; TO FOSTER
SOUND NORMS OF ETHICAL REASONING
AND CIVIC DISCUSSION; AND TO SHARE
THE WORK OF OUR COMMUNITY IN THE
PUBLIC INTEREST.**



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Opposite page: Faculty Associate Michael Sandel challenges assumptions and models civil discourse during "Hard Questions: Ethics in the Age of AI" held in Sanders Theater as part of the Harvard Dialogues series in January. Photo: Niles Singer/Harvard University





FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I reflect on my first year as Faculty Director of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics. This year has been one of significant transition and growth, with the culmination of longstanding initiatives and the launch of exciting new ones.

Several signature projects have now moved to new homes ensuring their continued success. I am excited to share that Danielle Allen's Democratic Knowledge Project has a bright future beyond the Center where it will play an even greater role in shaping K-12 civics education, empowering students with the knowledge and skills for informed citizenship. We also concluded the Justice, Health, and Democracy Impact Initiative, with all projects now poised to flourish independently, underscoring our commitment to sustainability and long-term impact.

In my new role as Center Director and Special Advisor for Civil Discourse to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), I have embraced the charge to model civil discourse across our university, build programs that enhance these skills, and embed these values into our curriculum. Through a comprehensive listening tour with faculty and stakeholders, I've begun to assess the range of needs across campus. This groundwork will help the Center tailor our efforts to meet the specific challenges we face today. And, of course, our Design Studio stands ready to assist as space for innovation in ethics and civics pedagogy.



This year, we have already begun putting these ideas into action. In partnership with the FAS's new Harvard Dialogues series, we spearheaded several notable events and workshops, including, *Setting the Table: Best Practices in Establishing Civil Discourse Norms in the Classroom*, where a panel of esteemed faculty shared actionable strategies to set clear discourse expectations and model constructive dialogue in the classroom. *Dialogue Across Differences: Teaching and Learning in Polarized Times*, led by Michael Sandel, explored how faculty can encourage reasoned debate on ethically charged issues. Additionally, Sandel led *Modeling Civil Dialogue for Students: An AI Case Study*, a university-wide event that modeled reasoned debate on artificial intelligence, followed by dinner discussions in the Houses to further engage students.

In March, we hosted the *Civil Disagreement Panel: DEI, Academic Freedom, and the Future of Higher Education*, which addressed the perceived tensions between academic freedom and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts on campus. The event, which was geared toward our undergraduate students in the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership and the Intellectual Vitality fellows, showcased our commitment to modeling best practices for dialogue across differences.

This year also marked the launch of our *Fellows in Values Engagements (FiVE)* fellowships, which selects and trains Harvard Tutors and Proctors in facilitation practices in order to create new opportunities for values-based discourse in the residential system. By creating a community of tutors and proctors dedicated to leading meaningful discussions, we are embedding the practice of civil dialogue into everyday life within the Harvard community, further enriching students' experiences beyond the classroom.

Looking ahead, we are eager to build on the progress made this year by expanding our efforts to promote civil discourse and ethical engagement across the University. Central to this expansion will be the growth of our fellowships and programming, which aim to deepen the impact of civil discourse both within Harvard and beyond. In addition, we are now building an interdisciplinary research lab focused on discourse and disagreement, bringing together scholars from diverse fields to explore new models and

Pictured at left top-bottom: In Geneva visiting with Max Coslov, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Foundation; Dinner with our first cohort of Fellows in Values Engagement (The FiVE); Introducing the spring Civil Disagreement Series: Academic Freedom, DEI & the Future of Higher Education; Vibing with the Undergraduate Fellows at our closing harbor cruise

frameworks for collaborative dialogue. This initiative will not only advance our research but also strengthen our role as an interfaculty initiative, allowing us to serve the entire university community more effectively.

I am energized by the work ahead and grateful for your continued support.

With warm regards,

Eric Beerbohm
Faculty Director



Nearly four decades of Harvard ethics leadership. Left to right: Directors Danielle Allen, Dennis Thompson, Eric Beerbohm, & Lawrence Lessig



BUILDING BRIDGES: CIVIL DISCOURSE WORK DURING CRITICAL TIMES

The 2023-24 academic year has underscored an urgent truth: American democratic institutions, and by extension, college campuses, face unprecedented challenges in facilitating civil and meaningful discourse across ideological divides. This period revealed just how vital educational institutions are in fostering respectful, thoughtful conversation among students, faculty, and administrators grappling with societal tensions. The Center has long prioritized work on civil discourse, actively promoting ethical scholarship and civics pedagogy. However, the events of this year have intensified the need for our work, positioning us to take immediate action to support communities in navigating disagreements and countering hate.

As an Interfaculty Initiative, the Center has leveraged its wide-ranging network and expertise to develop interventions that address growing societal tensions.

Disagreement without resentment. At right, the panelists from our Civil Disagreement Series event: "Academic Freedom, DEI & the Future of Higher Education." Left to right: Jeannie Suk Gerson, Ilya Shapiro, Amna Khalid, Moderator Christopher Robichaud, Stacy Hawkins, & Director Eric Beerbohm. At left, students meet after the panel for dinner in Annenberg Hall to continue the conversation among themselves with the support of ELSCe's Fellows in Values Engagement (FiVE). Photo: Niles Singer/Harvard University





Some of our first cohort of Fellows in Values Engagement (FIVE). Back row from left: Alyn Wallace, Liren Ma, Chance Bonar, Director Eric Beerbohm, Civil Discourse Fellow Brian Palmiter, Bo Seo; Front row from left: Dana Vera, Paulo Carvão, Cat Huang, Gustavo Luna, Syed Rakin Ahmed, Assistant Director of Fellowships & Programming Emily Bromley

Our initiatives and activities this year, described and pictured in these pages and elsewhere in this report, not only reflect a deep commitment to civil discourse but are also a strategic response to today's increasingly polarized landscape.

FELLOWS IN VALUES ENGAGEMENT: THE FIVE

One of the most notable achievements this past year was the launch of the Fellows in Values Engagement (FiVE) program. Developed in response to the growing demand for meaningful engagement on college campuses, this fellowship brings essential conversations about morals and values into the Harvard Houses, the Yard, and the Dudley Community. The FiVE Fellowship kicked off at the start of the academic year with a class of 27 inaugural fellows who provided students with events and opportunities to discuss hard topics within their residential communities, fostering a culture of respectful discourse in spaces integral to students' lives. With Harvard's Houses as key hubs for student engagement, the FiVE Fellowship sets expectations for ethical interaction from the students' first year and provides continuity through their entire college experience.

INTERCOLLEGIATE CIVIL DISAGREEMENT PARTNERSHIP (ICDP) RETREAT AND RESEARCH

In addition to the FiVE Fellowship, the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership (ICDP) program continued to serve as a cornerstone of our civil discourse work. This program brings together students and faculty from universities across the country to collaborate on fostering respectful dialogue around contentious topics. By facilitating these cross-campus conversations, the ICDP has strengthened participants' abilities to engage in civil disagreements with empathy and understanding, and to train student facilitators to lead hard conversations on their campuses.



Students and Institutional Leads from the Intercollegiate Civil Disagreement Partnership (ICDP) consortium attend a retreat hosted by the Edmond & Lily Safra Center in January.





Throughout the fall, teams at consortium institutions researched their schools' histories and strategies in civil discourse, while a cross-institutional team examined trends and innovations at universities nationwide. Then in January, in conjunction with PEN America's Free Expression Student Summit, the ICDP held a retreat at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center to consolidate insights from fall research and lay the groundwork for spring initiatives. At the retreat and throughout the spring, the ICDP refined its design, exploring new partnerships and enhancing program evaluation to meet the evolving needs of campuses.

MODELING CIVIL DISCOURSE: HARVARD DIALOGUES AND SPRING COLLABORATIONS

In time for the opening of the spring semester, the Center assisted the FAS Dean's Office and Harvard College in rapidly developing a series of events called *Harvard Dialogues* to model and promote civil discourse within Harvard and beyond. For faculty, sessions such as "Setting the Table: Best Practices in Establishing Civil Discourse Norms in the Classroom," moderated by Professor Beerbohm, and "Dialogue Across Differences: Teaching and Learning in Polarized Times," led by Professor Michael Sandel, provided essential tools to encourage meaningful dialogue in the classroom. For students, Sandel's AI-focused case study, "Hard Questions: Ethics in the Age of AI" modeled ethical reasoning in complex discussions, with post-event dinners led by FIVE Fellows to continue exploring the discourse model presented.

In addition to co-sponsoring events with Harvard Hillel covering topics of free speech on campus, just war theory, and the ethics of end-of-life care, the Center also partnered with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Center for Jewish Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Center for American Political Studies, and FAS Civil Discourse Initiative to host "Pernicious Prejudice: Scholarly Approaches to Antisemitism and Islamophobia." This panel discussion addressed the rise of these issues

At left, panelists Jeffrey Kopstein, Sabine von Mering & Kassra Oskooii discuss rising instances of intolerance on college campuses during "Pernicious Prejudice: Scholarly Approaches to Antisemitism and Islamophobia."

in society and explored their impacts on university campuses, demonstrating the value of experts and community leaders engaging in open, civil dialogue about combating prejudice and fostering mutual understanding.

CIVIL DISAGREEMENT PANEL: EXPLORING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND DEI

In March the Center again partnered with the FAS Dean's Civil Discourse Initiative to bring "Academic Freedom, DEI & the Future of Higher Education," the next installment in the Center's longstanding Civil Disagreement Series, to a wider audience in the wake of campus controversy and the need for improved dialogue across difference. The panel event examined the ways in which concerns about maintaining academic freedom are being pitted against the efforts of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs on college campuses. Thought leaders close to the issue and representing a broad political spectrum modeled a constructive exchange of values and ideas despite their contrasting viewpoints.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we reflect on this transformative year, we recognize that the Center's role in fostering civil discourse has never been more crucial. Our initiatives, partnerships, and events reflect our commitment to equipping individuals with the skills needed to navigate a polarized world thoughtfully and respectfully. We are honored to continue leading efforts that promote ethical engagement and look forward to advancing this essential work in the years to come.

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Professor Michael Sandel helps his peers prepare to guide challenging classroom discussions in "Dialogue Across Differences: Teaching and Learning in Polarized Times," a workshop hosted by ELSCE and the FAS Dean's Office. Photo: Niles Singer/Harvard University

BUSINESS AI ETHICS

This year, the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics has been at the cutting edge of examining the ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI) in corporate governance. We're tackling the pressing need to close the gap between rapid technological advancements and the slower pace of regulatory responses. As AI weaves itself into nearly every corner of business operations, we see immense opportunities but also significant risks that demand robust ethical oversight and governance.

