

THE MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



2021/2022
NEWSLETTER



MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS

In the fall of 2021 students returned to campus following the Covid-19 shutdown; the Center was thrilled to welcome them back! For the first time in eighteen months we hosted in-person events again: open houses and fairs; Atheneaeum dinner speakers; task force meetings; film screenings, and more. We also welcomed visiting professor and William F. Podlich Distinguished Fellow, Adam Jones, who spent the fall semester at CMC teaching genocide studies and mentoring research projects with our students. With school reopening, we welcomed a new cohort of McGrublian Center student employees, research assistants, legal research assistants, and fellows.

BACK TO CAMPUS

2021-2022 Student Assistants



In the fall of 2021, the Mgrublian Center selected new and returning student employees for the academic year to take on various tasks, such as assisting professors with human rights research, managing task forces, identifying grants, hosting career panels, securing key speakers, initiating a new mentoring program and more. Additionally, student members of the "Justice League" work as legal research assistants with a Los Angeles-based human rights lawyer.

Above, from left to right:
Hailey Wilson '22, Lucie Kapner '22,
Michelle Ramirez '23, Valentina
Gonzalez '23, Yara Ismael '22,
ErisJames Elliott '23.

Side, from left to right: Saneen Khan
'23, Maya Shah '22, Bhanu
Cheepurupalli '25, Sydney Heath '22.



2021-2022 Student Assistants



Side, from left to right:
Cody Babcock '24, Elena
Neff '22, Grant Thieroff
'22, Angie Gushue '25.



Below, from left to right,
"The Justice League":
Laura Rich '24, Jasmine
Perales '23, Luca Khalsa
'23, Anya Syed '23.



At our Fall open house on September 10th, students learned more about the Center and how to apply and become involved. This event was cohosted with the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies and the Salvatori Center for Individual Freedom.

2021-2022 Research Fellows

The fellowship program provides students with the opportunity to conduct research under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Research fellows spend the academic year diving deep into human rights, Holocaust, or genocide studies projects with access to all the resources and networks the Center has to offer. Additionally, fellows receive a stipend to offset their research expenses. This year, the Center supported five student fellowship projects (one was a partnered project) and on May 6th, they presented their findings on campus.

Mahmood Almadeh '24 – *Democratic Backsliding in Tunisia*

Mahmood is a sophomore at CMC from Manama, Bahrain. He is majoring in PPA and IR. He currently writes for The Golden Antlers and holds a few positions at ASCMC. As a student from the Middle East, he is interested in democratic transitions in the Middle East, US foreign policy in the MENA region, and the politics of post-Arab spring countries. In his free time, he enjoys reading, playing video games, and hanging out with his friends in nature.



2021-2022

Research Fellows



Eduardo Jacinto '25 and Joshua Morganstein '25 – *A Comparative Perspective: Human Rights Abuses During Guatemala's Civil War and Argentina's Dirty War*

Josh and Eduardo are both first-years at CMC. They take an interest in diplomacy and human rights studies, specifically in Latin America. Researching the short-term, intermediate, and lasting effects of political repression across Latin America in the second half of the 20th century, Josh and Eduardo hope that using a comparative perspective will offer profound insights. As freshmen roommates, they were very excited to begin tackling the Mgrublian Center fellowship together.



2021-2022 Research Fellows



Andrew “AJ” Holzer '24 – *The Discontinuity of Jewish Education on "The Conflict"*

AJ is a Sophomore from Chicago, Illinois studying Neuroscience and Philosophy. In his research project, he explores this topic through conversation with members of different Jewish groups in the Los Angeles area. Interested in documentary films and the stories that they are able to tell, he is excited to present his findings in this medium.

Adam Terenyi '25 – *Hungarian Populism: Domestic and International Implications for Human Rights*

Adam is a first year from San Antonio, Texas, majoring in International Relations and Economics. As a Hungarian citizen, he is alarmed by several anti-democratic developments under the Fidesz government, namely breaches of the rule of law and minority securitization. These developments serve as inspiration for his research project, which focuses on the effects of Fidesz's use of the Roma and queer people to further anti-democratic policies.

