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What the hell is Ethnic Studies?





What Is Ethnic Studies?

Ethnic Studies is the study of difference--primarily race, ethnicity, and indigeneity, but also other social phenomena (gender, class, nation, etc.)--and power, as expressed by the state, society, individuals, and communities.

We, along with other people and institutions, are still grappling with questions such as:

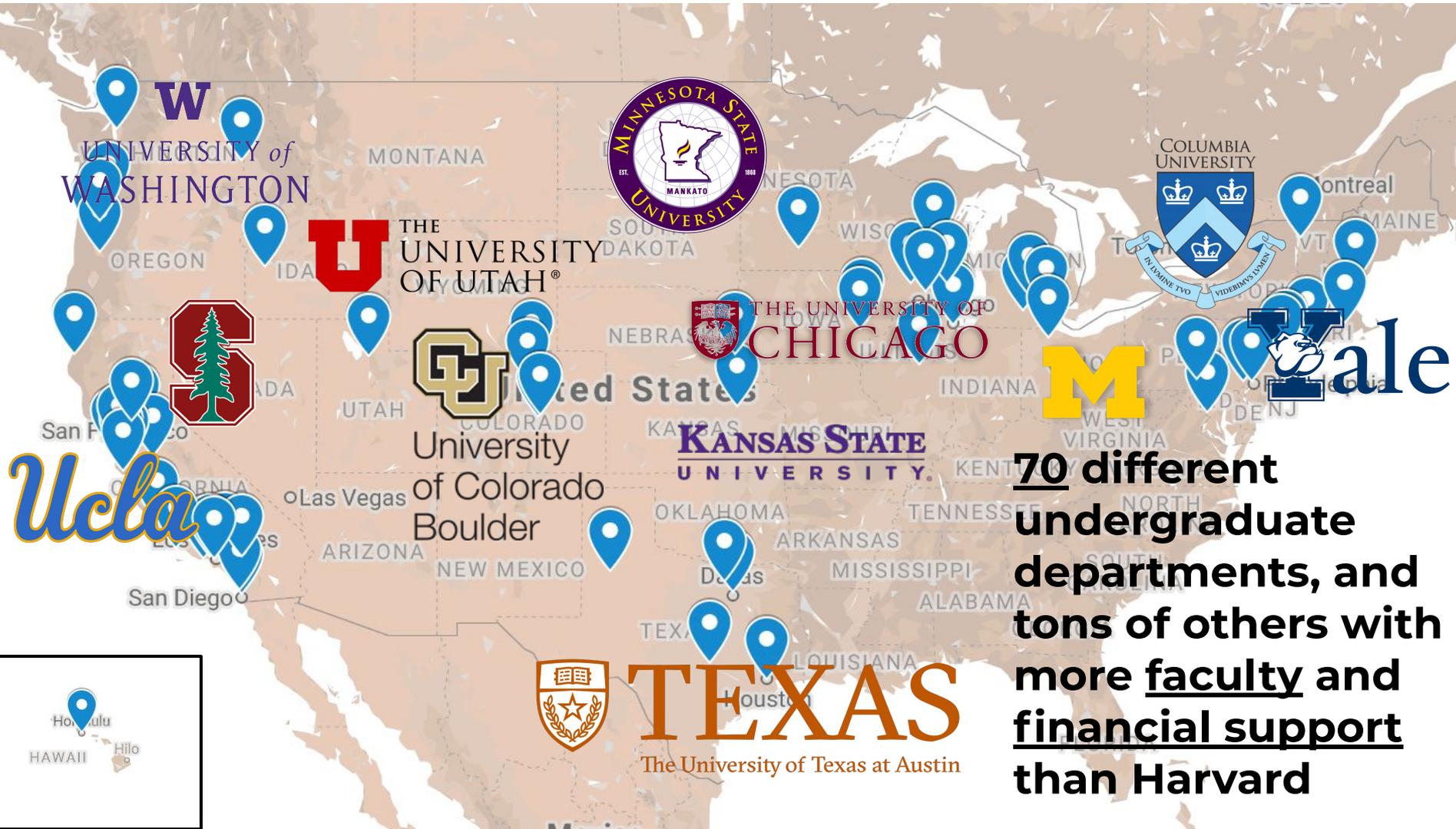
- ◀ How should Ethnic Studies be structured?
 - ◀ What is its relationship with Black Studies?
- 



What Is Ethnic Studies *Not*?

