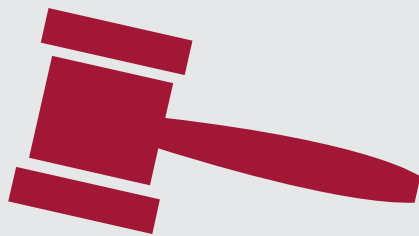


OUR MISSION

Our Center has a compelling interest in eradicating all forms of discrimination based on the intersection of an individual's identities, including religion, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and disability. Using rigorous research and legal analysis, we empower educators to utilize laws and policies in order to identify and extricate bias and unequal distributions of power within educational institutions.



**IN 2016,
THERE WERE**



604

**BIAS-MOTIVATED
HATE CRIMES**

**ON SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CAMPUSES
BASED ON RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION,
SEXUAL ORIENTATION, DISABILITY,
GENDER AND GENDER IDENTITY.**

— FBI Hate Crime Statistics, 2016

OUR WORK

» CONDUCT CRITICAL RESEARCH

Our projects include:

- > **USC Hybrid High School Longitudinal Study** Tracks graduates of USC's charter school, many who are first-generation students, to understand their college-going behavior, the quality of their college experiences and why they are or are not able to persist to graduation.
- > **Muslim College Student Experience** Examines post-2016 presidential election perspectives and experiences of more than 100 Muslim college students in California.
- > **National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP)** Assesses the influence of the NSBP annual conference on increasing the engagement and persistence of African-Americans in physics and astronomy.

» MAKE LAWS AND POLICIES ACCESSIBLE

We host national conferences, policy-based summits and curricular workshops to train students and educators to utilize laws and policies to create socially just professional practice.

- > **Summit on (De)Institutionalizing Islamophobia on College Campuses** Our inaugural 2017 Summit hosted 90 students, faculty and institutional leaders from 20 different institutions to discuss legal issues and policies affecting today's Muslim college students, such as the Muslim ban.
- > **Law and Policy for Colleges and Universities (LPCU) Conference** The conference is designed to help institutions identify gaps in their policies and practices. Our Center aims to provide guidance for higher education institutions on how to be proactive in addressing critical social justice issues.

► Visit socialjustice.usc.edu for more info.

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS

Educational institutions are faced with complex laws and policies, such as academic freedom, free speech and expression, and sexual assault and harassment. These laws and policies are fundamental to upholding individual and institutional rights to ensure a just educational environment free from discrimination. When educators know, understand and are able to apply laws and policies, they are better able to serve students' educational needs as well as limit legal and professional consequences. Our Center was created to help educators move beyond numerical diversity to using laws and policies as an equalizing force toward social justice.



USC
Rossier
*Center for Education,
Identity and Social Justice*

OUR CO-DIRECTORS



Shafiqah Ahmadi JD, Co-Director, is an Associate Professor of Clinical Education at the Rossier School of Education. She is an expert on diversity and legal protection of underrepresented students, including Muslims, bias and hate crimes, and sexual assault survivors.

She received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington. She has publications in law reviews, law journals and educational journals. Before joining USC, she worked for the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, where she investigated alleged violations of civil rights and discrimination.



Darnell Cole PhD, Co-Director, is an Associate Professor of Education with an emphasis in higher education and educational psychology. His areas of research include race/ethnicity, diversity, college student experiences and learning.

He received his MA and PhD at Indiana University, Bloomington. He has published over 40 articles and book chapters and is featured in major journals for higher education and related fields such as *The Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of College Student Development*, *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, *Journal of Classroom Behavior* and *Journal of Creative Behavior*.

“Educational institutions have a tremendous responsibility to critically engage laws and policies that impact students’ identities and experiences.”

— Co-Directors Professor Shafiqah Ahmadi and Professor Darnell Cole

LEARN MORE

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