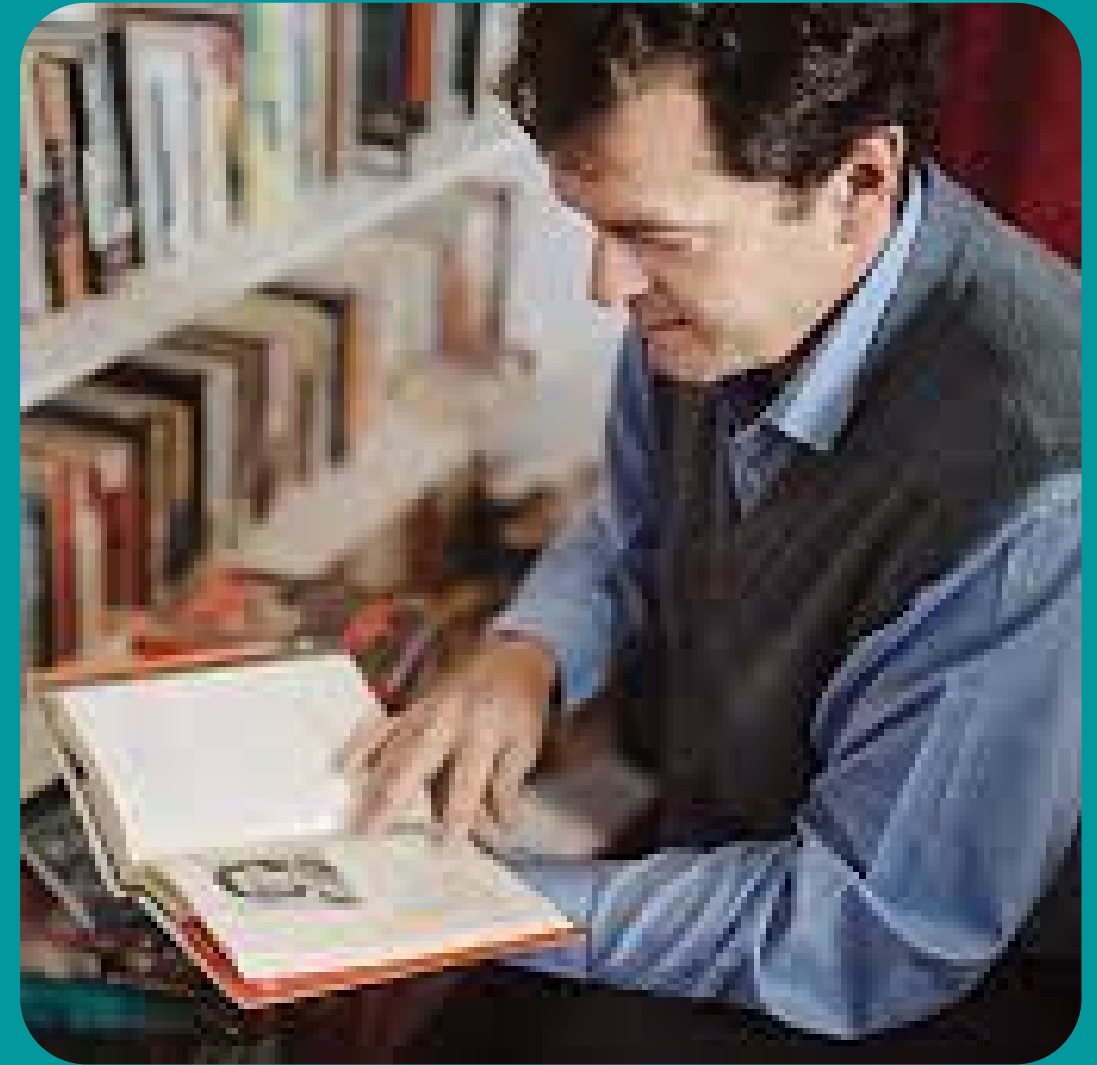


A Warm Welcome to Adam Jones

-interview by Maya Shah '22

This year, the Mgrublian Center was thrilled to welcome Adam Jones, an accomplished human rights scholar. Born in 1963 in Singapore, just as the city-state gained independence, Jones gained an international perspective on life from a young age. Later, he was admitted to the United World College of Southeast Asia, which further got him hooked on the wider world and taught him the importance of field research. Since then, he has traveled to over 105 countries. His traveling has also enriched his perspective on human rights, and he found himself fascinated by the way one's identity impacts their treatment by governments and organizations. His first publication, titled "Gender and the Ethnic Conflict in Ex-Yugoslavia," examined how the majority of violence victims were men. Through his travels, writings, and photography, Jones continues to gain prominence and expertise in his field.

Due to their shared expertise in genocide studies, Professor Lower (Mgrublian Center Director) invited Jones to spend the fall 2021 semester at CMC as a William F. Podlich Distinguished Fellow. During this time, Jones co-taught with Professor Lower, worked on the fourth edition of *Genocide*, presented his photography through a public art display, and spoke at the Athenaeum.



A Warm Welcome to Adam Jones



Jones' Athenaeum talk, "Genocide, Covid-19, and Structural Violence" was held early in the fall '21 semester and featured his extensive scholarship on genocide and structural violence. In the talk, he proposed analytical angles and empirical standards by which structural violence can be incorporated in a genocide framework, highlighting issue-areas related to Covid-19 that urgently require attention and intervention. The event was well attended by 5C students, staff and faculty and marked a return to in-person Athenaeum dinner events at the college.



In his spare time, Adam Jones is also an avid photographer, capturing the world through his lens. Through his travels, he focuses his photography on global, historical sites often those which hold painful pasts or were the site of genocidal events.



