

BODY POLITIC: FROM RIGHTS TO RESISTANCE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5, 11:30 AM–6:30 PM

This event features information sessions with lawyers, activists, and grassroots organizers on issues of bodies under duress: civil disobedience, protest, healthcare, policing, prisons, immigration, environmental contamination, and indigenous rights. Each session will focus on resource sharing and modes of resistance, and will include presentations followed by discussion with the audience.

The event will be livestreamed at livestream.com/newmuseum/bodypolitic.

SCHEDULE

Session One: 11:30 AM–2 PM

11:30 AM: Introduction by A.K. Burns, Johanna Burton, and Sara O’Keeffe

11:45 AM–12:45 PM: Civil Disobedience and Protest

12:45–2 PM: Healthcare Access: Gender, Sexuality, and Disability

Break: 2–3 PM

Session Two: 3–6:30 PM

3 PM: Introduction by A.K. Burns, Johanna Burton, and Sara O’Keeffe

3:15–4:30 PM: Policing and Prisons

4:30–5:30 PM: Immigration

5:30–6:30 PM: Environmental Contamination and Indigenous Rights

BIOGRAPHIES, IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE AND PROTEST

Erin Beth Harrist

Erin Beth Harrist is a senior staff attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union, where she focuses on statewide civil rights and civil liberties impact litigation. Prior to joining the NYCLU, Harrist was a litigation associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where she litigated a wide range of commercial matters including multi-week trials in federal and state court. She has worked extensively with the National Organization for Women – New York City Chapter, advocating for the rights of women and the protection of reproductive rights. During law school, she helped secure asylum status for recent refugees on the basis of sexual orientation at Immigration Equality. She also served as production editor for the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*.

Bina Ahmad

Bina Ahmad is a social justice attorney. Ahmad was a staff attorney at PETA and has worked with Farm Sanctuary, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Human Rights Watch. She lived and worked in Palestine with Al-Haq, served on the legal team for the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, and was a legal consultant to BadiL. She is a founding member of the National Lawyers Guild’s Animal Rights Activism Committee and former NLG National Vice President. She is currently a public defender in New York.

Peter Micek

Peter Micek leads Access Now policy team's business and human rights work, advocating for a more rights-respecting telecom and tech sector. He also teaches a course at Columbia University on internet policy and governance. A lawyer by training, Micek completed a JD cum laude at the University of San Francisco School of Law, and in 2010 published "A Genealogy of Home Visits," critiquing surveillance of at-risk communities. As a law student, Micek defended independent journalists and engaged in Freedom of Information litigation at First Amendment Project. For five years, in his native San Francisco, Micek led youth media development at New America Media, and was Web Editor at KALW's daily radio program Your Call.

HEALTHCARE

D'hana Perry

D'hana Perry provides care coordination services for the transgender and gender nonconforming community at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center. Perry holds a BA in Sociology and Urban Studies from Ohio Wesleyan University and an MFA in Media Art from Emerson College. They have over a decade of experience working in the nonprofit sector, including time as an AmeriCorps volunteer, a legislative aide for a state representative, and a public health researcher at the Fenway Institute in Boston. Perry is also a professional DJ, video artist, and documentary filmmaker whose work has been featured in various museums, galleries, and performance spaces.

Alejandra Ospina

Alejandra Ospina is a disabled first-generation native New Yorker whose family has roots in Colombia. Now in her mid-30s, Ospina has been active since her teens in various advocacy and performance projects locally and beyond, but is still working to learn what she can about survival and resistance.

David Brown

David Brown joined the Center for Reproductive Rights in 2011 as a legal fellow, and became a staff attorney in 2013 and senior staff attorney in 2016. He has litigated cases overturning unconstitutional reproductive rights restrictions in state and federal courts throughout the country. Recently, his cases have included three suits against Arizona anti-abortion laws that would have required doctors to practice twentieth-century medicine when providing medication abortion, and to lie to their patients while doing so. Among other cases, he is currently working on two suits against eight anti-abortion laws in Louisiana. In one of these, the Supreme Court granted the Center's motion to reverse the Fifth Circuit's stay of the Center's victory in March, 2016. In the other, the State agreed not to enforce its own laws during the litigation. David previously led the Center's team overturning Oklahoma's emergency contraception restrictions, and has been a crucial member of litigation teams on several other of the Center's most important recent suits.

POLICING AND PRISONS

Arissa Hall

Arissa Hall is the Project Associate for the National Bail Fund Network, a project hosted by the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund. Hall is a born-and-raised New Yorker who is passionate about socioeconomic justice and base-building in her hometown and beyond through an intersectional lens. Prior to her work with the Bail Fund, Hall worked as a research intern at the Women's Legal Centre in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, through the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. Her research focused on decriminalizing sex work and attaining socioeconomic rights for female farm workers. In addition, Hall is an active member of the Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100), a member-based activist organization committed to socioeconomic justice for all Black people. As an original member of BYP100's NYC chapter and a Membership Co-Chair, she was an integral part of building the collective. She then went on to assist in streamlining membership and organizing nationally as the BYPTime Data Administrator. Hall holds a BA in Humanities with a concentration in Africana Studies from Long Island University Brooklyn.

