**FEBRUARY & MARCH 2015 Monthly Bulletin**

**FEBRUARY 3**, Global Justice Program Director **Elsadig Elsheikh** co-facilitated the African Food Sovereignty Working Group at UC Berkeley, co-organized by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society and the Center for African Studies at UC Berkeley. The African Food Sovereignty Working Group aims to engage the challenges and alternatives of food insecurity as experienced by the peoples of the African continent. Each month, the working group will examine the historical and contemporary debates, discourse, and movements related to the multiplicity and complexity of Africa’s food systems.

**FEBRUARY 4**, HIFIS Dirctor **john a. powell** spoke to several groups of the Asian American Pacific Islander community about how race has been used to undermine commitment to robust government, and its relationship to "othering and belonging." He also addressed how to work within and across communities and how to build capacity for year round civic engagement.

**FEBRUARY 6**, HIFIS Director **john a. powell**gave the opening keynote, *From the Past to the Present,* for UC Berkeley's Campus Climate Symposium. Speaking to an audience of more than 100 students, faculty, and staff, Dr. powell provided a brief history on Berkeley's past diversity initiatives to the present, speaking on the need to build cross-campus relationships around efforts to improve and sustain a more positive campus climate for students. This came after the most recent UC system-wide campus climate survey, which found that approximately 1 in 4 students experience discomfort caused by campus climate issues regarding race, gender, sexuality, religion and other forms of difference.

**FEBRUARY 11**, Haas Assistant Director **Stephen Menendian** gave a presentation for the Goldman School of Public Policy's Housing and Urban Policy student group on the case of *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project, Inc*., a case before the Supreme Court which puts key anti-discrimination protections at risk. Stephen discussed the facts of the case, background of the *Fair Housing Act*, what disparate impact claims are, and information on the brief that the Haas Institute filed in this case.

**FEBRUARY 12**, Haas Institute Senior Fellow and Government Alliance on Race and Equity Director **Julie Nelson** delivered a keynote address to the Minnesota City Managers Association Mid-Winter Workshop on "Addressing Racial Inequities in Our Communities." The conference brought together local government administrators who are working to advance racial equity in local government. Following the keynote, Julie facilitated a Discussion of Local Government Responses, that featured Mike Sable, Assistant City Manager, Brooklyn Park; Curt Boganey, City Manager, Brooklyn Center; Tanya Ange, Deputy City Manager, Mankato; Jonna Shelomith, Diversity Specialist, Ramsey County; and Craig Clark, City Administrator, Austin.

**FEBRUARY 17**, HIFISDirector **john a. powell** provided a webinar training for Human Impact Partners' (HIP) Public Health and Equity Cohort on the topic of structural marginalization in public health agencies, sponsored by the Kresge Foundation**.** Speaking to a cohort of 12 public advocates in health departments across the United States, Dr. powell's webinar covered the importance of differentiating between types of problems as they relate to systems versus individuals; how opportunity structures are unevenly distributed based on situated-ness, trauma and race; the role of implicit bias in public health; and tangible solutions to ensure belonging in public health outreach initiatives.

**FEBRUARY 18**, 2015, Global Justice Program Director **Elsadig Elsheikh** served as a panel moderator for a panel on Civic Engagement and the Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin organized by Cal Performances. Using the Nile Basin and our community as regional and local case studies, a panel of experts and Nile Project founder Mina Girgis explored the use of innovative civic engagement strategies to overcome political stakeholder barriers, create a common understanding between competing interests and build constituencies for action both between and within nations where water has become an impediment to peace and socio-economic development.

**FEBRUARY 20**, Haas Institute Senior Fellow and Government Alliance on Race and Equity Director **Julie Nelson** led an interactive and engaging workshop *Healthy Communities for All: Tools and Strategies for Advancing Racial Equity with the Bay Area Racial Health Inequities Initiative*. The workshop focused on increasing understanding of the role and opportunity for governmental work on racial equity, sharing key strategies to support government’s racial equity work, including inside – outside strategies and the use of a racial equity tool, and enhancing understanding of key racial equity concepts and how they apply to government.