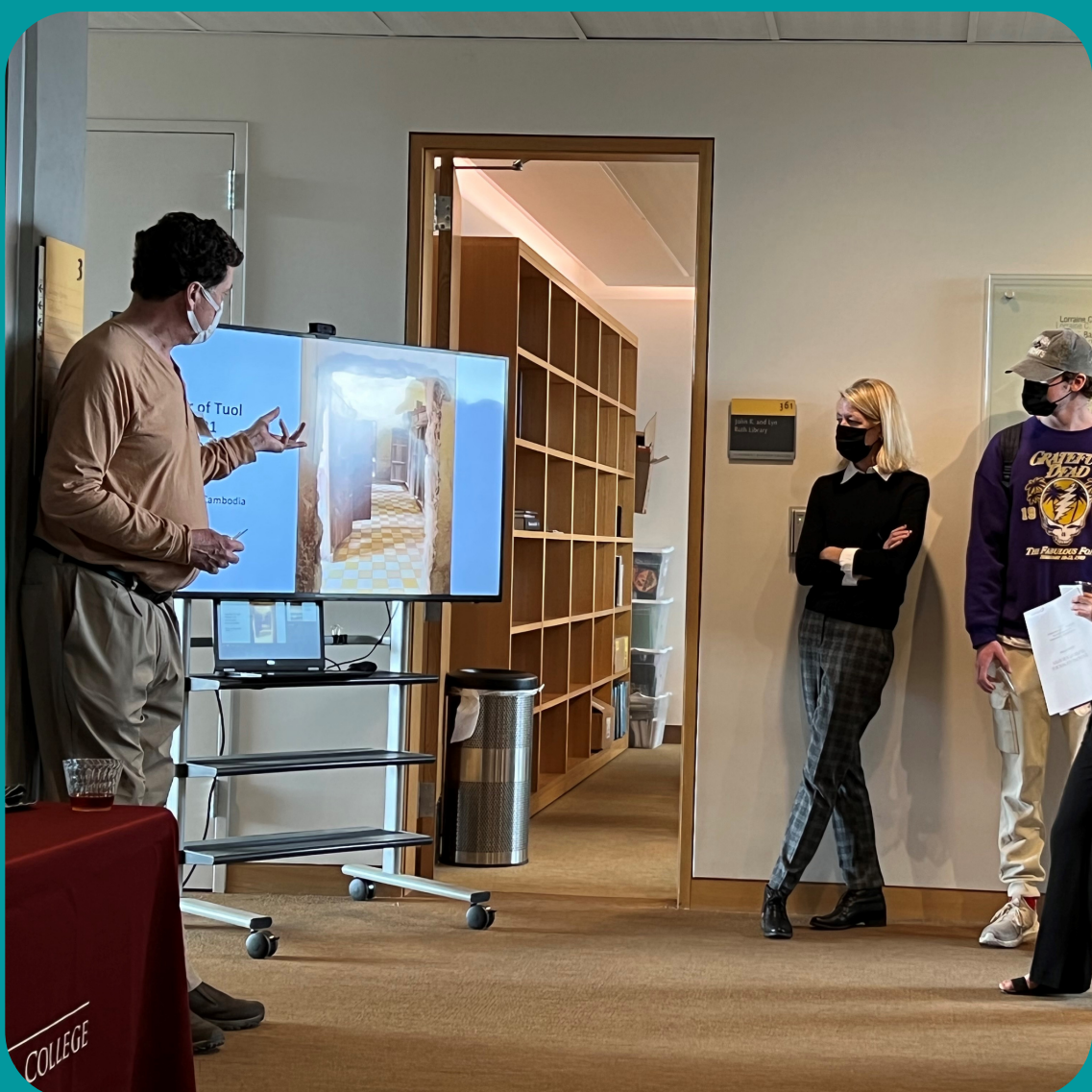
Evoking Genocide Through Photography



In February, Professor Jones returned to CMC over Parents Weekend to host a photography exhibition titled "Evoking Genocide through Photography".

The exhibit featured ten selected photographs and included comments by Jones regarding the challenges of visually evoking the realities and legacies of genocides and mass conflict, both past and present.

Jones' Global Photo Archive comprises 25,000 color photos from over 70 countries, including some which were shared during these exhibitions on campus. Posted under a Creative Commons license, these images are used by authors, publishers, academics, students, media outlets, NGOs, and government agencies across the globe and highlight Jones' scholarly work on genocide, war, and human rights. The collection is publicly available and can be found at https://www.flickr.com/photos/adam_jones/albums.



The Middle East: Hot Topics and Challenges in the Region Today

The Mgrublian Center was proud to welcome Hagar Chemali to educate students on the most significant issues faced by the Middle East. Chemali is a political satirist and foreign policy expert. She worked in the U.S. government for 12 years in a range of senior national security and public affairs positions. Today, she hosts, writes, and produces her Youtube world news show, "Oh My World!"



Drawing from her extensive professional and academic experiences in foreign relations, national security, and public affairs, Chemali was invited to speak at CMC's Athenaeum. In collaboration with the Mgrublian Center, Chemali delivered an animated talk during the dinner program and provided insightful commentary on some of the most pressing and ever-evolving topics in the Middle East today.

HITLER'S JEWISH REFUGEES: HOPE AND ANXIETY IN PORTUGAL



On November 9th, the Mgrublian Center hosted a dinner event with Marion Kaplan, an esteemed NYU professor of modern Jewish history. At the event, she described the dramatic experiences of Jewish refugees, fleeing Hitler's regime and taking refuge in Portugal. Drawing attention not only to the social and physical upheavals these refugees experienced, Kaplan also highlighted the emotional impacts of needing to flee home and beg strangers for kindness. Portugal's dictator at the time, António de Oliveira Salazar, admitted the largest number of refugees fleeing westward. However, the dictator set his secret police on those who did not move along quickly enough. To contrast this additional anxiety and violence experienced by the refugees, Portuguese citizens offered shelter, care, and hope to the Jewish population.