Britney Wilson

Britney Wilson is an attorney and Bertha Justice Institute Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR). Her work focuses on issues of racial justice and government misconduct, including discriminatory policing. Wilson is a member of the team working to reform police practices in the wake of CCR's victory in *Floyd v. City of New York*, which

successfully challenged the NYPD's discriminatory use of stop and frisk, and she recently authored a piece for the *Nation* entitled "#BlackDisabledLivesMatter," emphasizing the need to focus on the intersection of race and disability when addressing issues of police brutality. Prior to joining CCR, Britney was a Marvin M. Karpatkin Fellow in the ACLU's Racial Justice Program.

Mik Kinhead

Mik Kinhead has been volunteering, interning, and serving on the Core Collective at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project since 2008. He is currently a Staff Attorney with the Sylvia Rivera Law Project and the Director of SRLP's Prisoner Justice Project. Previously, Kinhead was a staff attorney at Prisoners' Legal Services of New York. He graduated from the CUNY School of Law, where he participated in clinics focusing on the rights of youth in adult prisons and poverty law representation. Kinhead works in areas of racial and trans justice, LGBTQ youth homelessness, suicide and crisis prevention, and disability justice.

Brittany Williams

Brittany Williams, originally from Miami, Florida, is a dancer, choreographer, and organizer for black and brown liberation. She is honored to work with JustLeadershipUSA as a community organizer on the #CLOSErikers campaign. Through her organizing, she develops creative and innovative ways to reimagine our communities as whole, safe, and thriving. Please visit www.closerikers.org for more information about the campaign.

IMMIGRATION

Nermeen Arastu

Nermeen Arastu is a Clinical Law Professor and Supervising Attorney in the Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic at the CUNY School of Law. Prior to joining CUNY's faculty, Arastu was a litigation associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP and a staff attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). At AALDEF, she led the Immigrant Rights Program and Post-9/11 Civil Liberties Project. Through the course of her pro bono work at Simpson Thacher and her tenure at AALDEF, Arastu managed an immigration docket which included deportation defense, suppression, asylum, citizenship and green card interviews, and various other immigration processes. Additionally, while at AALDEF, she oversaw monthly immigration clinics in conjunction with various community-based organizations, litigated matters relating to zoning and houses of worship, addressed anti-Muslim bias in the immigration system, and advocated against racial and religious profiling and law enforcement surveillance. Arastu has also worked at the Legal Assistance Centre of Namibia and in the Immigrant Women Program at Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense), where she focused on policy relating to gender-based violence.

Raluca Oncioiu

Having first served as a staff attorney in the Immigration Legal Services Department of Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of NY, Raluca Oncioiu is now the director of that department and of the New Americans Hotline. Prior to joining Catholic Charities, she was a National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) Fellow with the Refugee Assistance Project of the New York City Bar Association. She is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where she was the recipient of a Root-Tilden-Snow Fellowship; the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; and Tufts University. From 1999 to 2002, she was a member of the NYC Bar Association's Immigration & Nationality Law Committee, serving as secretary of that committee from September 2000 to June 2002. From 2011 to 2012, she served on the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on Immigration Representation and on the New York Immigrant Representation Study Group. She is a current member of the Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers Task Force.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Chris Amato

Chris Amato is senior attorney with the Northeast office of Earthjustice, a not-for-profit environmental law firm. Prior to joining Earthjustice, Amato was Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation where, among other things, he drafted and implemented the Department's first Indian nation consultation policy. While serving as Deputy Chief of the New York State Attorney General's Environmental Protection Bureau, Amato was lead counsel in the first joint prosecutions brought by a state and Indian nations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. While

in private practice, Amato served as Environmental Counsel to the Onondaga Nation and worked with the Cayuga, Tonawanda Seneca, and Tuscarora nations on environmental, cultural resource, and treaty rights issues.

Joel R. Kupferman

Joel R. Kupferman is co-chair of the Environmental Justice Committee at the National Lawyers Guild, and the Executive Director of New York Environmental Law & Justice Project and the Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti. In these capacities, he currently offers environmental law justice counseling for cases in Standing Rock on behalf of the Ramapough Lenape Nation in New Jersey, among many other cases. He focuses on water and air issues that affect the vulnerable environmental justice community.

RELATED EXHIBITION

This event is organized on the occasion of “A.K. Burns: Shabby but Thriving,” an exhibition and residency presented as part of the Department of Education and Public Engagement’s Spring R&D Season: BODY. In the exhibition, A.K. Burns premieres a newly commissioned two-channel video staged within an installation that explores the subjugation and agency of various bodies. The installation’s central work, *Living Room* (2017–ongoing), was filmed in the New Museum’s 231 Bowery space, a prewar building that houses the artist-in-residence studio. Moving from its basement through a series of found and constructed interiors, the video treats the entire building as both a stage and a metaphorical body. This exhibition continues a serial project that draws on theater, science fiction, philosophy, and ecological anxieties. The larger cycle of works is organized around five elements: power (the sun), water, land, void, and body.

The exhibition is curated by Johanna Burton, Keith Haring Director and Curator of Education and Public Engagement, and Sara O’Keeffe, Assistant Curator.

SPONSORS

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