- Area studies (e.g. East Asian Studies or Latin American Studies)
 - Navel gazing or a search for one's "identity"
 - Extracurricular enrichment
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Peripheral histories
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What does Ethnic Studies look like today?

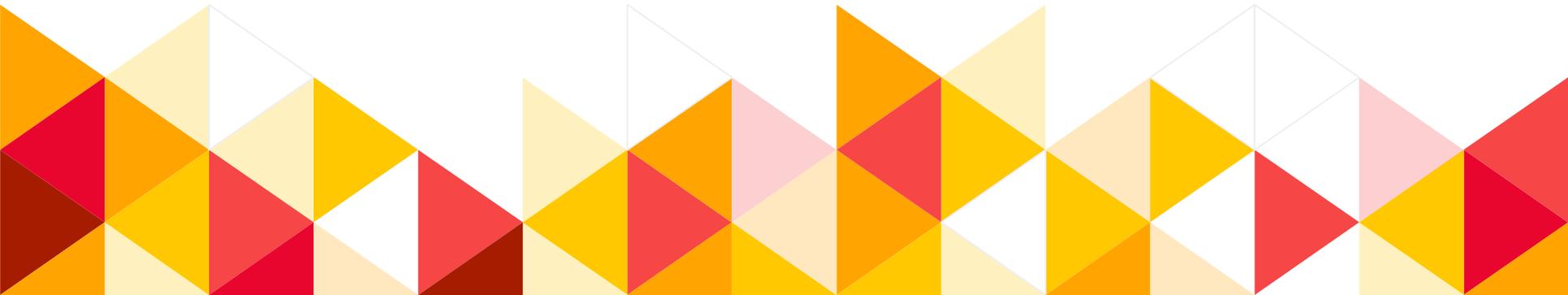


Ethnic Studies at Peer Institutions

Case Study #1:

Yale University

The program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration

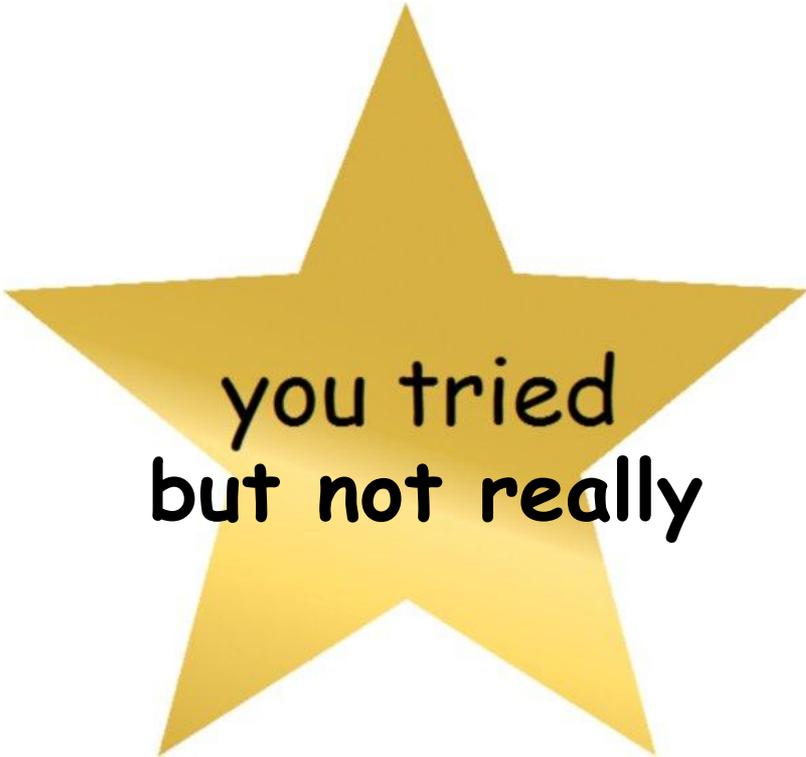


ER&M 394	Climate and Society from Past to Present	F20 01	Th 1:30-3:20p	M. Dove
ER&M 401	Writer/Rioter: Public Writing in the 21st Century	F20 01	T 1:30-3:20p	L. Mirakhor
ER&M 402	The Displaced: Migrant and Refugee Narratives of the 20th and 21st Centuries	S21 01	T 1:30-3:20p	L. Mirakhor
ER&M 408	Race and Comedy	F20 01	W 1:30-3:20p	A. Laguna
ER&M 419	Ethnography of the African American Community	F20 01	M 1:30-3:20p	E. Anderson
ER&M 294	Auto-Criticism: Writing the Self in the World	S21 01	HTBA	C. Rankine
ER&M 300	Comparative Ethnic Studies	F20 1 seminar		
		S21 1 seminar		
ER&M 127	Health and Illness in S Context	F20 01	MW 1:30-2:20p	A. Menon
ER&M 200	Introduction to Ethnicity, Race, and Migration	S21 01	TTh 11:35a-12...	A. Schmidt Camacho
ER&M 209	Introduction to Vietnamese Culture, Values, and Literature	S21 01	TTh 4-5:15p	Q. Van
ER&M 211	Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration	F20 01	MW 2:30-3:20p	G. Kao
ER&M 214	Historical Perspectives on Global Health	F20 01	TTh 11:35a-12...	J. Radin
ER&M 310	Postcolonial Cities of the West	F20 01	T 3:30-5:20p	F. Habchi
ER&M 314	Gender and Transgender	S21 01	TTh 11:35a-12...	G. LaFleur
ER&M 324	Asian Diasporas since 1800	F20 01	W 1:30-3:20p	Q. Tran
ER&M 325	A History of South Africa	S21 01	MW 1:30-2:20p	D. Magaziner
ER&M 336	South Asians in America	F20 01	W 1:30-3:20p	S. Sabherwal
ER&M 339	James Baldwin 1964-1987: Transnationalism, Exile & Intimacy	F20 01	W 1:30-3:20p	L. Mirakhor
ER&M 302J	Asian Americans and the Law in 20th C. U.S. History	F20 01	TTh 11:35a-12...	M. Lui
ER&M 306	Literature at the Limit from Palestine and Israel	F20 04	HTBA	Staff
ER&M 308	American Indian Law and Policy	S21 01	TTh 9-10:15a	N. Blackhawk
ER&M 452	Movement, Memory, and U.S. Settler Colonialism	S21 01	W 9:25-11:15a	L. Barraclough
ER&M 491	The Senior Colloquium: Theoretical and Methodological Issues	F20 01	W 9:25-11:15a	Laguna/Tran
ER&M 492	The Senior Essay or Project	S21 01	HTBA	A. Laguna
ER&M 363	Ethnic Studies and the Social Imagination	F20 01	Th 3:30-5:20p	M. Parhizkar
ER&M 364	Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Politics of Knowledge in Latin America	S21 01	Th 1:30-3:20p	M. Echeverri Munoz
ER&M 372	Visual Encounters in the Early Modern Atlantic World	F20 01	W 9:25-11:15a	C. Fromont
ER&M 381	Space, Place, and Landscape	F20 01	W 3:30-5:20p	L. Barraclough
ER&M 392	Urban History in the United States, 1870 to the Present	S21 01	W 1:30-3:20p	J. Klein
ER&M 425	Asian American Studies of Race, Colonialism, and Empire	S21 01	MW 2:30-3:45p	L. Lowe
ER&M 431	Community Organizing Theory and Practice	F20 01	T 1:30-3:20p	D. HoSang
ER&M 433	Mobile South Asians and the Global Legal Order	F20 01	T 9:25-11:15a	R. De
ER&M 439	Fruits of Empire	S21 01	W 1:30-3:20p	G. Okihiro
ER&M 440	Antiracism, Racial Justice, and Freedom	F20 01	M 1:30-3:20p	D. HoSang
ER&M 218	Ethnicity, Religion, and Nationality in Modern Jewish Culture	F20 04	HTBA	Staff
ER&M 219	Jewish History and Thought to Early Modern Times	F20 01	TTh 11:35a-12...	I. Marcus
ER&M 223	Race, Politics, and the Law	S21 01	TTh 1-2:15p	D. HoSang
ER&M 228	Pirates, Rebels, and Revolutionaries: Caribbean History from 1400-Present	F20 01	TTh 2:30-3:20p	A. Eller
ER&M 241	The Corporation	F20 01	MW 11:35a-12...	D. Rogers
ER&M 264	Sex and Gender in Society	F20 04	HTBA	Staff
ER&M 282	Asian American History, 1800 to the Present			
ER&M 291	Caribbean Diasporic Literature	F20 1 seminar		
		S21 1-seminar		
ER&M 292	Identity, Diversity, and Policy in U.S. Education	F20 01	MW 6-7:15p	Dowe/Canfield
ER&M 349	From the Voting Rights Act to #blacklivesmatter	F20 01	W 9:25-11:15a	F. Lafargue
ER&M 353	Race, Radicalism, and Migration in Latinx History	F20 01	TTh 4-5:15p	S. Pitti
ER&M 359	Gender and the State in Latin America and the Caribbean	S21 01	W 3:30-5:20p	A. Eller
ER&M 360	Politics of Reproduction	F20 2 seminars		
ER&M 362	Translation: Theory, Methods, and Practice	S21 01	Th 1:30-3:20p	D. Francis

49 courses

Meanwhile, at Harvard...