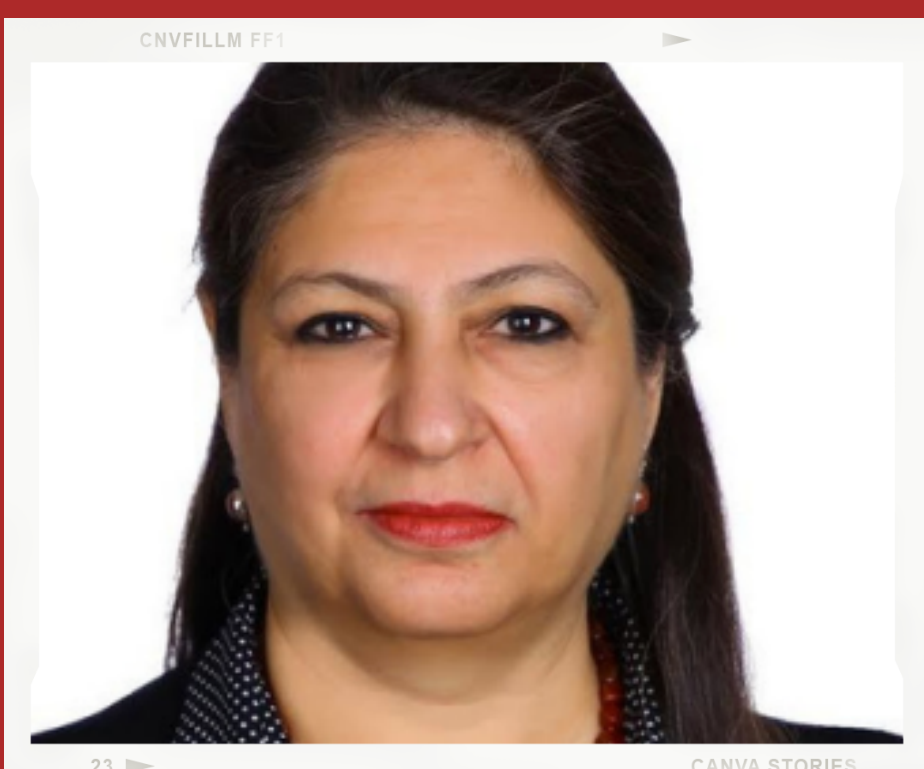
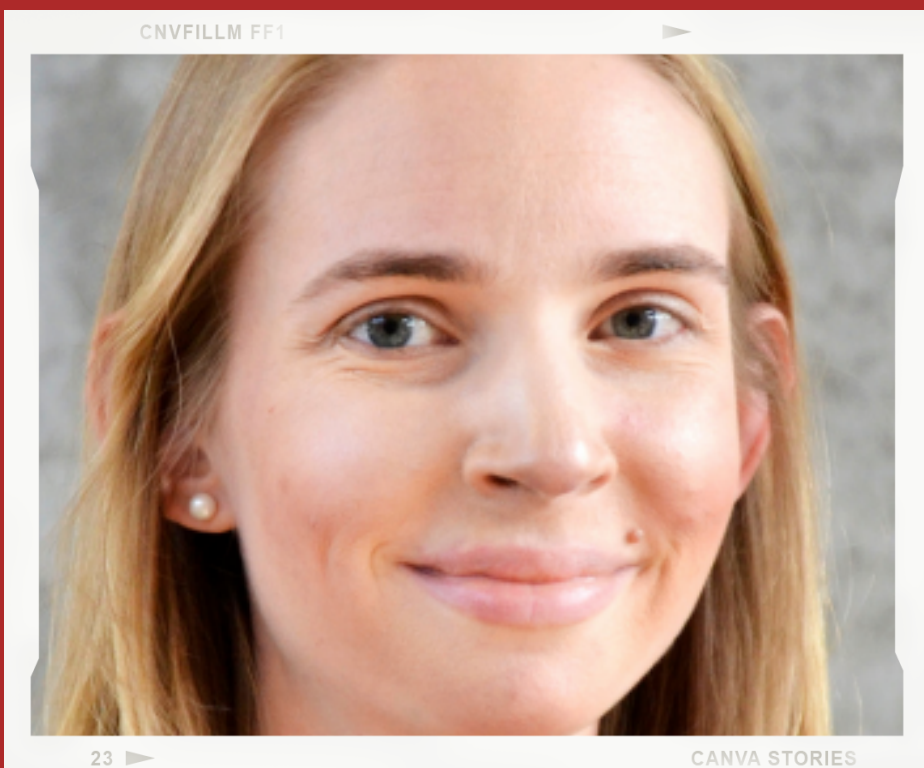