WHY BUSINESS ETHICS?

The corporate world, with its relentless pace, offers a unique arena to test and refine ethical frameworks. Governments and regulatory bodies are still catching up and have yet to lay down comprehensive guidelines for socially responsible AI. Here at the Center, we focus on corporate directors and executives—those pivotal decision-makers who shape the strategic direction and ethical standards of their organizations.

By equipping these leaders with the right tools and frameworks, we empower them to cultivate a culture of ethical oversight. This ensures AI technologies

are deployed in ways that resonate with core human values and societal good. Corporate leaders, armed with these frameworks, can confidently implement, monitor, and tweak them based on real-world outcomes and feedback. This ongoing process can foster robust, scalable AI governance models that not only elevate the corporate sector but also pave the way for future government regulations.

OUR EFFORTS THIS YEAR

We've crafted a working framework that underscores the importance of embedding ethical principles into AI governance within business operations. In the following page, you'll find a detailed look at our insights, collaborations, and the outcomes of our research and discussions throughout the year. Our work highlights the crucial need for robust ethical frameworks to steer corporate governance, especially in an environment where legal directives remain murky.

As we pause to reflect on the Center's remarkable accomplishments, we're filled with optimism for what lies ahead. Our efforts underscore the vital importance of continued engagement and collaboration in navigating the intricate ethical landscape of AI in business. By aligning technological progress with core human values, we aim to ensure that AI serves humanity's best interests.

Facing page: Nien-hê Hsieh, a member of the ELSCE Faculty Committee and Harvard Business School faculty, leads a session at the inaugural Directors' AI Ethics Forum.



DIRECTORS' FORUM

In June, the Center hosted the inaugural Directors' AI Ethics Forum, bringing together leaders from various sectors to address the ethical challenges of AI in business. The forum highlighted the urgency of balancing AI innovation with ethical responsibility as AI's rapid adoption presents both risks and opportunities.

KEY INSIGHTS:

- **Rapid AI Adoption:** Technologies like ChatGPT reached 100 million users in two months, raising ethical concerns about such swift growth.
- **AI as a Tool:** Emphasized the importance of starting with the problem and assessing if AI is the right solution
- **Global Regulatory Landscape:** Reviewed the current state of AI regulations in the US, EU, and China, highlighting the fragmented nature of existing rules.

Ethics must be the foundation of technological advancement. By establishing ethical frameworks, companies can align AI use with human values, ensuring AI serves humanity's best interests. The Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics leads in fostering ethical AI governance.

THE DESIGN STUDIO

The Design Studio for Civics & Ethics Pedagogy's supported initiatives showcase the breadth of its commitment to ethics and civics education. Central to this commitment are programs that embody the Studio's collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, such as the Democratic Knowledge Project, which equips educators with innovative resources, workshops, and assessment tools to teach constitutional democracy from K-16; the Ethics Pedagogy Fellowship, which partners faculty with fellows to develop new pedagogies for infusing ethics and civics into courses and trainings at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and EdEthics, which is building a global field of educational ethics, offering real-time training for school systems and fostering ethical policy formation. These efforts are further complemented by groundbreaking programs like Embedded EthiCS, which successfully integrates ethical inquiry into computer science courses, ensuring that the next generation of technologists considers the societal impacts of their work, and the Scientific Citizenship Initiative, which engages future scientific leaders by weaving civic responsibility and ethical practices into research training.

This year, the Design Studio has conducted its work through monthly convenings that provide a space for scholars, educators, and partners to collaborate, share insights, and refine their approaches to ethics and civics education. In addition to designing bespoke instructional resources, such as digital values cards, the Studio members also turned their attention this year to supporting the design and launch of the Center's new Fellows in Values Engagement (FiVE) program. Regular meetings created a space for ongoing learning and the sharing of ideas, helping participants make advances in their teaching and research. The Studio also supported partners in brainstorming, planning, and suggested effective ways to reach relevant audiences.

As we reflect on a year of progress and look ahead to future challenges, the Design Studio remains dedicated to amplifying ethics and civics education and to strengthening the foundations of resilient, informed, and engaged democratic communities.

Facing page: Alison Simmons and Barbara Grosz lead the EmbeddedEthiCS Responsible Computing Challenge co-sponsored with Mozilla in October.





DEMOCRATIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Reflecting on the 2023-2024 academic year, we celebrate the achievements of the Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP), a civic learning initiative launched by the Center. During its time at the Center, the DKP grew into a national leader in civics education, guided by a vision of empowering students and educators with the knowledge and skills needed for civic engagement. This year, the DKP transitioned its research and design efforts, known as DKP Learn, to the Harvard Graduate School of Education, while its implementation support work moved to a newly established non-profit entity, DKP Launch. This transition marks a new chapter for the DKP, as it continues to expand its impact in civic learning, exemplifying the Center's mission to foster initiatives that serve the public good.

The DKP's journey at the Center was marked by significant growth and impressive achievements. It developed into a professional staff team of ten, supported by a vibrant group of up to 30 student research assistants at its peak. The Center's finance and grants management team played a critical role in guiding the DKP's extensive funding portfolio, securing

over \$14 million from local, federal, and state agencies, foundations, and private donors over the past five years. The Center's communication team also helped amplify the DKP's influence, supporting the national release of the Educating for American Democracy (EAD) Roadmap, a framework for high-quality K-12 civics and history education, in which the DKP has been a key contributor. Partnerships with over 30 local education agencies and nearly 100 educators across Massachusetts strengthened the connection between research and practice, integrating practitioner expertise into the DKP's work.

One of DKP's most notable achievements is its year-long 8th grade civics curriculum, *Civic Engagement in Our Democracy*, which has been recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as the highest-rated comprehensive resource for 8th-grade civics. As one student reflected on their experience with the course, "I feel like I understand the world more because of this class. It expanded my thinking and made me aware of the issues in the world and the steps we can take to solve or spread awareness about them."

The successful development and incubation of the DKP at the Center were made possible through the visionary leadership of the Center's previous faculty director, Danielle Allen, whose commitment to civic learning laid the groundwork for its achievements. Her dedication to creating a robust civic education framework positioned the DKP to thrive as it transitions into its next phase. The DKP's accomplishments



Democratic Knowledge Project staff. Left-right: Octavia Nixon, Jennifer Guerin, Katie Giles Laasya Chiduruppa, Natalie Sew & Adrienne Billingham Bock.

caught the attention of the One8 Foundation, which is now funding DKP Launch to support the implementation of the 8th-grade civics curriculum across Massachusetts. With DKP Learn now based at the Graduate School of Education, the project is poised to expand its professional learning programs and research initiatives, including a national virtual Civic Learning Institute aligned with the EAD framework. The DKP also continues to contribute to the Center's Design Studio for

Ethics and Civics Pedagogy, reinforcing its commitment to advancing civic education.

We celebrate the accomplishments of the DKP team during their time at the Center and look forward to their continued success as they embark on this exciting new chapter.

JUSTICE, HEALTH & DEMOCRACY IMPACT INITIATIVE

As we present the final annual report from the Justice, Health & Democracy Impact Initiative (JHD), we reflect on its achievements, key transitions, and lasting impacts.

The JHD, a collaborative effort between the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, New America, and Brown University's School of Public Health, was established to rethink policymaking and



empower civic and community leaders. JHD has focused on delivering ethics-based, impactful solutions to urgent public issues.

Our work has centered on providing accessible policy guidance for practitioners and the public, fostering partnerships among researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to strengthen justice, health, and democracy in communities.

Over the years, the Initiative's portfolio has addressed urgent issues with clear needs. We expanded our capacity to support partners with research recommendations and guidance on policy solutions grounded in human well-being.

PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

CARCERAL JUSTICE

JHD helped transition from a criminalization to a public health framework for substance use disorder, partnering with initiatives like PAARI and the Crime and Justice Institute to create context-specific policy models. During COVID-19, we addressed the pandemic's impact on incarcerated individuals, leading to endorsed proposals.

Opposite, left-right: JHD Fellow Anna Lewis, ELSCE Asst. Dir. of Fellowships & Programming Emily Bromley & JHD Project Manager Ashveena Gajeelee

“THE SUPPORT I HAVE RECEIVED THROUGH JHD AND THE CENTER THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR AFFORDED ME THE TIME AND RESOURCES I NEEDED TO BE PRODUCTIVE IN ALL OF MY WORK.”

**– KATHERINE PEELER
JHD FELLOW**

COVID-19 RAPID RESPONSE:

In early 2020 and again in 2021, JHD led efforts to craft effective COVID-19 responses, producing policy roadmaps, advisory manuals, and data tools adopted across government levels.

ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS (AERPS):

In response to calls for police reform, JHD partnered with cities such as Dayton, Madison, and Oakland to design AERPs that connect individuals in crisis with community-based services, reducing trauma and promoting racial health equity.

ECONOMIC DIGNITY & SECURITY:

Addressing economic inequality, JHD worked with New America's New Practice Lab and the U.S. Census Bureau's Opportunity Project to create tools that capture well-being beyond economic measures, supporting sustainable local economies.

GENETICS, ETHICS & SOCIETY:

JHD collaborated with institutions like the Broad Institute to promote the ethical use of genetic ancestry in research, reshaping how biosciences approach race and genetics.

RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY:

Projects on ethical AI, digital public goods, and emerging technology governance produced influential white papers and

recommendations, in collaboration with the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and the Omidyar Network.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION:

Collaborating with Harvard Law School and Physicians for Human Rights, we addressed solitary confinement in immigration detention and care for unaccompanied immigrant youth, producing the widely recognized report "Endless Nightmare."

CONCLUSION

While this year marks the conclusion of JHD as a unified entity, its mission will continue. We have offboarded each project to ensure our research teams continue their work in new settings. This transition marks not an end, but a new beginning, as the innovative work of JHD continues in diverse institutions.

We celebrate the transformative work accomplished and the lasting legacy of our projects. The JHD set a model for scholars and experts to co-design solutions responsive to local needs. By embedding ethical principles in policymaking and fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, JHD has made meaningful strides in addressing complex societal challenges, and we are confident that its impact will continue to inspire future research and policy development toward a just, healthy, and democratic society.

