

Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society

Research and Public Engagement in the Service of Social Justice

The **Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society** at Berkeley serves as a platform for a vibrant network of researchers and scholars advancing knowledge and policy related to issues faced by marginalized communities around the globe.

As part of the Berkeley Initiative for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity funded by the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, the Haas Institute aims to change the very nature of interdisciplinary research by breaking down barriers that have traditionally kept researchers in silos and by creating new possibilities for community-oriented research for change.

At the heart of the Haas Institute are seven faculty research clusters that focus on addressing pivotal issues related to vulnerable and marginalized populations. The clusters are composed of almost 100 faculty members and led by eight endowed chairs focused on equity and inclusion, a force that is unprecedented at Berkeley, and unparalleled in the nation. The seven research clusters engage in multidisciplinary research in the areas of: Disability Studies; Diversity and Democracy; Diversity and Health Disparities; Economic Disparities; LGBTQ Citizenship; Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy; and Religious Diversity.

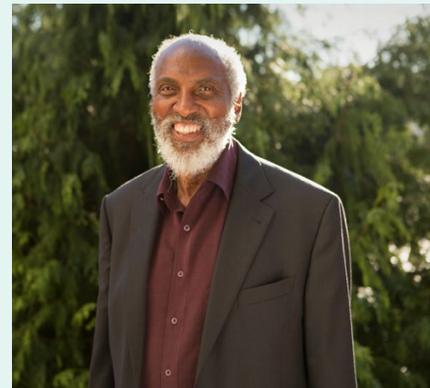
While each of the seven clusters engages in interdisciplinary research, the Haas Institute also employs a team of experienced staff who work on issues requiring immediate and long-term action. Strategic communicators work with the Haas Institute's researchers to reframe public discourse around issues of marginality and inequality, and collaborate with the faculty clusters to create connections among research at the policy and community level.

The work of the Haas Institute is centered on creating connections among diverse stakeholders, collaborating with strategic partners, and approaching problem solving in direct contact and critical inquiry with communities.

Belonging and its converse, Othering, are central tenets of how the Haas Institute frames its work. Belonging or being fully human means more than having access. It means having a meaningful voice and being afforded the opportunity to participate in the design of social and cultural structures. Belonging entails being respected at a basic level that includes the right to both contribute and make demands upon society and political institutions.

Highlights, Impact, and Institutionalization

- » Renowned civil rights and civil liberties scholar John A. Powell was appointed as the Robert D. Haas Endowed Chair to direct and lead the Haas Institute. Professor Powell is a national leader and frequently sought-after speaker on issues of race, civil rights, fair housing, democracy, and civil liberties. Bringing him to Berkeley has increased fundraising for diversity research by over \$3 million.



John A. Powell, Professor of Law, African American Studies, and Ethnic Studies, and Director of Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society

Programs and Initiatives continued

- » Four leading national scholars have been hired to lead several of the research clusters: Hilary Hoynes, Economic Disparities Cluster; Na'ilah Nasir,* Race & Education Cluster; Rodney Hero, Diversity & Democracy Cluster; and Russell Robinson, LGBTQ Cluster. Hiring for the remaining cluster leaders is still in progress.

In addition to operationalizing the structure of the Haas Institute and the seven faculty clusters, the institute has been working on several fronts to advance its larger vision for equity and inclusion, including:

- » Creating the **Haas Network for Transformative Change**, a network of social justice organizations, leaders, advocates, academics, and policymakers. The Haas Network model is designed to align social change efforts across a broad range of constituencies and thus build greater coherence and scale in addressing seemingly intractable problems. To date, the Network has organized four meetings of national-level leaders and is deeply engaged in identifying and disseminating a social justice meta-narrative throughout the United States.
- » Providing research-based analysis and thought leadership on the #BlackLivesMatter movement. The Haas Institute published responses that received national media attention, and Director John A. Powell has been a widely sought-after commentator in many venues, including online forums, broadcast TV, radio, and speaking engagements, where he discussed the systemic issues that underlie many of the most deeply entrenched issues faced by Black and brown people.
- » Advancing a meta-analysis on "Othering and Belonging." As part of this work, the Haas Institute hosted a national conference on **Othering and Belonging** in the spring of 2015 that brought together almost 700 people to explore the mechanisms of Othering in order to advance structures, identities, and systems that promote Belonging.

Looking to the future, the Haas Institute's third year will focus on strengthening the pipeline of faculty research, amplifying the efforts of the Haas Network for Transformative Change, and doing the rigorous work of hiring the remaining faculty members to populate the seven research clusters.

**As of this report's publication, Na'ilah Nasir was chosen to become Berkeley's new Vice Chancellor for Equity & Inclusion.*