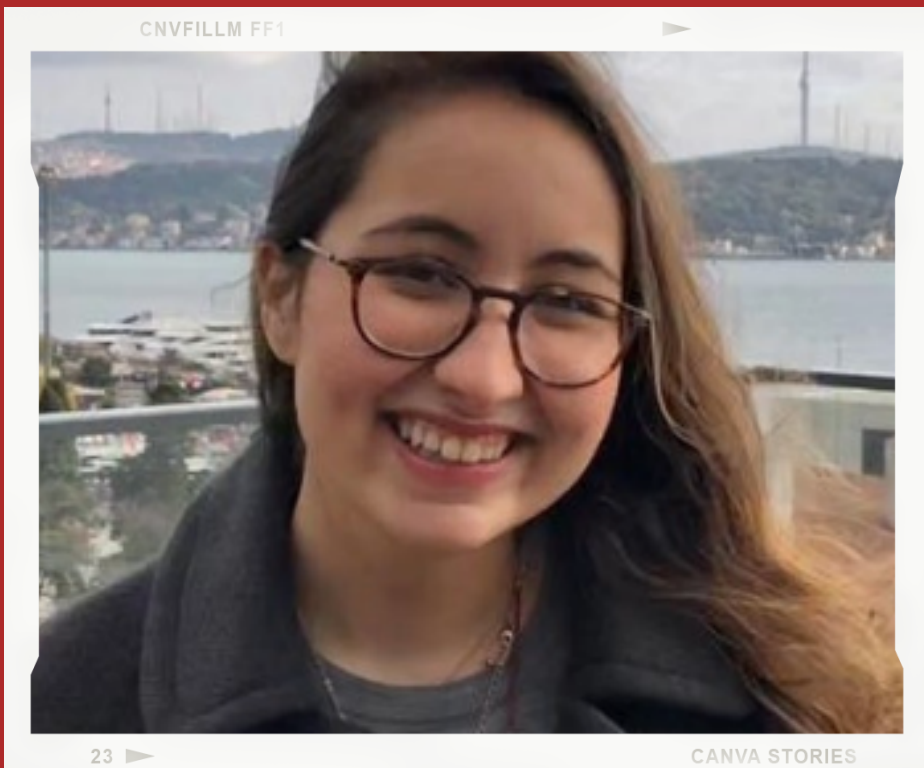
MOVIE SCREENING: PETRI DISH, U.S.A.