11 courses



you tried
but not really

Contemporary Immigration Policy and Educational Practice EMR 140 Gonzales FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights Today's immigration debates have brought to the fore conflicting visions regarding the role of immigrants in our society and educational systems. This course will examine these debates and their implications.
Asian American Mobility and Transpacific Movements EMR 137 Sato FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This seminar draws together Asian American history (ca. 1800-present) and the interdisciplinary field of mobility studies. This course will explore the formation of these fields and their implications.
Critical Refugee Studies EMR 128 Tapparata FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This seminar offers an introduction to the emerging interdisciplinary field of Refugee Studies. In her field-defining 2006 article "Toward a Critical Refugee Studies," she argues for a more nuanced and critical approach to the study of refugees.
Introduction to Latinx Studies EMR 142 Garzo Montalvo FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This course provides an overview of the field of Latinx Studies, including its history, theoretical frameworks, and current research. It will explore the complex and often contested nature of Latinx identity and the role of migration in its formation.
Decolonial Aesthetics and Poetics EMR 144 Garzo Montalvo FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights In this seminar course we will trace the contours of decolonial theory and practice in the literary, visual, and performing arts. We will read cultural and theoretical texts that challenge the dominant narratives of coloniality and explore alternative ways of knowing and being.
Love's Labors Found: Uncovering Histories of Emotional Labor EMR 131 Light FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights How do love, care, and desire influence the value of work, and why is emotional labor so vital to child or elder care, domestic labor, nursing, teaching, and service work?
Power, Knowledge, Identity: Critical Approaches to Race and Ethnicity EMR 133 Craig FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights How might critical attention to race and ethnicity as they intersect with sexuality—and also frameworks of indigeneity and class—shape how we study and understand these categories?
Coloniality, Race and Catastrophe EMR 139 Rivera FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This course explores the relationship between coloniality, race and ecology through the lens of "catastrophe." We will examine a variety of theoretical and literary sources that explore the ways in which coloniality and race have shaped the ways we understand and respond to environmental crises.
Introduction to Ethnic Studies EMR 143 Garzo Montalvo FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights Ethnic Studies remains the first and only academic field of study within the academy that has been created and sustained through student struggle. This course will explore the history and development of the field and its role in social and political movements.
Race, Solidarity, and the Carceral State EMR 134 Awartani FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This specialized seminar course surveys how U.S. social and racial justice movements have encountered and interacted with the rise of the carceral state. Using case studies, we will explore the ways in which these movements have shaped and been shaped by the state.
Race, Gender, and American Empire EMR 136 Waits FAS Ethnicity, Migration, Rights This seminar explores the culture and politics of American empire from the nineteenth century to the present, with particular attention to the ways in which race and gender have shaped and been shaped by imperial projects.

Yale *RITM*

Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration

Research and Conference Travel Awards

RITM Research and Conference Travel Awards support research and conference travel by Yale students on topics related to race, indigeneity, or transnational migration.

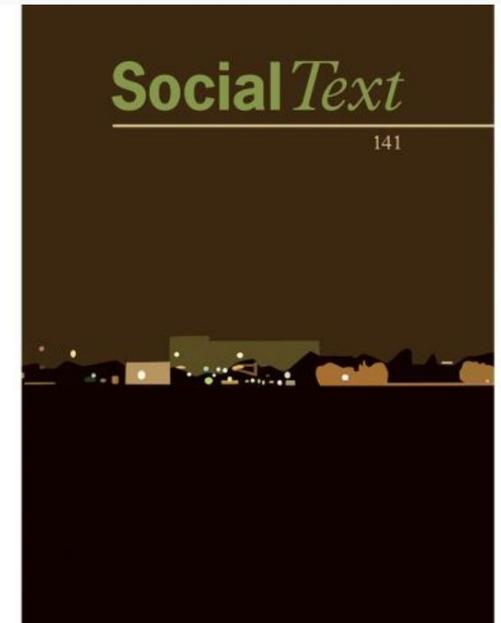
Distinguished Lectures

RITM Lunch Series

Research Fellows

Social Text

The interdisciplinary journal *Social Text* connects critical theory and political practice. It publishes articles and interviews on debates related to postcolonialism, postmodernism, popular culture, and other topics.





