

 **OPEN THE BOOKS OVERSIGHT REPORT**

# UNDERWRITING THE INTIFADA?

**AMERICAN TAX DOLLARS FUND ACADEMIA'S DEI,  
DECOLONIZATION & ANTI-ISRAEL WORLDVIEWS**



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# INTRODUCTION

Americans cut checks for prestigious universities in a number of ways. For example, Open the Books has covered the massive growth in (largely untaxed) Ivy League endowments even as they collected tens of billions in grants and contracts from the federal government. We also pay for it by underwriting student loans and other instruments like Pell grants.

We paid for it every time President Biden announced another round of loan “forgiveness,” [\\$168.5 billion](#) in total.

But at too many of those universities, our national investment has supported radical thinking, divisive identity politics, and even a permissive culture of antisemitism. Rather than focusing on bread-and-butter fields like STEM and business, these universities have sunk billions into diversity, equity and inclusion – embedding it everywhere from campus culture to scientific research grants. Aside from institutionalized DEI policies that divide students by “identities” and promote oppressor-oppressed narratives, prestigious universities have also been grappling with executive-level plagiarism, federal investigations into their foreign funding streams, and court battles with the Trump administration over their hiring policies and research.

With this track record, perhaps it shouldn’t have been so surprising to see the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023 perversely sparked intense anti-Israel protests all over the campuses of prestigious institutions.

By funding schools that teach radical ideologies and practice a far-Left DEI philosophy, controversial professors and administrators are also gaining access to a vast ecosystem of tax dollars, and influence over impressionable young people. These funds can be used to advance their research, build their standing as credentialed academics, gain tenure, and impact international policy discussions.

Although the Trump administration has issued executive orders aimed at stopping the divisive DEI ideology from coloring every aspect of educational life, university staff seem to be doing their best to make an end-run around the feds. In an oped for [CityJournal](#), Heather McDonald writes that both public and private entities are “calibrating their language to preserve as much of the pre-Trump status quo as possible.”

“The administration can flag certain words and phrases essential to the antiracist project. It can eliminate them from official executive branch pronouncements,” says McDonald. “But the professional antiracists in faculties and bureaucracies won’t cede power without a fight, since uprooting the diversity ideology constitutes an existential threat.... The battle is just beginning.”

As for antisemitism, President Trump has also issued an order with guidelines to “curb or combat it.” There’s plainly a lot of work to do on that front, too, as evidenced by a torrent of anecdotal and survey evidence.

“For the past two years, our committee has uncovered an appalling amount of antisemitism taking place on college campuses,” House Education and Workforce Committee Chair Rep. Tim Walberg said [in a February 2025 statement](#). “We’ve also heard heartbreaking testimony from Jewish college students who were excited to attend their dream university only to face threats and harassment from their own classmates and teachers.”

# OBJECTIVES

This report will review professors and faculty who have exhibited radical thinking and associations, taking up the lexicon of the far-Left, which lately has professed an anti-Western, anticolonial worldview. These professors work with and amplify the efforts outside groups like Jewish Voices for Peace, the Palestinian Youth Movement and Students for Justice in Palestine; make anti-Zionist and even antisemitic representations on social media; and inject their bias into classroom learning.

Open the Books chose a varied sample of public and private universities across the country. There are usual suspects like Columbia and the University of California system, of course; but state schools are not immune either. In the former cases, we found the ranks of radical professors were far deeper than the few who made national headlines. In the less obvious places, we still found outrageous case studies. Furthermore, we found that while many professors had landed somewhere outside of liberal, coastal enclaves, they were products of places like Columbia, University of California, or Georgetown – and in formal conversation with their faculties and student populations.

In this way, one can almost picture the flow of this troubling thinking from the tallest of Ivory Towers out across the country. While there's no single Patient Zero, SUNY, California, and Columbia act as disease vectors, offering degrees to students who travel further afield and reemerge as professors or lecturers themselves.

