

Elizabeth Detention Center: Past, Present, and Future

Symposium Program

9:00-9:30 AM

Breakfast and registration at the Livingston Student Center

9:30-9:45 AM

Welcome + opening remarks & overview: Ulla D. Berg / Carolina Sanchez Boe / Amy Gottlieb

HISTORIES

9:45-10:45 AM ~ Esmor and the early CCA Years, 1993-1998

Moderator: Ulla D. Berg, Rutgers University

Penny Venetis - Rutgers Law School

"How Gross Human Rights Abuses Led to a Landmark Legal Decision"

Mary Rizzo, Department of History, Rutgers Newark.

"Not a Riot But a Protest: Reframing the 1995 Esmor Riot"

Liz Llorente, former Bergen Record reporter.

"How I Broke the Story About Abuses at Esmor"

Amy Gottlieb, US Migration Director, AFSC.

"A Journey to Abolition"

11:00-12:00 PM ~ Post-1996: Mandatory Detention, Crimmigration, and the National Security State.

Moderator: Carolina Sánchez Boe, Aarhus University

Sarah Tosh, Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Rutgers-Camden

"Mandatory Detention for Criminal Convictions and the Growth of the Modern Deportation Regime."

Abdulai Bah, Al Jazeera - Fault Lines.

“The criminalization of seeking asylum and its devastating impact on those fleeing persecution: A former detainee’s first-hand account.”

Will Coley, Aquifer Media, former JRS/AFSC social services program coordinator at EDC

“You’re Giving Them Too Much Hope.”

William Westerman, Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, New Jersey City University.

“We Are IRAT-E”: Seven People in a Diner and the Power of Accompaniment”

Lori A. Nessel, Professor of Law, Director, Immigrants’ Rights/International Human Rights Clinic, Seton Hall University School of Law

“Thirty Years of Pro Bono Representation through the Lens of a Law School Clinical Program”

12:00-12:45 PM Lunch Break

PRESENT: EXPERIENCES & CURRENT ISSUES

12:45-1:45 PM ~ Economies of Detention

Moderator: Katy Sastre, First Friends of New Jersey and New York

Nancy Hiemstra, SUNY - Stony Brook

“Detention’s sick economics: How bad detainee health is good for business”

Deirdre Conlon, University of Leeds, UK.

“How detention’s sick economics thrive on captive consumers and (in)voluntary labor”

Selvin Martinez (Honduras, detained in EDC 2016-17)

“My experience in EDC and with Libre by Nexus”

1:45-2:45 PM ~ Structures of support

Moderator: Jenny Garcia, Detention Watch Network

Sally Pillay, First Friends of New Jersey and New York Board Member

“Restoring Hope, Love and Dignity!”

Rev. Seth Kaper-Dale, Highland Park Reformed Church

“Immigration Work at the Highland Park Reformed Church”

Pina Cirillo, Immigrant Rights Clinic, Rutgers Law School
"Due Process Army of Lawyers"

Kathy O'Leary, Pax Christi NJ, *region coordinator*
"Know Where You Stand and Stand There: Three Decades of Faith Based Protest and Organizing at the Elizabeth Detention Center."

2:45-3:00 PM Coffee Break

3:00 - 3:45 PM ~ EDC during and after Covid-19
Moderator: Amy Gottlieb, AFSC.

Lauren Major, AFSC
EDC's response to COVID-19 & the #FreeThemAll EDC Class Action Lawsuit

Sebastián León, LCS, Rutgers-New Brunswick
"Criminology and Private Profit: EDC and National Contexts during Covid-19"

Friend formerly detained in EDC
"My experience in EDC during the Covid Pandemic"

FUTURES

4:00-5:00 PM ~ New Jersey's 2021 anti detention law and its aftermath
Moderator: Ulla D. Berg, Rutgers University

Gabriela Viera, Detention Watch Network
"Communities Not Cages: A National Movement to End ICE Detention"

Carolina Sanchez Boe, Aarhus University
"Digital Detention is not an alternative. The economies and effects of ankle monitors and SmartLINK."

Katy Sastre, Executive Director, First Friends of NJ & NY
"Increased Privatization of Immigration Detention"

Whitney Strub, SAS-Rutgers Newark
"From Abolitionism to Bidenism"

Amy Torres, New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice.
"Shut it Down: The Fight to #FreeEDC"

5:30-7:30 PM

Reception and Dinner in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies in Lucy Stone Hall (3 minute walk from the Student Center).