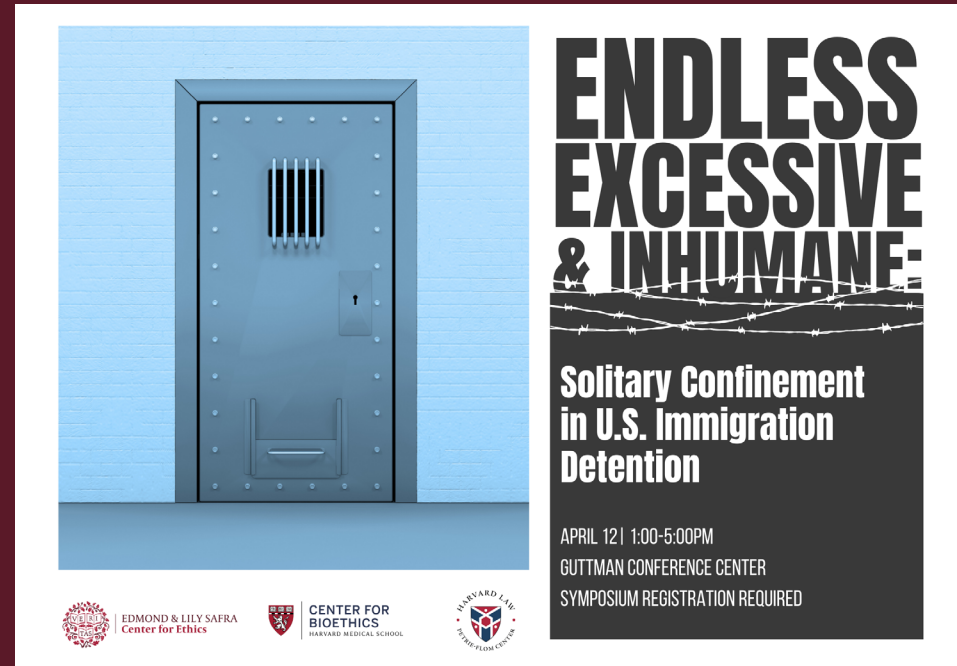
YEAR-END REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION:

- **Project Collaboration:** Joint effort between Peeler Immigration Lab (PIL), Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program (HIRCP), and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).
- **Research and Findings:** Conducted interviews with formerly detained immigrants and analyzed FOIA data, culminating in the report "Endless Nightmare: Torture and Inhuman Treatment in Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Detention."
- **Impact:** Report revealed widespread misuse of solitary confinement, receiving extensive media coverage in The New York Times, LA Times, and more.
- **Symposium:** Organized "Endless, Excessive, and Inhumane: Solitary Confinement in U.S. Immigration Detention," featuring local leaders and advocates, with engaged discussions and valuable insights.
- **Advocacy:** Ongoing meetings with ICE and DHS, and testified before the U.S. Committee on the Judiciary, contributing to proposed legislation to end solitary confinement.

CARE OF UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT YOUTH IN FEDERAL CUSTODY:

- **Project Phases:** Multiple stages, including developing trauma-informed adjudication training for U.S. immigration courts in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital and Colorado-



based immigration attorneys.

- **Training Impact:** Provided training to federal immigration judges and DOJ attorneys, with plans for expanding the program to a pilot courtroom project.
- **Future Goals:** Seeking additional funding and resubmitting for the Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar Program to further the project's reach and impact.



FELLOWS-
IN-RESIDENCE

CÉSAR CABEZAS

During his fellowship year, César Cabezas pursued two lines of research. In the first one, he worked on a philosophical reconstruction of the concept of racism among contemporary anti-racist social movements. In the second one, he explored questions of identity and solidarity among Latin Americans and Latines in the diaspora. As part of his first line of research, he published a paper titled “Is Conceptual Inflation a Problem for a Theory of Institutional Racism?” in *Ethics*, in which he defends his theory of institutional racism against the charge that it unduly inflates the concept of racism. At the Fellows-in-Residence Seminar, he presented a new paper titled “Is Anti-Racism Moralistic?”, in which he defends a strain of contemporary anti-racism against the objection that it fosters moralistic vices and excessive moral condemnation. He also presented this paper at several Boston philosophy departments (Boston University, MIT, Northeastern, and Tufts) and the Eastern APA. The paper is currently under review. During his fellowship year, César also started researching and writing a new paper tentatively titled “How is Racism Systemic?”, in which he brings together insights from philosophy of race, social ontology, and the social sciences to develop an account of racism as dynamically stable social system that is partially structured by hierarchical racial categories and whose output is the production of advantages and disadvantages that track these categories. This research project benefited immensely from two events sponsored by the Edmond & Lily Safra Center. The first one was David Estlund’s book manuscript workshop on the topic of structural injustice. The second was a workshop titled “Theorizing Racism and Structural Change”, in which César presented his work on racism alongside leading philosophers and political theorists such as Robin Celikates (FU Berlin), Sally Haslanger (MIT) and Deva Woodly (Brown).



In addition to his work on racism, César also pursued a line of research in Latin American philosophy. During his fellowship year, he completed a paper titled “Mariátegui and the Failed Promise of a Mestizaje Otherwise”, in which he engages with criticisms of mestizaje discourse for its role in perpetuating racial and colonial oppression in Latin America and the Latine diaspora. The paper is currently in competition for APA Essay Prize on Latin American Thought. In addition, he wrote a paper titled “Mariátegui’s Indo-American Socialism and the Problem of Privileged Solidarity”, which addresses criticisms of mestizo-led Latin American identity projects for their failure of solidarity vis-à-vis indigenous people. This paper is currently under review.

César also participated in a reading group on race and caste with another Fellow-in-Residence, Nitika Khaitan. He also benefited immensely from exchanging ideas with the other Fellows-in-Residence and the Center Director, Eric Beerbohm. He is enormously grateful to all the Center staff, fellows, faculty, and affiliates for making the Center a welcoming and intellectually rich space to pursue his research.

*Opposite page from left to right, back row: César Cabezas, Chad Lee-Stronach, Michael Rain
Front row: Diane O'Donoghue (Visiting Fellow), My Hedlin, Nitika Khaitan, Zoë Johnson King*



Left to right: Michael Rain, Zoë Johnson King, Chad Lee-Stronach, Diane O'Donoghue



ALEX GOUREVITCH

While a Fellow-in-Residence, Alex Gourevitch completed a draft of his book on the political ethics of strikes. The book asks three interrelated questions. First, just what are strikes such that they pose special problems for liberal capitalist societies? Second, given what strikes are, why do workers have a right to strike? Third, what, if anything, is good about strikes? He presented the first part of the book a Fellow-in-Residence seminar in the fall, discussing what strikes are and why they pose special problems for liberal societies. Strikes will always be disruptive because, no matter the society, people depend on work getting done. But in liberal capitalist societies, strikes involve the exercise of collective power against the property rights of owners and employers, raise doubts about the voluntary nature of the capitalist division of labor, and can violate the basic laws and liberties of the liberal state. This makes them look like illegitimate efforts at extortion. After presenting this puzzle in the fall, he worked out a draft of the answer during the rest of his fellowship time.

During his time, Gourevitch also published two essays, one on social reproduction and structural domination, the other on republicanism and labor justice, for edited collections. He also presented his work at NYU, University of Barcelona, and University of Leuven.

MY HEDLIN

Having recently completed her doctorate, Tel Aviv Fellow My Hedlin found her fellowship year to be a wonderful opportunity to work towards publishing her research on the dynamics and consequences of private creation of money, particularly by commercial banks. Thus, on the one hand, she used the year to consolidate work from her dissertation, in which she explores the basic principles that drive commercial banks to create money, and the economic consequences that this process brings about. As part of this research process, she gave several presentations during the year (for example at The Economics of Payments XII Conference and The Royal Economics Society Annual Conference) as well as benefited greatly from engaging with local scholars at Harvard University, Boston University, and MIT.



She also started a new project which examines the macroeconomic significance of the behind-the-scenes part of the modern payments system. In particular, she argues that what masquerades as simply technical solutions to the “plumbing” of our payment system—the efficiency of which we would all seem to be beneficiaries—in fact has far-reaching consequences for society, and not necessarily to our benefit. Indeed, the more “efficient” the interbank clearing system, the greater the quantity of money that commercial banks can create and, typically, the cheaper credit gets—with all its related economic and social consequences. This new project was presented at the Fellows Seminar during which My received much helpful feedback, and she would particularly like to thank Christine Desan and Steven Marglin for their insightful and constructive commentary.



Left to right, back row: Alex Gourevitch, Michael Rain, Chad Lee-Stronach, Director Eric Beerbohm, Zoë Johnson King & César Cabezas; Front row: My Hedlin, Rita Kirk, Nitika Khaitan, Zoë Johnson King, Julia Kolak, & Diane O'Donoghue

ZOË JOHNSON KING



Zoë Johnson King had a wonderful year—both remarkably productive and highly enjoyable—as a Fellow-in-Residence at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics. On sabbatical from her regular position in Harvard's Philosophy department, she relished the opportunity to remain on-campus and to dip her toes into the life of the University while still possessing the invaluable gift of time to pursue her own research. She also found the Center to be a delightful environment, rich with friendly faces, constructive feedback, and delicious free food. Her relationships with her fellow Fellows will no doubt remain strong for years to come.

Zoë's main research output was a book, drafted entirely during her Fellowship year. The book is provisionally entitled *Praiseworthiness*, and is, as the title suggests, about praiseworthiness. Zoë's beef with the extant philosophical literature on agency and responsibility is that it focuses entirely on blame, blameworthiness, and punishment, completely neglecting the positive side of the story and thus failing to think seriously about the ways in which people can deserve moral credit. Her contribution is to offer an attempt at a comprehensive theory of each type of thing for which people can be praiseworthy and, for each such type of thing, the conditions under which people are praiseworthy for things of that type, as well as some musings on the good reasons we might have for our practices of praise to veer slightly apart from the facts about people's praiseworthiness. The book is under contract with Oxford University Press and will appear sometime in the near future.