At each of the eight schools, we not only chronicle these teachers' statements and associations, but place them in the context of the broader institutional environment. What financial commitments have their home institutions made to advancing DEI on their payroll? And what radical ideas are they pursuing with federal tax dollars?

After all, the oppressor-oppressed model is the foundation of the DEI philosophy, and it's the template every other public policy debate gets crammed into – including the debate over Israel, Gaza and the whole of the Levant.

## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Immediately following October 7, 2023 Columbia was one of the first campuses that erupted and captured national headlines. For weeks, the Ivy League University made news for particularly violent and angry protests, drawing Congressional attention at an April hearing titled “Columbia in Crisis: Columbia University’s Response to Anti-Semitism.”

During the hearing, Columbia’s then-president Minouche Shafik fielded questions concerning antisemitism at the university, both during the campus protests and more broadly.

Of particular concern was tenured professor Joseph Massad of Columbia’s Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS) department, who published an article calling the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas fighters “a stunning victory of the Palestinian resistance.” The attack killed around 1,200 people; Israelis and foreigners.

Shafik came under [intense](#) scrutiny for her reluctance to condemn chants of “from the river to the sea” on campus, and for lying about disciplining Massad when she in fact had not.

The university administration finally took action against campus protestors on April 30 after students took over the academic building Hamilton Hall - breaking windows, barricading doors and causing extensive property damage. The NYPD was given the go-ahead to engage these protestors and clear the building and tented “encampment.”

A few months later, Shafik resigned, [citing](#) difficulty in overcoming “divergent views across our community” and the “considerable toll” on her family and broader school community.

Fast forward to 2025, and Columbia itself has released three task force reports on antisemitism that demonstrate the depth of the problem festering beneath its picturesque Morningside Heights campus. While just 10% of students at Columbia reported they’d experienced discrimination based on their religion, 53% of Jewish students reported the same. “This general pattern for Jewish and Muslim students was observed across various types of mistreatments (e.g., being mocked, cyberbullying, being physically assaulted),” according to the report.

A whopping 87% of Jewish students also reporting feeling concern over expressing their views during the 2023-2024 academic year. [According to the report](#), those “patterns of concern are expressed through fear of online harassment, altering language to avoid controversy, and refraining from sharing opinions.”

Those figures accompany a litany of anecdotes about harassment, intimidation and other difficulties Jewish students and families reported facing at Columbia. As of March 2025, Columbia is among 60 universities [under investigation](#) by the US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights.

Massad, mentioned above, dominated the conversation after being seen as celebrating the brutality of Hamas. But he’s one of many with extreme ideas and associations on campus. According to the nonprofit Canary Mission, which has done an enormous amount of work to catalog such professors, **there are over 190 people** currently or formerly at Columbia, or who earned their degrees there and went on to teach at another university. Each of them has supported at least one of the radical groups outlined in our methodology.

## PROFESSOR PROFILES

**Joseph Massad, Professor**, Modern Arab Politics and Intellectual History ([BIO](#))

Massad has taught at Columbia since 1999. In 2002, Massad gave a [talk](#) at Columbia called "On Zionism and Jewish Supremacy." He was awarded tenure in 2009.

As long ago of 2004, [reports indicate Massad had "demanded"](#) that an Israeli student tell him how many Palestinians he'd killed when he was part of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF).

At [least one](#) student at Columbia using fellowship money from the federal government took a class with Massad to fulfill the program's Middle East area studies requirements. While this student enjoyed learning about "gender and feminist theories" in his class, titled "Gender and Sexuality in the Arab World," other students were less impressed with the professor's courses.