On March 24th, the Center hosted the premier of Matt Leder's (CMC '22) documentary film, **Petri Dish, U.S.A.** Leder (pictured at bottom, center), a senior at CMC, was inspired to start this project when he saw the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S. prison system especially hard, resulting in a devastating number of inmate fatalities. To begin his work, Leder received a Creative Works Fellowship from the Gould Center to create a documentary that shed light on the deadly consequences manifesting in jails, specifically in the U.S. south. Petri Dish, U.S.A. follows three families as they struggle to secure humane treatment and freedom for their loved ones behind bars. A personal journey as well as a critique of the criminal justice system at large, the film examines our penal system through the lens of the COVID-19 pandemic. What does this virus reveal about our society's relationship with prisons and prisoners, and how might COVID-19 be shaping a new way forward?

In addition to the screening, a Q&A was hosted with two of the film's protagonists: Kimberly Muktarian (bottom left), president of Save Our Sons, and Vicky Scroggins (bottom right), who works with Imprisoned Love Ones Matter.



Human Rights Career Panel



The Center's annual Human Rights Career Panel took place on March 30th and exposed students to the vast and exciting range of opportunities that exist in the human rights field.

This year's panel featured (from left top to bottom): Deniz Yuksel, a Turkey Specialist for Amnesty International; Kate Castenson, a senior advisor with the Humanitarian leadership and Response team at Mercy Corps; Andrew Bogrand, a senior policy advisor for extractive industries at Oxfam America; and Shoubo Jamal, a senior equality specialist for MENA at UNICEF.

