



HARVARD Kennedy School  
**CARR CENTER**  
 for Human Rights Policy

A COMMITMENT TO MAKING  
 HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES  
 CENTRAL TO THE FORMULATION  
 OF GOOD PUBLIC POLICY



## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Founded in 2009, the **Human Rights and Social Movements Program** examines the complex relationship between human rights and social movements with a particular emphasis on how grassroots mobilizations influence and challenge modern conceptions and practices of human rights, both in the United States and throughout the globe. Though their role in shaping human rights discourse is often downplayed or ignored, social movements have played—and continue to play—a significant role in the conception, implementation, and evolution of what former Carr Center Director Michael Ignatieff refers to as the “human rights revolution.”



In 2008, the Carr Center celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with its *60.30.1 Light Installation* across Harvard’s campus.

Through a combination of research, teaching, programming, and publication, the **Human Rights and Social Movements Program** explores three main areas of inquiry:

- The relationship between *inspiration*, *aspiration*, and *impact*: Why do people become activists? What do they seek to accomplish? Do they make a difference?
- The connection between the *past* and the *present*: How does the history of social movements inform the politics of human rights—and vice versa?
- The problem of *coalition-building*: how, when, and why do people and movements work together effectively? What prevents them from doing so?

The **Human Rights and Social Movements Program** will focus its attention on a broad range of social movements and human rights struggles—including, but not limited to, the long history of slavery and abolition; the role of media culture in social movements; the struggle against poverty and educational inequity; racially and religiously motivated hate crimes; alternatives to war and violence; the modern LGBTQ movement; Burma activism; and the role of human rights organizations in social movement work. We invite you to join us!

### Director

Timothy Patrick McCarthy, Ph.D.

### Research Associates

Elliott Prasse-Freeman, MPA-ID ‘11  
 Sarah Bouchat, MPP ‘11

### Research Assistants

Jenni Stoff, MPP ‘11  
 Courtney Thomas, MPP ‘11  
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### Traub-Dicker Fellows

Sarah Bouchat, MPP ‘11  
 Tommy Tseng, MPP ‘11

### Faculty Advisors

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 Paul Farmer  
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 Alex Keyssar  
 Ian K. Lekus  
 Jane Mansbridge  
 Pippa Norris  
 Richard Parker  
 John Stauffer  
 Julie Boatright Wilson  
 William Julius Wilson

## PROGRAMMING

Each year, the HR&SM Program sponsors a broad range of public programming—from lectures and panels to conferences and film screenings. Ongoing programs include:

**Human Rights and Social Movements Study Group** ~ This biweekly study group, open to students and the general public, explores major topics related to the examination of human rights and social movements. The study group meets during the Fall and Spring semesters on alternative Fridays, 3:30-5pm, in the Carr Center Conference Room, 219 Rubenstein.

**The Activist's Studio** ~ This monthly series features Dr. McCarthy in conversation with prominent artists, intellectuals, policymakers, and activists about the politics and culture of human rights. Past guests have included Michael Posner, Larry Cox, Ashley Judd, Kevin Bales, Sarah Schulman, Helen Molesworth, Humaira Shahid, Geraldine Brooks, Rose Styron, and others.

**Global Queer Series** ~ This new spring series will feature lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer activists discussing the opportunities and challenges of LGBTQ-related human rights work in the global arena.

**Gay Rights as Human Rights Conference** ~ Founded in April 2008, this annual conference brings together prominent activists and policymakers to discuss the current state of the LGBTQ movement and its most pressing issues and concerns.

**Nicholas Papadopoulos Lecture** ~ This annual spring lecture, named in honor of a Harvard alumnus who died of AIDS, features a prominent member of the LGBTQ community addressing issues of contemporary cultural and political significance.

*Please check the HR&SM Program web site for schedules and details.*



"To view history in this way--to locate the engine of social change in the protests of the people rather than the patronage of the powerful--is to insist upon a different way of living in this world. It requires that we not only think big, but act big as well."

~ Timothy Patrick McCarthy, "Harvard Thinks Big," February 2010

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## RESEARCH

The HR&SM Program sponsors a number of research initiatives, including:

**LGBT Stigma Project** ~ In collaboration with Face Value, the HR&SM Program has launched a multi-year research, strategic communication, and public action campaign aimed at examining and eradicating the root causes of stigma against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Contact Sarah Bouchat at sbethb@gmail.com.

**Burma Activism Survey Project** ~ Drawing on the findings of an ambitious on-line survey, this project examines the goals, values, and desires of "transnational" Burma activists to better understand the origin, evolution, and impact of the movement. Contact Elliott Prasse-Freeman at prasse@post.harvard.edu.

**Rebuilding Faith Initiative** ~ In collaboration with the National Coalition for Burned Churches and Community Empowerment, the HR&SM Program examines the rise of hate crimes against black churches in the last two decades, and assists the national effort to rebuild churches that have been damaged or destroyed by arson. Contact Dr. McCarthy at timothy\_mccarthy@hks.harvard.edu.

**Working Group on Modern-Day Slavery and Human Trafficking** ~ Each month, in conjunction with the Carr Center's Initiative to Stop Human Trafficking, the HR&SM Program convenes a first-of-its-kind research collaborative of scholars committed to ending the modern scourge of human trafficking and bondage. Contact Christina Bain at christina\_bain@harvard.edu.

## TEACHING & FELLOWSHIPS

**PAE & Senior Honors Thesis Advising** ~ Each year, Dr. McCarthy advises senior honors theses in Harvard College and Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) projects at the Harvard Kennedy School that focus on topics related to human rights and social movements. Contact Dr. McCarthy at timothy\_mccarthy@hks.harvard.edu.

**Traub-Dicker-HKS Summer Research Fellowship** ~ Named in honor of Margaret Traub, Harvard College Class of 1980, and her partner, Phyllis Dicker, this summer fellowship supports original policy research on issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Fellowships are awarded annually to students currently enrolled at the Harvard Kennedy School. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/cchrp/hrsm/programs/fellowships.php>.

**Research Assistance** ~ The Human Rights and Social Movements Program is always looking for talented and committed undergraduates and graduate students who can assist with ongoing research projects. Contact Laura Felpo at lfelpe@gmail.com.

## CONTACT

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