Critiques of Massad's classes published on [Middle East Forum](#), a nonprofit interested in combatting radical Islam at American universities and beyond, highlight Massad's bias against both Israel and the West. The comments claim:

*"The professor (and, shockingly, many of the students) tend to turn discussion sections into 'us vs. them' blame game, where they list the West's various cultural crimes ad nauseum... not that it's not justified... if you're in this class, chances are you already know Europe and the US suck"*

*"I worry about the people who enter the class with little to no knowledge of the topic and form their opinions based on Massad's lectures and assigned readings...The class is taught unethically, and should be renamed 'Why Palestinians Hate Israel.'"*

*"Massad clearly tries to provoke his students into applying ancient philosophy to current events, but he takes a categorically anti-U.S. tack at every possible opportunity, and usually succeeds only at alienating his students."*

As of December 2024, Massad was still teaching courses at Columbia, even sparking the resignations of other professors.

Avi Friedman, a professor of financial economics at Columbia Business School, [said his resignation came after Massad was appointed](#) to teach a course on Zionism. According to Friedman, "This wasn't just Columbia reacting to events; this was an active decision to promote an anti-Zionist narrative...If a professor said the U.S. shouldn't exist, would you let them teach American history? Would you let Meir Kahane teach a course on Palestinian self-determination?"

He said the university's defense for the decision was "nonsense." "They kept telling me, 'We are committed to academic freedom.' But if Massad had made these comments about any other minority group, he'd have been fired in a minute. No question."

Similarly, in December 2024, adjunct professor Lawrence Rosenblatt [resigned](#) over what appeared to be the same course - "History of the Jewish Enlightenment in 19th century Europe and the development of Zionism." In his resignation letter, Rosenblatt said having Massad run the course was "akin to having a White nationalist teach about the US Civil Rights movement and the struggle for Black equality."

On X, Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) fumed, “why should U.S. taxpayers subsidize ideological indoctrination that glorifies the mass murder, maiming, mutilation, rape, and abduction of Jews and Israelis?...What’s next at Columbia? David Duke teaching a course on antiracism?”

**Mohamed Abdou**, Visiting Professor, former

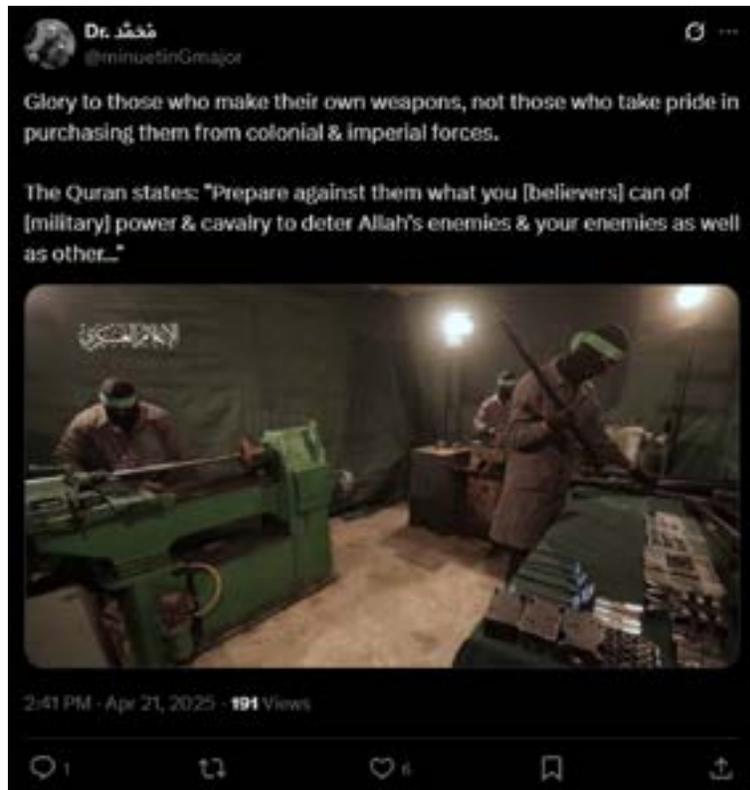
Then-visiting assistant professor Mohamed Abou, formerly teaching at Cornell, is a [self-proclaimed](#) “anarchist interdisciplinary activist-scholar of Indigenous, Black, critical race, and Islamic studies, as well as gender, sexuality, abolition, and decolonization.”