Zoë also finished a paper that effectively presents an abridged version of the book's core material, organized around a set of central motivating examples illustrating a phenomenon that she calls "The Slow Clap Phenomenon". (Think of how annoying it would be if, for example, your straight male friend boasted about occasionally doing some housework; the reaction of moral unimpressedness that we have in cases like this—of the sort that we might express with a slow, sarcastic clap—is the slow-clap phenomenon.) This paper has been accepted for publication in *Noûs*, a top philosophy journal. In addition, Zoë has been lightly tinkering with a smattering of other papers: one about the nature and moral significance of trying, one about the difference between praiseworthy acting and praiseworthy believing, and one about the unity and normativity of structural rationality. Zoë was also awarded an Early Career Fellowship from Harvard's Mind, Brain, and Behavior Institute and an NEH Summer Stipend during her fellowship year, and she will use these additional sources of funding to continue working on these ongoing projects.

CHAD LEE-STRONACH

As a Joint Fellow-in-Residence at Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics (ELSCE) and the Center for Research on Computation and Society (CRCS), Chad Lee-Stronach benefited greatly from an interdisciplinary community spanning researchers in normative philosophy, the humanities and social sciences, and computer science and engineering.



In this intellectually rich environment of seminars, public events, and conversations with his fellow Fellows at ELSCE and postdoctoral researchers at CRCS, he completed three chapters of his book manuscript, *The Anatomy of Privacy*, which develops a systematic and unified philosophical account of the concept, value, and norms of privacy, drawing on modeling methodologies from computer science and the computational social sciences to examine the ways that, under everyday conditions, personal information flows can distribute benefits and burdens in ways that generate systemic injustice, by benefiting the already advantaged at the expense of the already disadvantaged. He presented a condensed, paper version of this project at his ELSCE Seminar, with valuable commentary by Mariel García-Montes and Lowry Pressly, as well by invitation at the Philosophy and AI Manuscript Workshop at Syracuse University.

During the year, he also wrote and presented a paper entitled “What (If Anything) Is Algorithmic Justice?” to the US Digital Service of the Executive Office of the President at the White House. This research aims to articulate the essential normative dimensions of the use of information and computing technologies, such as machine learning-based artificial intelligence, in the decision-making processes of public and private social institutions.

A further paper that he completed, titled “Reproving Utilitarianism”, was presented at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Society for Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, and at the Ethics Institute at Northeastern University. This paper explores how representing the justice of a social outcome may require a framework that goes beyond evaluating aggregate social welfare, as is standard in the welfare economics literature. Drawing on modeling techniques in computer science, he develops a more expressive framework that accounts for the actions of individuals that produce the social outcomes in question, where the justice of these actions cannot be accounted for by considerations of social welfare alone.

Among the many events and interactions that took place this year, particular highlights included a workshop on structural injustice with David Estlund, Michael Rain’s “Strategic Storytelling for Career Growth”, Gina Shouten’s Kamm Lecture on “Culture and Injustice”, the Ethics Monday talks on a range of topics including Lawrence Lessig’s book *How to Steal a Presidential Election*, and Issachar Rosen-Zvi’s lecture on “The Precarious State of Israeli Democracy”, among many other intellectually exciting and rigorous events that we expertly organized and delivered by the staff and faculty at ELSCE and CRCS.



MICHAEL RAIN

Michael's fellowship tenure at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics was as a joint fellow with the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research to focus on his independent research on private digital messaging networks used by U.S. immigrant diaspora groups. This research initiative for ENODI was launched when he was a John S. Knight Journalism fellow at Stanford University. Outcomes of the research include platform-wide policy and feature changes at Meta to address the issue of reducing COVID-related misinformation and disinformation on WhatsApp.

He spent the year exploring an ethical framework with considerations for multicultural contexts to guide tech companies when drafting tech policy for digital products used globally and to develop content best practices civic organizations can use to reach diverse communities that use closed messaging groups as a source for culturally relevant news and information. To prototype outreach approaches, he built relationships with local Massachusetts institutions, including the Mass Cultural Council and the Greater Roxbury Arts & Cultural Center Inc.

Michael accepted invitations to present, speak, and appear at sessions related to his tech policy, immigrant diaspora, and storytelling work, including events hosted by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. He conducted a workshop on storytelling for career growth for staff, fellows, and friends of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center. Michael also instructed, designed, and managed a team of coaches for Navigating Inequality and Systemic Barriers in a Changing World, a five-week module developed for the Summer Program at Harvard Kennedy School taught to the entire 240-student cohort of mid-career MPA candidates.

In addition to his fellowship appointments, Michael served as a scholar-in-residence at John Winthrop House, Harvard College, where he led storytelling sessions and seminars for students and co-led a series of student-centered conversations and events focused on the issue of de-naming/renaming Winthrop House. The origin of the discourse was rooted in findings uncovered in the report produced by the Presidential Committee on Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

VISITING FELLOWS



Jerren Chang

Co-founder & CEO of GenUnity



Rita Kirk

William F. May Endowed Chair,
Director Maguire Center for Ethics &
Public Responsibility, Southern Methodist
University



Julia Kolak

Clinical Ethicist, Montefiore Einstein Center
for Bioethics



Diane O'Donoghue

Director, Program for Public Humanities
Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life,
Tufts University



Nicholas Vrousalis

Faculty, Erasmus University Rotterdam



Mark Wolf

Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the
District of Massachusetts; Founder and
Chair of Integrity Initiatives International.



GRADUATE
FELLOWS

NICOLE BASSOFF

During her year as a Graduate Fellow at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Nicole West Bassoff found that the discussions with the community of fellows greatly enriched the development of her dissertation research, which brings methods from the field of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) to bear on the ethics and politics of digital urban development initiatives. She was able to significantly advance two chapters of the dissertation, which she also refashioned into stand-alone articles thanks in no small part to the thoughtful comments she received from the other fellows and the fellowship co-directors, Mathias Risse and Kelsey Berry. The first paper, which examines a legal case about the power of municipalities to shape and regulate the rollout of 5G internet infrastructure, benefitted greatly from the diversity of disciplinary backgrounds, including urbanism and law, represented in the fellows group. It is now under review for publication. The second paper was developed out of fieldwork Nicole previously conducted the Amazon Headquarters development in Arlington, Virginia. This paper, which she presented to the fellows in the second semester of the fellowship, builds on her theoretical interest in “epistemic subsidiarity” as a political and methodological framework for the study of partnerships between Big Tech firms and cities. The piece is being revised for inclusion in an edited volume on Constitutionalism in Digital and Environmental Transformation, co-edited by Nicole and her collaborator Margo Boenig-Liptsin. She was able to present aspects of this project at the Harvard Conference on Law, Regions, and Ports in December 2023 and at ETH Zürich in March 2024.



Nicole also took advantage of the fellowship year to advance other aspects of her work and advocacy around the ethics and politics of artificial intelligence. With the STS Program at Harvard, she led the organization of a landmark conference on AI & Democracy in fall 2023, which featured prominent figures from government, labor, and activism and called for more inclusive and democratic deliberation on the stakes of rapid and unchecked development of AI technologies. She led the drafting of a statement on this subject and organized a follow-up event in April 2024. Throughout the year, as she worked to advance the dissertation project alongside these public engagement efforts, she was very grateful to be able to look forward to the weekly Center meeting, which was marked not only by a spirit of collegiality and thoughtful critical engagement, but also—thanks to the wonderful center staff—by delicious vegetarian food!

Opposite page, left to right: Soren Dudley, Nicole Bassoff, Graduate Fellowship Co-Director Mathias Risse, Sam Bookman, Adam Longenbach, Julia Silverman, Emma Ebowe, & Graduate Fellowship Co-Director Kelsey Berry

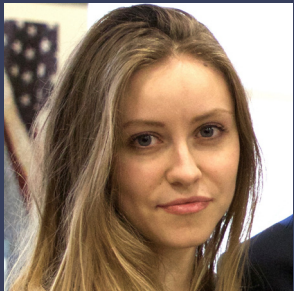


SAM BOOKMAN

Sam's time at the Center was immensely productive. He completed the final chapter and introduction of his SJD dissertation, as well as several other projects. His work was accepted or published in several outlets over the course of the year, including the *Utah Law Review*, *German Law Journal*, and *Modern Law Review*.

The Center's graduate colloquium provided an excellent opportunity to share works in progress. It left an indelible mark on his dissertation, coining a phrase—"semi-radical environmentalism" (suggested by faculty coordinator Kelsey Berry)—which eventually became a chapter title. The fellowship provided an excellent opportunity to share his work with a diverse and interdisciplinary group of peers. Despite the wide range of research areas, a core set of overlapping themes allowed for incredibly generative conversations. Kelsey Berry and Mathias Risse, along with the other fellows, worked together to ensure the fellowship provided a safe space to test new ideas, build relationships, and receive feedback from fresh perspectives.

Over the course of the year, the fellowship helped Sam develop as not only a scholar, but a member of an academic community.



SOREN DUDLEY

The Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics offered Soren Dudley invaluable support and a rich intellectual community at a pivotal time for her dissertation research. During her fellowship, Soren completed two chapter drafts for her dissertation and began work on a third. Two of these drafts were presented during the Graduate Fellows Workshop and benefited enormously from the lively and thoughtful comments of the other graduate fellows and fellowship directors. In the fall, Soren presented a chapter on the theme of "governance against politics", exploring neoliberalism as a project to insulate economic structures from political address through a series of governing mechanisms. This chapter draft aimed to set the historical and theoretical context for the rest of the dissertation. In response to the immensely helpful feedback of the workshop, she presented a re-drafted version of this chapter in the spring, including more of her own theoretical framework. Provocation and encouragement from the other fellows spurred Soren to present her theoretical work more boldly, greatly advancing the project's ambition and precision. The conversations also proved a useful departure point for a third chapter draft theorizing the role of political spectacle in contemporary politics, which is currently underway.

The graduate fellowship offered the material support, time, and hard deadlines that are essential for moving any dissertation project forward. Beyond these resources, the Fellowship was a source of warm and generative exchange among a truly heterodox intellectual community. Contact with scholars with such wide-ranging interests proved a boon to Soren's thinking and writing process throughout the year, allowing for a sense of experimentation and playfulness that reinvigorated the dissertation.

EMMA EBOWE

Emma Ebowe's graduate fellowship was enriching and meaningful. She was able to substantially revise her dissertation project on racism and classism in the contemporary foster system. She also developed as both a scholar and colleague thanks to the strong community of the Center. During her time as a fellow, Emma drafted two dissertation chapters and began a new research project on how universities should reparatively engage with the descendants of those enslaved by their faculty, staff, and leaders.