**FEBRUARY 20**, the Haas Institute held a day-long community conference in Richmond, CA, on housing issues. Some 100 community members, fair housing scholars, organizers and advocates, researchers, and policymakers gathered at this community forum to explore connections between place-based improvements to community health, forces of residential displacement, and housing policy; analyze structural causes of challenges related to housing affordability and displacement in Richmond and similar communities; and examine policies for ensuring stable, appropriate housing and health for all residents. The speakers included **Robbie Clark, Samir Gambhir, Margaretta Lin, Anne Omura, john a. powell, Richard Rothstein, Maurice Weeks, Tamisha Walker, Edith Pastrano, Bill Lindsay, Peggy Jen,** and **Leah Simon-Weisberg**.

**FEBRUARY 20**, the Haas Institute released [*Belonging and Community Health in Richmond;
An Analysis of Changing Demographics and Housing*](http://diversity.berkeley.edu/richmondbelonginghousingreport)*,* a research brief analyzing gentrification trends at the neighborhood level. **Eli Moore, Samir Gambhir,** and **Phuong Tseng** conducted the research to assess the risk of displacement of marginalized communities in Richmond. The report has garnered significant [attention from media](http://newamericamedia.org/2015/03/study-gentrification-a-real-threat-in-richmond.php), public officials, and community leaders.

**FEBRUARY 20**, Global Justice Program Director **Elsadig Elsheikh** served as a moderator and panel participant on The Nile and African Identity organized by Cal Performances. The panel examined how water resource conflicts are often rooted in political and cultural differences, and how Divergent understandings of African identity have played a significant role in the case of the Nile Basin. Nile Project musicians illustrated some of these themes through musical examples from their respective traditions.

**FEBRUARY 21**, 2015, the Haas Institute participated in an all-day Food Justice Forum organized by Holy Names University in Oakland. The program brought together social justice activists, high school and college students, educators, and community members "to think critically about the issues of food justice" and "bring new insight and inspiration to be an agent of positive social change in your community and beyond." The Haas Institute’s **Nadia Barhoum** presented a workshop on the role of corporations in the global food system. The workshop explored the rise of corporate control within the food system, beginning with the history of the "ABCD" (Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill, and Dreyfuss) giants of the food corporations to the present day consolidation of power throughout food supply chains. Corporate control is complex and must be looked at through a structural lens, by investigating the ways in which corporations have been able to gain power through such avenues as government, international trade policy, and finance.

**FEBRUARY 24**, Haas Institute Senior Fellow and Government Alliance on Race and Equity Director **Julie Nelson** presented to the Oakland City Council about the opportunities for government to advance racial equity in relation to Councilmember Brook’s proposed legislation to establish a Department of Race and Equity.

**FEBRUARY 26**, Global Justice Program Director **Elsadig Elsheikh** served as a panel moderator for a film screening discussion on “Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People” organized by Middle East Children Alliance, at La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA. The panel addressed a panel the impact of anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia on community members, students, and teachers; and engaged with the question of how can we effectively confront racialization and discrimination in our neighborhoods, classrooms, workplaces and schools.

**FEBRUARY 26–27**, **john a. powell** attended a series of talks with philanthropy groups in Seattle, Washington. During this two-day event, john spoke to three separate groups of philanthropists, and one group of community members and associates of Rainier Valley Corps. The philanthropy talks focused on the economic power of equity and covered implicit bias, structural marginalization and racialization, and targeted universalism as an approach to increase equity. The theatre-style talk with community members and associates of Rainier Valley Corps focused on building trust and solidarity between the Latino Immigrant and African American communities within the Rainier Valley metro area.

**FEBRUARY 28**, **john a. powell,** participated in a panel discussion entitled “Expanding the Conversation: Diversity & Inclusion in Tech and Society” at the 6th annual Wisdom 2.0 conference in San Francisco, California. During this panel, john, among other things, called upon the audience to think deliberately about the concepts of othering and belonging, the subject of our upcoming conference in April.