He has been a support of Students for Justice in Palestine and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

In January 2024, Abdou said of the Hamas attack on Israel:

“Look what 1,500 warriors were able to do, to whatever extent that we agree or disagree or partially accept, or whatever, Hamas or not,” he continued, “But ultimately, I support the resistance.”

Abdou has posted a litany of controversial thoughts on X, including “Glory to those who make their own weapons, not those who take pride in purchasing them from colonial and imperial forces.”



In a 2024 post, [he called](#) Hamas general Yahya Sinwar a “hero.”

Abdou also attended a Palestine Working Group event at Columbia, called “[Propaganda and Israel’s War on Truth](#),” and [gave controversial remarks](#).

“I don’t believe in representational politics. I am for ‘land back.’ This is indigenous land. That means indigenous sovereignty needs to assert itself,” he summarized.

Seeming to rationalize Hamas violence, he said, “Listen, the onset of decolonization is inherently a violent act. There is no undoing the violence...I have the power then to go organize with indigenous people and to center them in my life.”

He said “land back” is his “building premise,” because anything short of decolonization would be simply rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic. “That requires leaving of the land and building alternatives on the land because otherwise, I’m fudging and trying to fix, ‘reform’ the settler colonial order. I am not going to spend time doing that. It’s a white supremacist order.”

During her congressional testimony, Minouche Shafik stated that Mohamed Abdou was fired from the university, which Abou [denied](#), telling an undercover reporter: “I’m not fired, I’m not. I wasn’t hired in October, it was all a sham of a lie.”

Indeed, Abdou finished teaching the spring term he was contracted for, but a [website](#) launched to support his wrongful termination lawsuit against the university states that “the Shafik administration undercut active, ongoing efforts by students and faculty to extend his teaching post into a permanent position.”

His Columbia biography page has been removed from its Middle East Institute website.

**Dr. Katherine Franke**, James L. Dohr Professor of Law, ret.

Franke, who [also directed](#) the law school’s Center for Gender and Sexuality, supports the BDS movement and a host of groups: Palestine Legal, Jewish Voices for Peace, Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine, and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

She “retired” in January 2025, although she said it was more like a “termination dressed up in more palatable terms,” following an investigation into some of her past conduct.

In late 2021, Israel’s Ministry of Defense [designated](#) six Palestinian organizations “terror organizations” that were essentially extensions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Both the US and EU consider PFLP a foreign terrorist organization. Israel “accused them of funneling donor aid to militants,” said they “received large sums of money from European countries and international organizations, using a variety of forgery and deceit,” and that they “present themselves as acting for humanitarian purposes; however, they serve as a cover for the ‘Popular Front’ promotion and financing.”

Shortly after, on November 18, Franke [moderated](#) a panel at Columbia's Center for Palestine Studies, "Conflating Human Rights Advocacy with Terrorism," during which one speaker suggested they "try and challenge the U.S. terrorist designations of some Palestinian organizations" like the PFLP, which has a history of murders, suicide bombings and other acts of intifada.

At the end of the proceeding, Franke herself said, "one of the ways that I think we could subvert the strategy [of designating organizations as terrorist groups] is for each of us to make a contribution to all six." She suggested they "see the terrorism designation as a kind of seal of approval." She finished by saying, "We have over 100 people on this call and that will undermine what they're doing, I think, in really significant ways."

She has a host of other social media posts that illustrate extreme positions. In a 2018 post, she suggested that "Nakba" is a "structure" - that it's a concept rather than a moment in history. Generally the term, meaning "catastrophe," is used in reference to the outcome of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. She [tweeted](#): "The #Nakba is a structure, not an event: the ongoing erasure of refugees from Mandate Palestine and normalization of their forced exile."