ER&M @ Yale

- ✓ Founded in 1998
 - ✓ Tenure-track and tenure opportunities for faculty
 - ✓ Bachelor's degree for academic program
 - ✓ A robust graduate program (in American Studies)
 - ✓ Dedicated research center (RITM)
- 



Why does Ethnic Studies matter?

- ▶ Understanding **power structures** is necessary to help us **advocate for a better future**
 - ▶ The project of anti-racism is necessarily a project of ethnic studies
 - ▶ **Imagining and building a better world begins with learning.** What we **learn and how we learn it** dictates not only **how we see the world**, but **how we strive to fix it.**
- 



Much of the thought and action people are producing around Black Lives Matter is ethnic studies in the flesh.

BIPOC have long created their own spaces to study what institutions wouldn't teach them.



Harvard's History



National History - Ethnic Studies Activism



2003

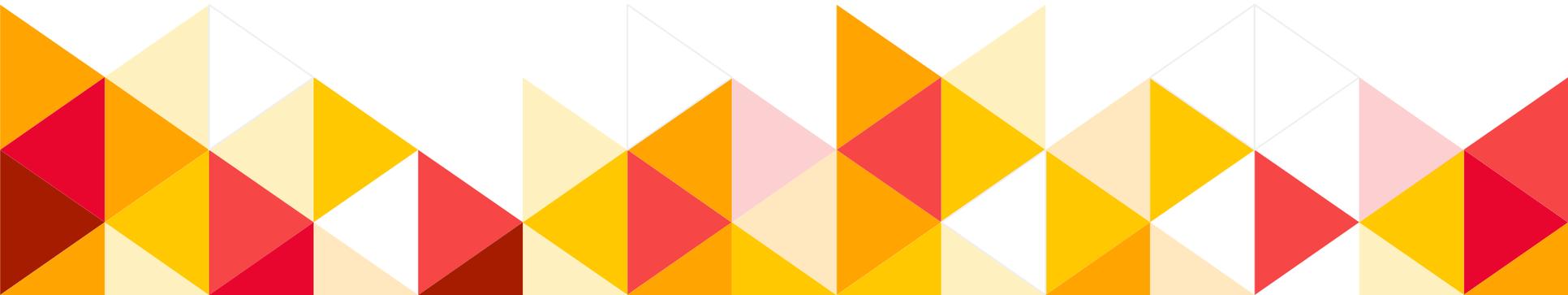


48+ years

**11+
proposals**

**40+
student
organizations**

8+ committees





What's wrong with ES at Harvard?

- ▶ Still lacking...
 - ▶ A department
 - ▶ A concentration (major)
 - ▶ Any direct faculty lines/hires
 - ▶ A research center
 - ▶ A tenure process that disadvantages Ethnic Studies faculty because...
 - ▶ Ethnic studies @ Harvard **has no home** -- we're scattered
 - ▶ Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights @ Harvard is **only a committee**
 - ▶ Hist & Lit is also **only a committee**
- 

Recent Ethnic Studies Faculty Losses

Natasha Warikoo

Graduate School of Education.

Ahmed Ragab

Harvard Divinity School. History of Science.

Genevieve Clutario

History. History and Literature.

Lorgia García-Peña

Romance Languages & Literatures. History & Literature.





A search for faculty was announced in 2019. Why doesn't it solve the problem?

- ◀ Current (tenuous) search for 4 hires across Latinx, Asian American, and Muslim American fields.
 - ◀ We do need more faculty, but....
 - ◀ **Hires without a structure are a *band-aid solution*. You can't hire 4 doctors without a hospital, or 4 pilots without a plane.**
 - ◀ It barely makes up for 4 faculty losses in 2019.
 - ◀ Harvard's search has been suspended while other parts of the university continue hiring...
- 



After COVID:

Search for Harvard Ethnic Studies
Faculty Suspended Indefinitely Due to
Pandemic

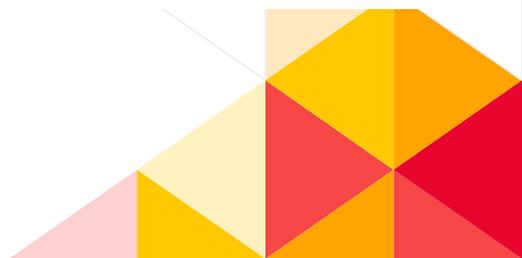
And yet....