Her dissertation chapters benefitted enormously from the thoughtful feedback and discussion of other fellows and faculty in the graduate fellows workshop. In the fall, she presented a draft that would become the most central argument of her dissertation. She was able to improve her argu-

ment about the state's capacity to both benefit and intimately harm families in the American foster system through removals of children from parental custody. Her argument, which focused specifically on the disproportionate harms to poor families, specifically poor black, indigenous, and Latinx families, led to her developing an account of what she calls relational violence in the foster system.

“THE FELLOWSHIP WAS A SOURCE OF WARM AND GENERATIVE EXCHANGE AMONG A TRULY HETERODOX INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY.”

– SOREN DUDLEY
GRADUATE FELLOW

Emma is particularly grateful for the warm and supportive relationships she cultivated through the center. Faculty, fellows, and the Center's staff were extraordinarily generous with their time, and she learned a great deal from her cohort of graduate fellows. Her time at the center was uniquely rewarding, for which she extends her heartfelt thanks.

ADAM LONGENBACH



During his Graduate Fellowship at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Adam was able to complete two chapters of his dissertation *Stagecraft / Warcraft: The Rise of the Military Mock Village in the American West*. He workshopped both chapters through the Center's graduate seminar, receiving valuable feedback from other fellows as well as professors Mathias Risse and Kelsey Berry. The fall workshop was especially important in helping him to prepare the chapter "Hate Architecture: Combat Towns and the Construction of the Enemy" as a paper, which he presented as part of the Fall 2023 STS Circle lecture series coordinated through the Harvard Kennedy School and has since submitted for possible publication. Adam also completed substantial archival work at the San Bruno, California, and College Park, Maryland, branches of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) this year, setting him up to complete the remainder of his dissertation by April 2025.



Left to right: Sam Bookman, Emma Ebowe, Faculty Director Eric Beerbohm, Adam Longenbach & Nicole Bassoff

Left to right: Undergraduate Fellowship Co-Director Arthur Applbaum, Suhas Bhat, Nicholas Pantelick, Adelaide Parker, Maddie Dowd, Jaya Nayar, Maya Rosen, Woojin Lim, Ari Kohn, Chinmay Deshpande, Lena Ashooh, Hugo Hinze & Undergraduate Fellowship Co-Director Eric Beerbohm



UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS



LENA ASHOOH

Lena Ashooh began as an Edmond & Lily Safra Center Undergraduate Fellow with some experience in conservation, animal behavior research, and introductory moral philosophy. Lena was already a member of the lab she continues to work in, where she studies parrot cognition, and had previously spent a summer researching a colony of monkeys. What she had observed up to this point—and sought to explore as a Fellow—was a disconnect between moral philosophers' and contemporary animal scientists' understandings of animals' capacities. Lena was also influenced by Christine Korsgaard, a professor and associate of the Center, and wanted to investigate how accounts of duties, like Korsgaard's, better captured animal behavior research and the extent of human obligations toward animals.

During one of her favorite semesters at Harvard, the wise and captivating Professor Arthur Applbaum and Jan-Paul Sandmann led the group through some of the most fundamental accounts of duties to others, duties of the state, and duties of the law. In each module of the Undergraduate Seminar, Arthur and JP helped Lena consider how animals fit into the frameworks being studied. For example, they helped her explore whether and under what conditions animals might be considered rational agents and what the practical consequences of that would be. Arthur and the Center were adept at fostering intellectual communities. Beyond Arthur and JP's guidance, the other fellows were hugely inspiring, with their interests, thoughtful care, attentiveness, and commitment to advancing each other's knowledge being a gift to share.

By the end of the Seminar, Lena became interested in presenting the thesis that humans are not in a strong enough epistemic or imaginative position to evaluate animals' capacities. In the fall of that year, she elaborated on this thesis while participating in the ELSCE Undergraduate Workshop, which proved to be as formative an experience as the Seminar. Professor Eric Beerbohm and returning facilitator JP led productive discussions that helped narrow, refine, expand, and strengthen the proposed theses. The Center remained an open space for intellectual exploration throughout the spring semester, and by the end of the year, Lena had developed a more focused version of her thesis, asking: how can humans wrong animals through the beliefs held about them?

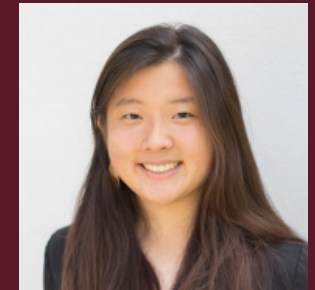
This thesis tied together their interests in animal research, moral philosophy, and practical ethics, while introducing a new idea into the conversation. Arthur and JP's meticulous guidance helped her connect this thesis to concepts in political philosophy and broader ethical and legal implications. For example, units on Joseph Raz and Ronald Dworkin's legal philosophy helped her explore claims about animal freedom that had relevance for legal applications.

Lena has since begun writing her senior thesis under the guidance of Harvard Law School Professors Kristen Stilt and Ben Eidelson. In this thesis, they will examine how society categorizes animals and makes generalizations about their abilities based on these categories, using these ideas to

contribute to legal debates. Through the Center, Lena has developed a conceptual argument pertinent to the research areas she is familiar with, connected that argument to mainstream philosophical debates, explored its practical implications, and began applying these findings to real-world contexts. The Center not only shaped her undergraduate studies and deepened her understanding that academic topics are and should be urgently connected to everyday life, but it also provided an exceptional experience: the chance to come together with a brilliant group to think, exchange, debate, laugh, cry, be moved, and seriously envision a better world together. Lena expresses her gratitude for making this experience possible.

EMMY CHO

Emmy Cho began her journey with the Edmond & Lily Safra Center as a junior. She believes she was the only History concentrator in the cohort. Placed in a group of peers with varied skill sets and different styles of thought, Emmy experienced the privilege of intellectual discomfort. The ethics seminar pushed her to be more precise in her thinking and expression. It also encouraged her to question what she knew, how she came to know it, and why she might have falsely assumed she understood an idea or premise that warranted deeper scrutiny.




When describing her time at the Center and her broader ethical awakening to friends and professors, Emmy likes to say that philosophy is its own language, complete with its own grammar and syntax. The seminar marked the first time she not only learned but began to practice that unique method of communication—and way of being.

JOEL CRAWFORD

Being an Undergraduate Fellow at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics has been the greatest academic experience Joel Crawford has ever had. Each day, he has the ability and privilege to engage with such highly philosophical and relevant topics that challenge him to critically think in entirely new ways. The classroom discussions were unparalleled and left him feeling as though his perspective mattered and was essential for advancing the conversation. By interacting with a diverse set of opinions, Joel left each class more curious and eager for the next.





Left to right: Undergraduate Fellows Lauren Kirkpatrick & Adelaide Parker look on as Jaya Nayar asks a question during the annual Lester Kissel Lecture in Ethics.

“THIS SEMINAR TAUGHT ME HOW TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS ETHICAL INQUIRY, AND TO THINK CAREFULLY AND DISAGREE WITH MY PEERS RESPECTFULLY.”

**– MADDIE DOWD
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW**

During the past semester, Joel not only saw academic growth, but also personal growth. He was able to practice civil discourse in such a way that he now feels even more confident engaging in conversations with individuals from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. He learned how to effectively communicate and is now able to use these skills across various disciplines. Joel learned to question conventional wisdom, as he constantly finds himself questioning the ethical implications of policies and ideas in his daily life.

Joel believes the community is at the heart of what makes the Center so amazing. He is beyond grateful to Professor Applbaum for holding office hours, where he could engage in highly philosophical discussions on issues that he cares deeply about. He always left those conversations more informed and motivated to dive deeper into the research. Teaching Fellow Bethany Cates always made herself available to discuss personal interests, and constantly challenged the cohort to dig deeper. Last but not least, the other fellows brought their own intelligence and unique perspective to the table, constantly inspiring Joel to refine his ideas.

With the remaining time Joel has with ELSCE, he is beyond excited and honored to be a part of an environment that allows him to grow in so many different ways. He is excited to write a thesis combining both Government and Philosophy, with a normative focus.

MADDIE DOWD

At the time Maddie Dowd received the delightful news of her fellowship with the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics last December, she was undergoing a period of intellectual turmoil. Maddie was passionately interested in moral philosophy but was unsure about the merits of her interests or how to go about pursuing them. Receiving this fellowship has been hugely impactful, affirming her in her academic path and introducing Maddie to a wonderful community of scholars to help her along her way.



This past semester, in the company of Professor Arthur Applbaum, Bethany Cates, and her brilliant and thoughtful peers, she has made remarkable strides as a thinker and writer. Through a semester of rigorous philosophy interspersed with the occasional dad joke from Arthur, her seminar worked through topics from freedom and coercion to political revolution. This seminar taught Maddie how to engage in serious ethical inquiry, and to think carefully and disagree with her peers respectfully. For her term paper, she wrote about the problem of skepticism in animal ethics, drawing heavily on the work of the Center's own Christine Korsgaard. Her paper argued that a large degree of epistemic humility is justified in determining which traits are morally relevant, as well as presented a framework for preventing this humility from slipping into radical skepticism about our obligations to other animals. With the generous support of the Lester Kissel Grant, Maddie will be continuing her work in animal ethics this summer.

by researching and writing a piece of philosophical nonfiction about urban wildlife-human conflict, with urban coyotes living in San Francisco and Seattle serving as her case study.

Above all, the Center has given her confidence that the work she is interested in doing is important and worthwhile, as well as a network to support her in pursuing such work as she moves through Harvard and her life beyond. Maddie is forever grateful for the opportunity to be a “Safranista” this semester!



EMILY FENG

Emily Feng has greatly enjoyed her time as an Edmond & Lily Safra Center Undergraduate Fellow and is especially grateful to Arthur Applbaum and Bethany Cates for their extraordinary teaching efforts. She entered the semester with a deep-rooted interest in commenting on and expanding Rawlsian political theory, but left with a much broader set of intellectual ventures. In the summer of 2023, she had the opportunity to revisit *Political Liberalism* and *A Theory of Justice* to explore whether Rawls was justified in assigning lexical priority to the basic liberties, and to test the robustness of this priority in various non-ideal circumstances.

Arthur and Bethany, in their generosity, entrusted Emily with the task of writing a paper on practical responses to meta-ethical problems—an opportunity that allowed her to satisfy a long-standing intellectual curiosity. Prior to this, she had never ventured into proposing theories in this domain or delving into existing discussions on normative reasons. While the seminar raised many other intriguing questions, particularly those related to moral responsibility, grappling with these issues has been deeply rewarding for her.