Earlier that year, she [tweeted](#), "We're part of movements that experience structural racism, persecution & targeted eradication by our government, we stand w/ Palestinians living in their homeland & all over the world in the struggle against settler colonialism, occupation, apartheid, racism, & ethnic cleansing."

Later, in 2023, she [said](#) it was a "dangerous untruth" to suggest that calling for "decolonization" or chants of "From the River to the Sea" imply a genocide of Jews.

She [posted](#) that she was "proud" to be among the thousands at a Jewish Voices for Peace protest to shut down traffic across the Manhattan Bridge in protest of a "genocide in Gaza."

She's also amplified JVP's "Deadly Exchange," campaign, which we describe in more detail at University of Arizona.

In a January 2024 interview on DemocracyNow!, [Franke said](#), "So many of those Israeli students who come to the Columbia campus are coming right out of their military service and have been known to harass Palestinian and other students on our campus."

This was the comment that got the ball rolling on her departure as colleagues "[filed a complaint against](#) her claiming she had created a hostile environment for Israeli students." An outside firm was called in to investigate, and she was found to have "violated Columbia's antidiscrimination policies. An investigator also found Franke violated policy by disclosing the names of the colleagues who had filed the complaint against her, according to Franke's statement."

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**Dr. Mahmood Mamdani is the [Herbert Lehman Professor of Government](#) at Columbia's [Department of Anthropology](#) and also teaches courses in the MESAAS (Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies) center.**

According to his bio, he specializes in the **“the study of colonialism, anti-colonialism and decolonisation.** His works explore the intersection between politics and culture, a comparative study of colonialism since 1452, the history of civil war and genocide in Africa, the Cold War and the War on Terror, the history and theory of human rights, and the politics of knowledge production.”

Mamdani has recently attracted attention as his son has won the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City in June 2025.

In a [January 2024 interview](#) with *The Nation*, Mamdani discussed [his latest book](#), in which he argued that the concept of a nation-state is inextricable from settler-colonial violence; it was less about mitigation of conflict and more about ethnic cleansing and homogeneity. Rather than trace nationalism back to the Treaty of Westphalia, he views the push-and-pull between Jews and Moorish Muslims in Iberia as a starting point, and the Israel-Palestine conflict as a modern example to focus on (excerpt below).

Mamdani’s effort to attach a basic historical concept, the nation-state, with colonialism and ethnic cleaning - that they “were twins joined at the hip” - is characteristic of the ideology that has proliferated on elite university campuses.

“I also wanted to show that from the outset, the nation-state project could not be achieved without ethnic cleansing and extreme violence,” Mamdani told *The Nation* of his book. Mamdani rarely posts on X, but one series from 2021 includes rote claims of apartheid and “colonial occupation.” Mamdani says of violence at the time, “This is not a conflict between Israel and Hamas. We are witnessing something far more meaningful, the birth of the Third Intifadah [sic] against settler colonialism!”



## Foreign Language and Area Studies Funds at Columbia

Last fall Open the Books published analyses showing Columbia University received nearly \$6 billion in federal contracts and grants from 2018-2022 (total spending for ten so-called “elite” universities in our report exceeded \$33 billion). Grants [included](#) \$3.5 million from the National Science Foundation for a Columbia project to “decolonize geoscience.”

New findings show Columbia’s Middle East Institute, of which Massad’s department is a member, has received \$2.8 mil in federal funding from 2020-2023. All grants are from the Department of Education’s foreign language and area studies spending under Title VI. By funding language acquisition and area studies, the grants support a larger pool of potential workers in the national security, foreign aid, and policy fields—ideally furthering the national interest.

Columbia used controversial professor Joseph Massad, as well as Mamdani, as selling points in its 2018 [grant application](#) for Title VI funds.

Columbia mentions Massad by name (along with many other professors at the Institute) saying, “a significant number of faculty...are strong on contemporary politics, with tremendous geographic range,” the grant application continues, “Rashid Khalidi and Paul Chamberlin (History), Timothy Mitchell and Joseph Massad (MESAAS), teach courses that focus on the modern history, gender, political economy, international relations, politics and culture of the region.”