The Politics and Policies of Menstruation and the Fight for Gender Equity

On April 6th, the Mgrublian Center welcomed Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, an accomplished writer and advocate on issues of gender and politics in America. Jennifer Weiss-Wolf was dubbed the “architect of the U.S. campaign to squash the tampon tax” and currently serves as the inaugural women and democracy fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law. In 2022, she joined *Ms. Magazine*—the feminist media—where she serves as executive director for partnerships and strategy. In 2015, Weiss-Wolf conceptualized and co-edited a volume of *Legal Change: Lessons from America’s Social Movements*. Her book, *Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity*, earned starred reviews by The Washington Post calling it “a riveting read . . . a promising call to smart activism.” In 2021, Weiss-Wolf organized the Brennan Center series, “Abortion is Essential to Democracy.” Her forthcoming book, *Period. Full Stop. The Politics of Menopause*, will be published by NYU Press in 2024. Ms. Weiss-Wolf’s Athenaeum talk was a highlight of the spring semester for many students interested in topics of gender politics and equity.



Periods Gone Public....After centuries of being shrouded in taboo and superstition, periods have gone mainstream. Seemingly overnight, a new, high-profile movement has emerged—one dedicated to bold activism, creative product innovation, and smart policy advocacy—to address the centrality of menstruation in relation to core issues of gender equality and equity. Jennifer Weiss-Wolf (at left), attorney and author, explores why periods have become a prominent political cause impacting societal attitudes throughout history—in the United States and around the world—inspiring grassroots activism and product innovation. In her book, *Periods Gone Public: Taking a Stand for Menstrual Equity*, Weiss-Wolf challenges readers to face this stigma head-on and to elevate an agenda that recognizes both the power—and the absolute normalcy—of menstruation.



During her visit, Ms. Weiss-Wolf met with members of the Center's public health task force, Curis, during an afternoon reception (left). Curis's mission is to raise awareness on topics related to public health and human rights and to improve access to health care for individuals around the globe. Students who attended the reception also received a free copy of her book.