This summer, Emily will be conducting thesis research in Helsinki, Finland, once again thanks to the generosity of the Center. With the support of the Lester Kissel grant, she plans to explore expressions of egalitarian attitudes in bilingual Finnish classrooms at the primary and secondary levels. She hopes that this research will connect to a broader thesis that will propose how teachers can endorse, inspire, and refine a sense of justice in young students, as well as the appropriate methods for doing so. Emily is particularly curious about the kinds of etiquette and communicative practices that may limit these efforts, a topic Ben Eidelson has written beautifully about, and how schools might tolerate or resist comprehensive doctrines taught by families. She hopes the Finnish education system, which is not only highly successful but also offers a suite of ethics and moral education courses, will expand her sense of what is possible.

Emily's thesis was inspired by discussions on moral cultivation with Arthur and Bethany in support of her term paper, as well as by Susan Neiman's

Kissel Lecture, which touched on the importance of discussing sensitive topics with both compassion and logical rigor. As a double concentrator in Philosophy and Economics, her junior economics tutorial on “Education and the Economy” also played a significant role in deepening her interest in comparative studies of successful schooling systems.

BENJAMIN GROSS-LOH

Benjamin Gross-Loh describes the Center as an intellectual home where he has met engaged peers, discovered new interests, and learned how the seemingly abstract ideas he studies intersect with society. He is especially grateful to three mentors who opened his eyes to the breadth of possible areas he could pursue within ethics.

First, Professor Applbaum’s seminar during his junior fall introduced him to many of his current interests, including Rawls, multiculturalism, and beyond. It also taught him how to think. As another professor remarked, taking Professor Applbaum’s seminar is akin to engaging in an exercise of reflective equilibrium—his case studies provoke first-order moral judgments, in light of which students are compelled to adjust their higher-order ethical principles.

Benjamin is also grateful to Jan-Paul Sandmann, from whom he learned a tremendous deal, not just in the undergraduate seminar but also in “German Social Thought,” the undergraduate workshop, and at Lowell House’s German table. Jan-Paul’s thoughtful feedback on Benjamin’s work greatly improved his thinking and writing.

Finally, Professor Beerbohm led a stimulating undergraduate workshop during his senior fall, where Benjamin had the opportunity to present and receive feedback on his thesis work. Professor Beerbohm’s assistance was particularly appreciated in preparing Benjamin for the truly remarkable opportunity of interviewing Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey for a Center event that semester.

Although departing from a normative topic, Benjamin’s thesis in Social Studies and Classics still benefited from the training he received at the Center. His thesis, entitled “‘Prophet of Epicurean Gods’: Nature as Norm in the Works of Friedrich Nietzsche and Max Horkheimer,” sought to show that, despite their reputations, these two philosophers did believe that normative standards exist and can be found in nature. The foundation in moral philosophy that Benjamin gained from Professor Applbaum’s class allowed him to contextualize a specific moment in intellectual history within both recent and long-standing debates about the sources of normativity, to borrow Professor Korsgaard’s phrase. Furthermore, exploring the (often flawed) ways in which past thinkers conceived of normativity greatly enhanced his interest in contemporary moral philosophy.



Overall, Benjamin is grateful to the Center for helping him grow as a scholar, for introducing him to friends and mentors, and for exposing him to the rich array of work being done in ethics and political philosophy.



MAIBRITT HENKEL

Maibritt Henkel chose to take a step back this year from her interest in economics, data science, and causal inference, instead leaning into the normative world of moral philosophy. In the past, she was often frustrated by the unchallenged assumptions in her classes

on financial markets, economic growth, and consumer behavior. She wanted discussions where there was more room for doubt about how the world ought to be. This is why she applied to the Edmond & Lily Safra Fellowship, hoping to debate and interrogate claims about efficiency, equality, and justice—all the way down to first principles.

Thanks to the Safra seminar and the guidance of Arthur Applbaum and Bethany Cates, Henkel felt empowered to pursue a project that had long been on her mind. For her final paper, she wrote about the moral ambiguity of certain sexual misconduct cases and the possibility that someone may perform a nonconsensual act unintentionally, given the current state of sex education and poor discourse around consent. Unlike any other academic work she had previously produced, this was a project that required grappling with the frightening subjectivity of life. Her argument centered on the moral complexities of relativity and miscommunication, suggesting that perhaps “your truth” and “my truth” can both be true.

“I WANTED DISCUSSIONS WHERE THERE WAS MORE ROOM FOR DOUBT ABOUT HOW THE WORLD OUGHT TO BE. THIS IS WHY I APPLIED TO THE EDMOND & LILY SAFRA FELLOWSHIP, HOPING TO DEBATE AND INTERROGATE CLAIMS ABOUT EFFICIENCY, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE—ALL THE WAY DOWN TO FIRST PRINCIPLES.”

**– MAIBRITT HENKEL
UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW**

Her time as an ELSCE fellow taught her humility when it comes to claiming absolute truths. Although she continues to appreciate the empirical methods of economics and political science, she has grown more aware of their limitations. Before this year, Henkel was certain she wanted to write a thesis about income taxation policy, but now she's not so sure. Instead, she hopes to build on her final paper and explore themes of socialized gendered behavior, miscommunication, and sexual misconduct allegations.

HUGO HINZE

The Edmond & Lily Safra Undergraduate Fellowship has been one of the most intellectually stimulating experiences Hugo Hinze has had at Harvard so far. Over the course of a semester filled with illuminating and puzzling hypotheticals, fascinating readings, and just the right amount of dad jokes, Professor Applbaum's seminar sharpened his argumentative capabilities and broadened his philosophical horizon immensely. Alongside their incredible teaching fellow, Bethany Cates, Applbaum pushed him to be more precise in his questions and arguments while his peers continuously impressed him with their thoughtful contributions. He thoroughly enjoyed learning from their insights.



The seminar not only rigorously trained Hinze's critical analysis skills and provided him with a solid foundation for further work in moral and political philosophy for his thesis, but, perhaps more importantly, it heightened his appreciation for philosophy and left him excited to continue exploring normative questions.

In addition to the seminar, the Center's other resources and events have been an inspiring addition to his experience as a fellow. From the fascinating Kissel lecture to the talks and discussions hosted at the Center (one of which inspired his term paper on the role of moral elements in aesthetic judgment), the Center has contributed significantly to his academic and intellectual growth even beyond the seminar. He looks forward to the rest of his time as a fellow and is grateful to the Center for its impact on his academic career so far.



PETER JIN

In his first full year at the Center, Peter Jin is grateful to see how studying applied ethics has practically impacted his academic, personal, and vocational life. After the spring semester in 2023, two issues raised in Professor Applbaum's Undergraduate Seminar continued to occupy his thoughts well into the summer and subsequent fall term. The first issue was the implications of Galen Strawson's radical deconstruction of desert, and the second was his capstone project examining the moral psychology of guiltiness and grace. The former issue became especially relevant during his investigative internship at The Legal Aid Society's criminal defense practice, where he encountered an obscured definition of legal fairness, crime as both a social and individual responsibility, and the disproportionately harmful impacts of incarceration—all resonating with Strawson's critiques of desert. Outside of work, the latter issue of guiltiness and grace explored in his capstone project frequently reappeared in his own personal and religious reflections on Christian faith and theology.

Throughout the subsequent fall semester, the Edmond & Lily Safra Fellowship helped Jin develop ways to integrate these issues of legal fairness and theology during the GOV95 Workshops. Feedback from Professor Beerbohm, JP Sandmann, and peers was instrumental in helping him finalize a thesis topic that seeks to recontextualize novel Christian theologies of forgiveness and atonement into an applied ethical framework, providing new justifications for rehabilitative justice—particularly in response to America's mass incarceration problem. He shaped his Social Studies focus field, religion secondary, and junior year course selections around this research topic, making it not only the most academically engaging year he has had at Harvard but also a meaningful year for his personal faith and vocational goals in legal advocacy.

Beyond his thesis plans, the Center's encouragement to apply ethics continues to influence Peter's endeavors. Professor Applbaum's methodology and focus on analytic philosophy encouraged him to further hone his understanding of ethics through Dr. Kopec's junior year philosophy tutorial on the normative ethics of computing. Since then, he has continued to explore the ethical implications of AI and the law. His final project for the tutorial examined the ethical pitfalls of algorithmic court sentencing, particularly in criminal law. Meanwhile, with support from the Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship, his current summer internship is exposing him to ways AI tools might be ethically used to close the civil justice gap through legal nonprofits like Upsolve. After such a rewarding year with the Undergraduate Fellowship in applied ethics, Peter is eagerly anticipating what his senior year at the Center will bring.

RYAN JUNG

To say the spring semester was intellectually engaging for Ryan Jung would be an understatement. He felt privileged to work with the spring cohort of Undergraduate Fellows under the instruction and mentorship of Arthur and Bethany. He is grateful to the Center for bringing together a vibrant community with diverse intellectual interests.



Jung was moved by questions about free speech and academic freedom in response to heightened campus protests nationwide. This led him to explore the interplay between these two values in private universities and the guiding principles

“I WAS MOVED BY QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE WAKE OF HEIGHTENED CAMPUS PROTESTS NATIONWIDE. THIS BROUGHT ME TO DISCUSS THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE TWO VALUES IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR HEALTHY DISCOURSE BETWEEN WOULD-BE PROTESTERS AND THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.”

– RYAN JUNG

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW

for healthy discourse between would-be protesters and the university community. He grew to appreciate both the essential roles these values play in fostering students' citizenship and intellectual autonomy, as well as the delicate balance needed to exercise academic freedom in the face of unbarred free speech.

His paper and the topics covered in the Fellowship Seminar have nurtured the academic interests he hopes to pursue as potential thesis topics. The exploration of majority rule and constitutionalism, with readings from Dworkin and Waldron, was especially illuminating in this regard.

This summer, Jung will participate in a Director's Internship with Integrity Initiatives International as it works to establish an International Anti-Corruption Court. With the Center's generous support, he will research how pre-college philosophy education can support theories of justice and gather concrete case studies from Germany and France. He extends his gratitude to the Center for providing such a valuable space for discussions on ethics in society and looks forward to seeing what it has in store next year.