There’s also a name check of Mamdani, who “teaches courses on Islam, state violence, and international relations.” He’s listed as teaching a relevant course called “Modern State/ Colonial Subject.”

In describing its foreign studies programs and professors, [Columbia told the feds](#), “Our faculty are called on for their expertise by local, national, and international media,” and singles out Mamdani as a “senior” faculty member who “teaches courses on Islam, state violence, and international relations.” It’s all part of Columbia’s “long and distinguished history in the academic study of world cultures. The university’s professional schools have trained scores of individuals who have been leading figures in world affairs.”

One grant, which paid out \$653,632 between 2022 and 2023, specifically funded [Foreign Language and Area Students \(FLAS\) fellowships](#) for students—prestigious awards to gain proficiency in “less commonly taught languages.”

According to a Department of Education [press kit](#), graduate and undergraduate students are selected by their universities for these awards. Students can then use the funding (\$18,000 for graduate students per academic year, \$10,000 for undergrads) for language and area studies training at their home institution or abroad.

The Middle East Institute is just one department at Columbia receiving Foreign Language and Area Studies grants from the Department of Education. The university’s East Asian and South Asian institutes also receive substantial grants.

From 2020-2024 the university was awarded **\$8.2 million** in total Foreign Language and Area Studies grants.

## Columbia Federal Funding and DEI Spending

Columbia received \$5.4 billion in federal grants and contracts from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025.

GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
\$1,052,640,056	\$176,357,074	\$17,406,118	\$5,263,925	\$1,251,667,172
\$1,131,325,282	\$172,304,799	\$14,565,106	\$7,977,584	\$1,326,172,771
\$1,123,574,625	\$153,967,646	\$15,263,599	\$7,682,643	\$1,300,488,515
\$1,099,569,287	\$133,989,804	\$18,051,476	\$6,540,285	\$1,258,150,852
\$300,107,733	\$59,156,438	\$1,273,987	\$1,584,759	\$362,122,917
<b>\$4,707,216,983</b>	<b>\$695,775,762</b>	<b>\$66,560,285</b>	<b>\$29,049,195</b>	<b>\$5,498,602,225</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

The Trump administration had [targeted](#) Columbia for its antisemitic campus climate in the wake of the Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, and for its illegal race-based hiring and admissions practices. As the administration presses the university for reforms \$400 million in federal funding are being withheld.

In response, Columbia removed some DEI policy language from its websites and removed mandatory DEI statements from faculty hiring processes. Many changes are transparently cosmetic; required DEI courses are now called “inclusive perspectives and pedagogy” courses. Faculty Senate President Rojhat Avsar told the Columbia [Chronicle](#):

“We’re not changing anything in terms of our commitment or values. What’s changing here is clarifying our intentions, and making the point that those practices are non-discriminatory.”

Of course, in recent years the federal government had been reinforcing DEI at all American universities through grants and contracts, and Columbia is no exception. The following are a few examples:

- [\\$5,921,936](#) million from National Science Foundation for the “Implementing Novel Solutions for Promoting cultural change in geoscience Research & Education (INSPIRE) program” which “delivers a multi-faceted solution for transforming culture, shifting power, and authentically engaging underserved communities within the transdisciplinary earth and environmental sciences.”
- [\\$1,510,490](#) from National Science Foundation for a project called “storytelling for mathematics learning and engagement” which would “expose teachers and students to a variety of images and diversity of models of mathematics is to include images of diverse people telling their stories about their doing and knowing of mathematics.”
- [\\$250,883](#) from Health and Human Services to study the “role of adverse community-level policing exposure on disparities in Alzheimer’s disease” in black and Latino populations.
- [\\$149,835](#) from Department of Commerce “to enhance equitable access and use of climate services among vulnerable farming populations” in Guatemala.