**FEBRUARY 28**, **john a. powell** gave the keynote address at the 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner for the 99 Percent. The event was organized by the Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco's Committee for Peace and Justice & the San Francisco 99 Percent Coalition. The keynote address focused on the intersection between the "Black Lives Matter!" movement and growing economic and political inequality.

**MARCH 2**, **Elsadig Elsheikh** guest lectured a class “The Global Food System: From Crises to Sovereignty” for the Autonomist University of Barcelona online on the larger structural and systemic crises of global food system vis-à-vis global hunger, climate change, and food production, particularly, as it experienced by the marginalized peoples around the world. First, the lecture fleshed out concepts and defined what is mean food system; second, provided the context in which our global food system exits; third, presented three major challenges (the structure of development, financialization of food, and climate change) that are facing the food system and contributed to global crises of food. At the end, the lecture proposed alternatives and solutions for a more sustainable and just food system.

**MARCH 3**, **john a. powell** spoke with an audience of public health and population health practitioners convened by Detroit Wayne County Health Authority's Population Health Council. The discussion focused on using public health as a consideration of individual and community health, determined both within and outside of the health clinic. The urgency to integrate attention to public health within the agenda for a fair and inclusive society was stressed and avenues for realizing this integration were reviewed. These included attending to implicit bias and engaging issues of transportation or public utility service into a public health agenda. This urgency is particularly acute in Wayne County and Detroit as both locations face extreme crises in public finance. In Detroit this crisis is expressing itself in water and sewer utility service and scarcity due to unaffordable pricing and failing systems to finance utility service affordability plans.

**MARCH 8–9**, the Haas Institute and Faculty Clusters sponsored an event featuring Angela Davis called “Disability Incarcerated,” a symposium focused on the historical segregation and incarceration of people with disabilities. A full agenda with speakers can be found [here](http://diversity.berkeley.edu/disabilityincarcerated).

**MARCH 9**, HIFISDirector **john a. powell** gave the keynote lecture for the New School's *Public Policy in Action* Lecture Series in New York City.Titled "The Role of the Public Sector in Advancing Economic Inclusion," Dr. powell's keynote addressed the issue of economic disparities through the lens of race in policy and practice for an audience of more than 200 people. The 2015 Henry Cohen Lecture Series at Public Policy in Action is devoted to advancing social equity in America. The series examines how public policy serves as a vehicle to advance economic and social inclusion in the context of evolving demographic, economic, and political shifts in America. This series serves as a catalyst for the continuing dialog on the state of social justice in America, and has included Van Jones and Ben Jealous as past speakers.

**MARCH 10**, **Julie Nelson** participated on a panel at the National League of Cities that served as the official launch of their new initiative “Racial Equity and Leadership.” In addition to looking at isolated interventions, elected officials are becoming increasingly engaged with advancing racial equity. NLC is aiming to integrate racial equity throughout the breadth of their policy work.

**MARCH 12**, **Julie Nelson** presented at the Boston Fair Housing Conference, “Institutional Racism: the impact of segregation on the events of Ferguson.”

**MARCH 21**, **Julie Nelson** delivered a keynote to the Building Livable Communities conference for the Local Government Commission. She set the stage for a discussion with local government officials who focused on tangible strategies that advance racial equity.

**MARCH 21,** the Haas Institute and the Insight Center held a community workshop in Richmond, CA to discuss anti-poverty strategies and to share Institute research. Assistant Director **Stephen Menendian** presented Bay Area opportunity map research, with an emphasis on Contra Costa County.

**MARCH 27**, **john a. powell** joined his fellow Poverty & Race Research Action Council (PRRAC) board members for the PRRAC's spring board meeting. The meeting was held at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in New York City.

**MARCH 31**, Global Justice Program Director **Elsadig Elsheikh** co-facilitated the African Food Sovereignty Working Group at UC Berkeley, co-organized by the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society and the Center for African Studies at UC Berkeley. The African Food Sovereignty Working Group aims to engage the challenges and alternatives of food insecurity as experienced by the peoples of the African continent. Each month, the working group will examine the historical and contemporary debates, discourse, and movements related to the multiplicity and complexity of Africa’s food systems.