LAUREN KIRKPATRICK



Lauren Kirkpatrick considers the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics a beacon of wonder and genuine intellectual exchange, one to which she feels indebted for her growth and development in moral inquiry. Each week, she sat at the seminar table, surrounded by some of the most brilliant, authentic, and investigative minds on campus. The seminar room, filled to the brim with intuitions, questions, and counterarguments, was thoughtfully overseen by Professor Applbaum and teaching fellow Bethany Cates. Acting as both conductors of the music of moral inquiry and mentors of life, Professor Applbaum and Bethany guided the group through numerous ethical puzzles.

There was never an easy answer, nor one single answer for that matter. Here lay the beauty of collaboratively tackling moral dilemmas. Once diffident, Lauren now prides herself on her newly acquired confidence to articulate her intuitions—her moral “irks”—in a manner that is both sound and charitable to skeptics. This personal growth in approaching matters of moral tension became especially clear in her term paper. Moving beyond her personal interests in the legal system, she delved into a discussion of tolerance in the context of religious accommodation. Inspired by the seminar’s lively discussion of *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, she devoted her time to crafting an argument that thoughtfully addressed the age-old dilemma of one person’s sincere religious duties conflicting with another’s rights. This paper has served as a seed of thought for her fast-approaching senior thesis. Now dreaming bigger and arguing harder, she is beyond excited to see what the future holds for the remainder of her time at the Center.

Lauren now works as a legal assistant at a civil rights law firm in Seattle, Washington. Whether she is writing opening statements, sketching out legal arguments, or simply chatting with inmates, she continually returns to her roots of valuing curiosity and pushing boundaries—principles deeply integrated into her mind and soul through her time as an undergraduate fellow.



ARI KOHN

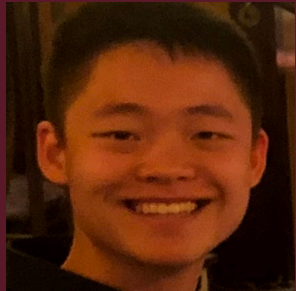
Ari Kohn’s experience in the Edmond & Lily Safra Center this year has been the highlight of her educational pursuits at Harvard thus far. In the undergraduate ethics seminar with Professor Applbaum, she found an intellectual community that challenged her core assumptions with charity and curiosity. Ari entered the course as a hard determinist. Coming to terms with moral responsibility—on which normative argument is based—was a tough bolt to loosen. However, through exposure



to scrupulous and compelling readings and dialogue, she soon loosened her grip on determinism and shifted towards compatibilism, coming to believe that free will and causal determinism can coexist in a way that preserves fundamental notions of accountability.

Ari's semester-long shift regarding determinism inspired her final paper on respecting the autonomy of late-stage dementia patients. She was interested in conflicts that arise between the wishes of a healthy, fully-competent person and the wishes they express as a cognitively impaired dementia patient. To explore further, she aimed to clarify the normatively significant feature of autonomy that makes it worth preserving in the first place. Existing literature—particularly the views of Agnieszka Jaworska and Ronald Dworkin—has developed a theory of autonomy based on a patient's capacity to value, with different perspectives on what "valuing" entails. Meanwhile, other areas of philosophy position moral agency and free will around judgment, or the ability to provide and revise reasons for one's actions and subjectively choose among them. In her paper, Ari sought to reconcile these diverging views of autonomy, arguing that full autonomy requires judgment: the capacity to critically evaluate and apply value commitments through reflection, reconsideration, and revision. The flexibility and imagination needed to weigh conflicting values and to experiment with different ends when making decisions are what make individuals responsible moral agents. Therefore, to preserve moral status, there is no affirmative reason to respect the autonomy of advanced dementia patients who fail to maintain the quality of judgment they once possessed as healthy individuals.

Looking ahead to her thesis in Social Studies, Ari hopes to explore manifestations of agency within political and economic systems. Specifically, she is curious about how institutions can facilitate individual values cultivation without becoming unmoored from a sense of collective purpose. She plans to research liberal backsliding in youth movements to understand where and why critiques of liberalism arise and how institutions throughout history have provided the rails of concrete purpose and direction needed to navigate the liberal landscape. Her intellectual journey in the Center inspired her to become a fellow in Harvard's Intellectual Vitality Initiative, which promotes an ethic of rigorous and open inquiry across the College. This summer, Ari will intern in the Opportunity and Social Mobility division of the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. She hopes to return with a more refined and developed thesis topic and a set of assumptions to challenge in Professor Beerbohm's fall seminar.



WOOJIN LIM

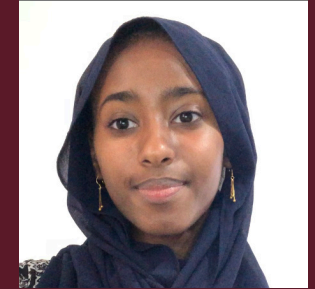
Woojin Lim had a wonderful year at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics. His experiences included co-authoring an article with Visiting Fellow Allison Stanger for the *Annual Review of Political Science*; conducting extended research on AI governance for GETTING-Plurality in collaboration with the Center's Justice, Health, and Democracy Impact Initiative; and attending lecture events and dinner receptions with many friendly faces. As Woojin looks forward to an exciting year ahead in Beijing with his classmates Larry Jia and Andy Wang, he is grateful for all the paths that the ELSCE community has opened up.

At right: Graduating Undergraduate Fellow Woojin Lim shares reflections on his time at the Center during the Closing Cruise.



BALQIES MOHAMED

Beginning her journey as an Edmond & Lily Safra Center Fellow this semester, Balqies Mohamed was fortunate to participate in a seminar with Professor Applbaum, her peers, and Bethany Cates, the teaching fellow. Through engaging in rigorous discussions with her classmates and reading a diverse selection of philosophical texts, this seminar challenged ideas and beliefs she previously held. The friendly and collaborative classroom atmosphere encouraged her to explore ideas out loud, ultimately leading to their fuller development. It was through these exercises in class that she was able to curate a term paper reflecting her interests in Islamic jurisprudence, philosophy, and prison abolition. Although the seminar has concluded, she is grateful to continue her interest and research in this area with the valuable feedback she received from Professor Applbaum and Bethany.



JAYA NAYAR

Jaya Nayar spent the better part of this year working on her thesis, entitled “Deliberative Disagreement: Learning to Appreciate Pluralism in Practice Through Disagreement.” The thesis begins with the premise that maintaining a belief in the instrumental or intrinsic value of pluralism, defined as the presence of different opinions in society, only matters if one can sustain that belief while actively disagreeing with those who hold different opinions. Yet it is in exactly these situations that people often falter, turning real individuals who disagree into enemies, while still insisting on a tolerance of hypothetical others with differing opinions. Motivated by this rift between theoretical and practical orientations toward pluralism, her thesis proposes a new way of disagreeing, called “deliberative disagreement,” which aims to bind these two approaches together.



She is thankful for the resources that the Edmond & Lily Safra Center provided in completing this project. From the post-lecture dinners where she found herself seated next to faculty and grad students with similar interests, to the various civil discourse discussions and lectures hosted by the Center, these experiences were integral to her work on the thesis. She looks forward to remaining involved with the Center and continuing this work over the summer through the new civil discourse curriculum initiative.

CHARLOTTE RITZ-JACK



Ending her junior year in Social Studies, Charlotte Ritz-Jack has been working on narrowing down a thesis topic and identifying the methods best suited to investigate her question. This work has been greatly advanced by her Social Studies and philosophy classes taken both at Harvard and during her semester abroad in Oxford's PPE program.

The Edmond & Lily Safra Undergraduate Fellowship has been incredibly productive for her thesis and other philosophical interests. In the Sophomore tutorial, reading the works of thinkers such as Taylor, Kimlicka, and Rawls has been essential to her consideration of questions on free speech and multiculturalism. The workshop that followed the class was similarly informative, providing a venue to test ideas and hear from current seniors, which helped her better understand the thesis-writing process.

The interdisciplinary nature of the seminar and the diverse students it brings together have enabled Charlotte to think about her interests in identity, conflict, and multicultural justice through various disciplinary lenses, allowing for a more nuanced perspective. These conversations encouraged her to take more classes on the philosophy of identity, and this term at Oxford she took classes in both Feminist Theory and Theory of Politics, which provided valuable insights into the themes and literature she hopes to explore in her thesis. She has frequently revisited the work of Rae Langton and Ana Sreenivasan, introduced to her in these classes, for her thesis.

With support from ELSCE, she will spend her summer conducting research on identity and conflict in Europe. Being a part of the Center has been one of the most enriching aspects of her Harvard experience — it is an incredible community of thinkers and learners. She is deeply grateful for this year and looks forward to the next.



MAYA ROSEN

Maya Rosen is very grateful to be a member of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center's Undergraduate Fellowship and to have spent every Thursday of the semester at the Center participating in the undergraduate seminar. The semester began with a "Puzzle in Ethics." These puzzles were only the beginning of the fun that she and her classmates were to have.

The seminar doubled as a crash course in contemporary political philosophy and art history. Professor Applbaum began

each class by presenting a work of art that depicted the week's theme, demonstrating its salience across disciplines. They covered timely and personal topics from affirmative action to civil disobedience through the lens of contemporary political philosophers like Rawls, Scanlon, Korsgaard, Waldron, and others. Professor Applbaum put forward unique hypotheticals that challenged students to apply the authors' abstract writings, which solidified Maya's understanding of rigorous texts. The lectures were thrilling as difficult texts came to life through syllogisms and tables, unraveling complex arguments. Maya often left class agreeing with an author whose piece she had initially approached with confusion or skepticism.

During class and office hours, the teaching team generously helped Maya develop and refine her research. With the wonderful help of Bethany, the teaching fellow, Maya became a more apt and charitable critic and learned how to contribute to rich philosophical debates. She has come to appreciate philosophy as a fine tool that allows individuals to chisel away at current systems to create more ideal ones.

Outside of the classroom, weekly lunches with her ELSCE classmates produced the vivid debates Maya had imagined Harvard students might have in dining halls. The Kissel Lecture with Susan Neiman was a thought-provoking treat that allowed Maya to understand how philosophy might be a part of her life after her undergraduate days. The undergraduate fellowship has been a most engaging and intellectually enriching experience for her.

At right: Undergraduate Fellows Maya Rosen and Suhaas Bhat at a post-lecture reception for Susan Neiman.





ETHICS EVENTS

Mala and Solomon Kamm Lecture:

Gina Schouten

Culture & Injustice

In a compelling lecture, Harvard philosophy Professor Gina Schouten examined how social injustice is sustained not only by laws but also by cultural norms and informal social practices. She argued that, contrary to common critiques, liberal theories of justice can address these cultural factors without abandoning their focus on political institutions. By reorienting liberal theory to engage with both political and cultural elements, Schouten demonstrated a productive path forward for addressing injustices embedded in societal norms and practices.