Sex Week & Curis Fundraiser

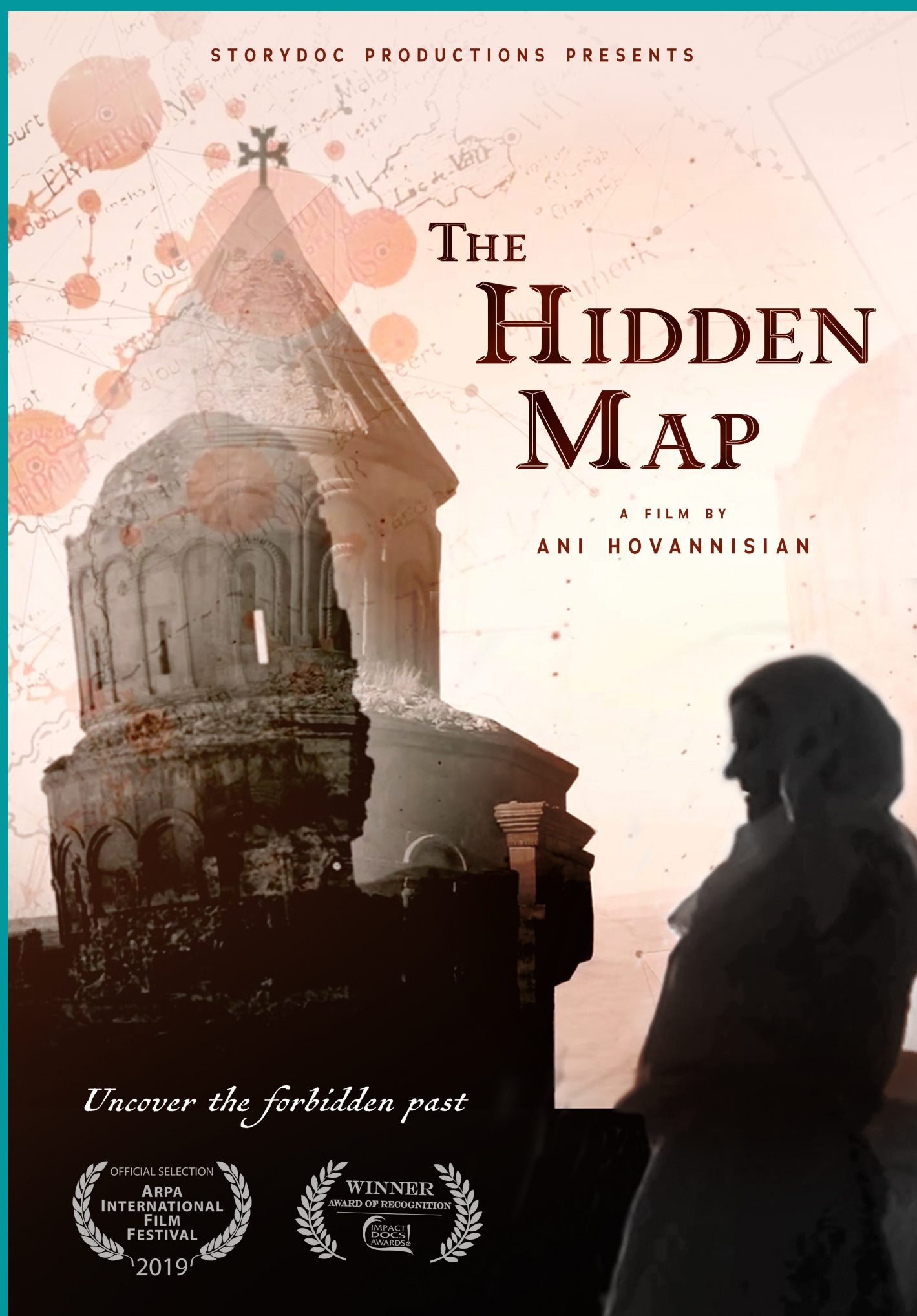


CMC hosts an annual Sex Week to raise awareness about sexual health and consent. At this year's Sex Week Carnival (just days after Ms. Weiss-Wolf's visit to CMC), Curis hosted a fundraiser and informational booth surrounding menstrual equity.

The fundraiser included a raffle, and participants bought tickets to win a "Netflix and Chill" basket. The winner, Senior Andrew Winssinger (left with Curis's President Angie Gushue '25), received a gift basket consisting of candy, snacks, an issue of *Ms.* Magazine, and a copy of Weiss-Wolf's *Periods Gone Public*. Curis ended the day with over 1,100 donated menstrual products, which were then delivered to the Foothill Family Shelter.

Uncovering the Forbidden Past: An Armenian Odyssey

On April 19th, Ani Hovannisian (at right) delivered the annual Mgrublian Center lecturer on Armenian Studies. Daughter of Center Advisory Board Member and renowned Armenian history scholar, Richard Hovannisian, Ani has traveled the world directing and producing award-winning non-fiction stories for television programs and international audiences and reporting news on Armenian television. It was a journey to the native lands of her genocide-survivor grandparents that led Ani to her most recent and critical work, *The Hidden Map*, a film which has earned more than a dozen selections and awards at international film festivals and was considered for three 2021 Primetime Emmys, including Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking.



Ani Hovannisian has been a reporter and anchor on Armenian television for over a decade and is involved with the Armenian community in California and worldwide.

Over the course of four trips and seven years, Hovannisian completed this documentary born of her daring journeys through the forbidden lands of her ancestral past. While documenting evidence of thousands of years of Armenian creation and ultimate decimation in modern-day Turkey, she met a Scottish explorer who had discovered these mysterious lands 30 years earlier. Ani returned with a tiny team, and together the duo dug beneath the surface, uncovering buried secrets, sacred relics, silenced voices, and the hidden map. Directed, produced, written, and narrated by Hovannisian, *The Hidden Map* debuted nationwide on NBCLX the weekend of April 24, 2021 to coincide with Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Several encore presentations followed, including multiple popular PBS SoCal broadcasts set for the summer of 2022.



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For more information, please visit <https://human-rights.cmc.edu/>

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