Hiring Freeze Will Not Interfere With
Athletics Director Search



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Erin McDermott named
athletic director





Our Campaign



Who are we?



Undergraduate students, graduate students, and community members fighting for Ethnic Studies at Harvard!

Working in partnership with alumni groups and individuals, like HESC founding co-chairs Juhwan Seo '17 and Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez '17 .





Recent history of HESC organizing

- ▶ **2016** - 1000+ Harvard-affiliated signatures on petition for ethnic studies
 - ▶ **2017** - History and Literature Ethnic Studies track created
 - ▶ **2017** - #1 upvoted support for race and ethnicity research center
 - ▶ **2018** - Meetings with deans of humanities, social sciences, and undergraduate education. Defended diversity
 - ▶ **2019** - Rally, dean meetings, building up HESC, pressured admin into cohort faculty search
- 

Late 2019: Prof. Lorgia García-Peña is denied tenure

NOV 27.

Profe receives informal call from Dept. Chair, informing her of her tenure denial.

DEC 1.

HESC circulates statement in support of Profe.
280+ student signatures.
50+ students organizations.

DEC 2.

50+ students storm University Hall and stage a sit-in for 48 minutes.

DEC 3.

100+ students protest at a faculty meeting.
Distribute flyers to tenured faculty.



2019 cont'd

DEC 5.

150+ students protest on the steps of Widener Library.

DEC 6.

HESC joins FFDH, HGSU, and HPDC at a rally in Harvard Yard.

DEC 9.

50+ students occupy the Office of the Provost for 48 minutes.

DEC 12.

Admissions Office takeover on early admission decision day.



Denying a Professor Tenure, Harvard Sparks a Debate Over Ethnic Studies

Some students of color say that even as the university defends its use of race in admissions, it devalues their experiences and fails to retain professors who support them.



A group of students calling themselves the Harvard Ethnic Studies Coalition at the



Vox

How a denial of tenure at Harvard became a national controversy

The decision is a blow to ethnic studies departments everywhere.

By Jonita Davis | Updated Dec 16, 2019, 1:26pm EST



REMEXCLA



wbur

**COLOR
LINES**

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Boston Globe

2020...so far





Our Demands

- ▶ Create an Ethnic Studies department
 - ▶ An interdisciplinary undergraduate major and academic community; a PhD program
 - ▶ Tenure/Professorships
 - ▶ Reverse Prof. Garcia-Peña's tenure decision
 - ▶ Hire and tenure BIPOC faculty who teach Ethnic Studies
 - ▶ Abolish the President's ad hoc committee
 - ▶ Center our communities
 - ▶ Research, multicultural, and community center
 - ▶ Free and accessible libraries and databases
- 

How Can Alumni Help?





Join our Movement!

- ❑ Tell Harvard administration that Ethnic Studies is essential; spread the word in all your Harvard meetings
 - ❑ Tie your donations to Ethnic Studies
 - ❑ Endow Ethnic Studies professorships or a whole Ethnic Studies Department!
 - ❑ Join the Coalition for a Diverse Harvard, which has been fighting alongside us all the way; get regular updates by signing up at diverseharvard.org. Email harvardcoalition@gmail.com to join their Ethnic Studies action group
 - ❑ Create an Ethnic Studies action group within your own alumni organization
 - ❑ Follow us on social media and get involved in our petitions and campaigns
- 

Vote for these Overseer candidates who are actively committed to Ethnic Studies!



DIEGO RODRIGUEZ



DAVID EUN



RAPHAEL BOSTIC



TRACY K. SMITH



THEA SEBASTIAN

- First Generation Harvard Alumni
- Harvard Alumni for Oceania
- Harvard Arab Alumni Association
- Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance
- Harvard Black Alumni Society
- Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus

- Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance
- Harvard Progressive Jewish Alumni
- Harvard South Asian Alumni Alliance Harvard Tamil Sangam Alumni
- Harvard Women of Color
- Native American Alumni of Harvard University

Voting closes **August 18th**—vote online using the link you received 7/1 in your email



Social media

Twitter/Instagram: @HarvardESC

Facebook: Harvard Ethnic Studies Coalition

Also follow:

Facebook: Harvard TAPAS (Task Force for Asian American Progressive Advocacy and Studies) and Coalition for a Diverse Harvard

Twitter: @HarvardDiverse

Instagram: diverseharvard