Public Lecture in Ethics: Brandon Terry

The Rhetoric of Black Populism: From Malcolm X to the 'Manosphere'

The Center welcomed Professor Brandon Terry, Harvard's John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences for a lecture which delved into the rhetoric of Malcolm X through the lens of black populism, offering new insights into Malcolm's enduring influence and complex legacy. Professor Terry argued that analyzing Malcolm's rhetoric of racial authenticity and class politics through this perspective not only helps resolve interpretive challenges around his views on race and class but also sheds light on his sustained intergenerational appeal, including among audiences skeptical of black nationalism. By examining Malcolm's rhetoric alongside contemporary expressions of black populism, Professor Terry underscored the importance of critically engaging with the ethical questions raised by such rhetoric both historically and today.



Public Lecture in Ethics:

Juliana Bidadanure

Understanding Demonization

In her public lecture entitled *Understanding Demonization*, NYU Associate Professor Juliana Bidadanure explored the concept of demonization, focusing on how societal narratives cast individuals at the bottom of the income hierarchy as morally contemptible. Using the example of welfare recipients, Professor Bidadanure examined how demonization works by portraying individuals as “lazy free riders” who choose idleness over hard work. She discussed how this vilification strategy, common across advanced economies, undermines public support for welfare. Through her normative analysis, she shed light on the moral and social mechanisms underlying demonization and its broader implications for social justice.



Decisions & Desserts: GOVERNOR MAURA HEALEY

As part of the Center's Decisions & Desserts series, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey joined undergraduate students for a special Election Day discussion focused on the ethical considerations shaping her life decisions. Moderated by Harvard senior and Center Undergraduate Fellow Benjamin Gross-Loh, the event provided students with a unique opportunity to engage directly with Governor Healey, exploring the values and motivations underlying her journey from Harvard student to the highest office in the Commonwealth. Co-sponsored with the Phillips Brooks House Association, this event exemplified the Center's commitment to connecting students with leaders who have navigated complex ethical paths in public service.

Lester Kissel Lecture: Susan Neiman *Is It Left? Is It Woke?*



Lecturing on a timely subject, Susan Neiman, Director of the Einstein Forum, led the audience in a lively discussion of themes from her recent book, *Left is Not Woke*. Neiman argued that while the liberal left is often driven by traditionally progressive ideals, it has become entangled with reactionary ideas that create conceptual confusion and weaken its opposition to far-right radicalism. Addressing this global phenomenon, Neiman provided both theoretical insights and historical context, and proposed unifying principles to help progressives counteract these challenges effectively.

THE RETURN OF ETHICS MONDAYS

The Center's Ethics Monday event series resumed this year, marking its return as an in-person gathering after the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic. This thought-provoking series invites scholars, practitioners, and the Harvard community to explore contemporary ethical challenges across diverse fields like law, technology, medicine, and social justice. Each Monday event features expert-led discussions that encourage attendees to engage critically with complex moral questions impacting society today. In addition to speaker presentations, Ethics Monday offers a unique opportunity for informal discussions over lunch in the Dennis F. Thompson Seminar Room, fostering a welcoming space for dialogue that bridges diverse perspectives and deepens ethical understanding.

The facing page offers a glimpse of some of this year's Ethics Monday guests and topics.

*At right: Graduate Fellowship Program Co-Director Quinn White leads an Ethics Monday entitled "Beautiful, Troubling Art: A Defense of Non-Summative Judgements."
Photo: Niles Singer/Harvard University*



**JOSHUA MEYER,
ZIV EPSTEIN &
XAVIER SIMONS**

Art in the Age of
Algorithmic
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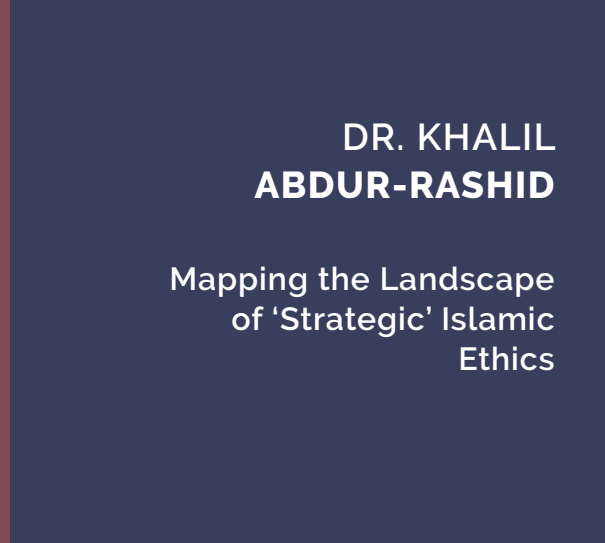
LAWRENCE LESSIG

How to Steal a
Presidential Election



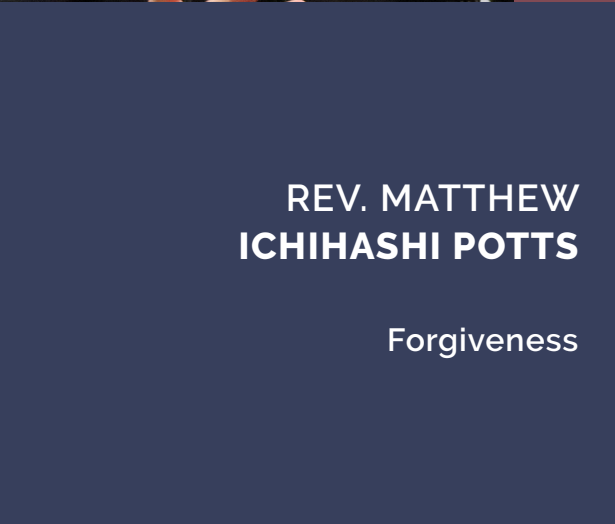
SHIRA HOFFER

Disagreeing Curiously
About Israel/Palestine
and Beyond



**DR. KHALIL
ABDUR-RASHID**

Mapping the Landscape
of 'Strategic' Islamic
Ethics



**REV. MATTHEW
ICHIHASHI POTTS**

Forgiveness



SCOTT HERSHOVITZ

Law Is a Moral Practice

This year, the Center named our seminar room in honor of our founder, Dennis Thompson. This space is where we gather to learn, debate, ideate, and celebrate as ethically-minded students, faculty, staff, and practitioners. As such, we could think of no person whose name would lend it more distinction or better embody its sense of purpose.

In October, longtime and present members of the Center community gathered to dedicate the Dennis F. Thompson Seminar Room for the continued exploration of ethics at Harvard.

Clockwise from top right: Jean McVeigh & David Wilkins; Sandy, Meira & Cynthia Levinson; Carol Thompson & Tim Scanlon; Carol & Dennis Thompson; Neil & Angelica Rudenstine, Sissela & Derek Bok; Dennis Thompson & Eric Beerbohm; Dennis Thompson





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Meg Foley Yoder, Assistant Director of Communication & Events

Alberta Zoummar, Grants Manager

THANK YOU, STEPH!



This year we bid a fond farewell to Stephanie Dant, our friend and Director of Business Operations. Steph leaves a remarkable legacy at our Center. Since joining in 2005, with a brief pause from 2016-18 while she earned her masters in social work, she has been a steady pillar, bringing a wealth of Harvard knowledge to her oversight of daily operations, human resources, and financial management. Known for her extraordinary eye for detail, she ensured that our Center ran smoothly, guiding us through countless transitions and challenges. As a long-serving employee, Steph was not only a leader but also the keeper of our history, bridging past and present with grace and commitment. Her efforts have been central to creating an environment where each of us feels supported, and her impact on the Center's growth and stability is profound.

Beyond her professional contributions, Steph has been a champion of staff well-being and work-life balance, fostering a culture that values people as much as productivity. She has done all of this with a quiet humility, often shunning the spotlight and focusing on supporting those around her. A dedicated mother and trusted colleague, she now embarks on an exciting new chapter in Ireland with her family. We are deeply grateful for the years she has dedicated to the Center and for the countless ways she has enriched our community. Steph, we wish you and your family all the best on this new adventure, knowing you'll be missed but always remembered here.

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Selim Berker

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Gina Schouten

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Lucas Stanczyk

Brandon Terry

Bob Truog

Pictured on the facing page, members of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics staff and Initiative Fellows: (back row, l-r) Adrienne Billingham Bock, Tony Guidotti, Katie Giles, Alex Ostrowski Schilling, Emily Bromley, Director Eric Beerbohm, Jonathan Hack; (front row l-r) Ana Lisbeth Disla, Natalie Sew, Yuuka McPherson, Jennifer Guerin, Meg Foley Yoder (with Jess Miner), Octavia Nixon & Sue Orr

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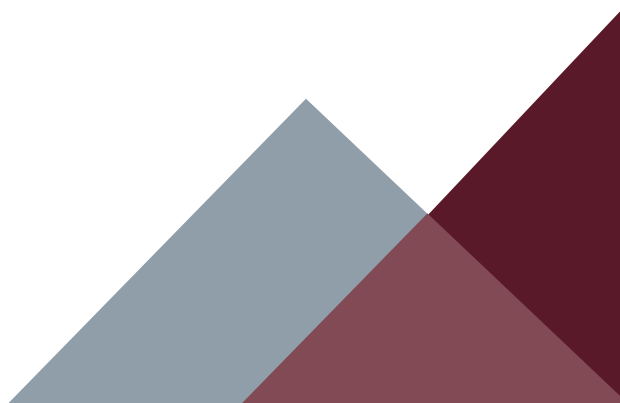
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Christopher Winship

ADVISORY BOARD

As we close another successful year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Kathleen Carroll for her invaluable contributions as an advisory board member at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics.

Kathleen's remarkable career as the former Executive Editor and Senior Vice President of The Associated Press brought a wealth of experience to our board. She was generous with her time and expertise, always willing to advise and serve as a sounding board. Her critical yet constructive insights significantly shaped the organization, operation, and undertakings of the Center. Kathleen's dedication and leadership have left a lasting impact on our work. Her thoughtful guidance has been instrumental in our achievements, and we are deeply grateful for her contributions.



KATHLEEN CARROLL

Former Executive Editor and Senior Vice President
The Associated Press



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President
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