Columbia has been altering its website and changing titles of DEI professionals, but as recently as January 2025 Columbia listed 19 diversity offices and initiatives across all Columbia schools, and ten university-wide diversity programs, according to the [Columbia Spectator](#). The Spectator further reported that each school within Columbia had its own DEI office.

One DEI staffer [made headlines for plagiarism](#). Alade McKen, who was chief of DEI at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, seemed to have plagiarized a huge amount of his 163-page dissertation for his PhD from the Iowa State University School of Education. The Washington Free Beacon reported two pages were seemingly lifted directly from a Wikipedia entry, and more were taken from various scholars. According to his LinkedIn page, McKen appears to have left Columbia since the scandal broke in 2024.

Today, the Irving Medical Center [lists](#) four other DEI specialists on its staff webpage.

## SUNY AND CUNY

New York has two university systems, one within the state (State University of New York, SUNY), and one within New York City (City University of New York, CUNY).

Columbia was the origin of the anti-Israel campus protests and encampments, but similar protests quickly spread, especially within the city itself. CUNY City College of New York saw 200 [encamped](#) students arrested in 2024.

The following is a selection of radical professors and spending at the two systems.

### City University of New York (CUNY)

There are 11 senior colleges and seven graduate, honors, and professional schools in the CUNY system, spread throughout New York City's five [boroughs](#).

From 2021 to June 2025, the federal government has spent nearly a billion dollars in grants and contracts at CUNY colleges, or around \$200 million a year. Federal student aid contributes another \$223 million, according to CUNY budget documents.

Unlike other university systems in this report, the New York state government actually pays more than the federal government for CUNY, kicking in [\\$1.797 billion](#) for operating support and \$204 million for tuition support in 2024.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
2021	\$163,051,690	\$32,478,981	\$304,069	\$1,443,071	\$197,277,809
2022	\$173,402,808	\$33,145,039	\$264,481	\$1,575,460	\$208,387,788
2023	\$189,552,245	\$43,556,106	\$1,142,877	\$371,515	\$234,622,743
2024	\$178,511,913	\$52,108,606	\$839,060	\$1,865,812	\$233,325,391
2025	\$42,743,428	\$17,592,644	\$217,830	\$114,612	\$60,668,514
	<b>\$747,262,083</b>	<b>\$178,881,376</b>	<b>\$2,768,317</b>	<b>\$5,370,470</b>	<b>\$934,282,245</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

Two CUNY senior colleges were selected as examples, but the research is not exhaustive, and Open the Books encourages further investigations into the CUNY schools.

## CUNY CITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR PROFILE

[Nancy Stern](#) is an associate professor of CUNY's City College of New York and the CUNY Graduate Center. She specializes in bilingual education. Stern has [expressed](#) support for terrorists, [promoted](#) hatred of Israel and [justified](#) anti-Semitism. She is a [supporter](#) of the BDS movement and was interviewed in 2021 at a pro-Palestinian rally in Paterson, New Jersey, saying it was "[painful](#)" to stay silent about Palestinian rights in Israel.

Stern [was paid \\$129,000](#) for her work at CUNY in 2024.

As of April 2023, Stern was a member of the [academic council](#) of the anti-Israel organization [American Friends of Combatants for Peace](#), while being given almost \$6 million from the federal government.

Stern was one of two multilingual teachers at the school to receive a [\\$3 million grant](#) in 2022 from the U.S. Department of Education's [Office of English Language Acquisition](#). Stern and the other teacher received [another \\$2.6 million grant](#) in 2016.

She is one of several CUNY teachers taking part in an initiative on immigration and education, [providing language education to immigrants](#), including those who are undocumented. The five-year program is funded New York State Education Department.

## CUNY City College DEI Infrastructure and Spending

City College alone received \$210 million in federal grants in the last five years. Open the Books requested salary data for CUNY colleges via public records request but did not receive them in time for publication.

City College created an [Office for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging](#) in 2022, appointing professor Terri N. Watson to lead it. The department's webpage is now defunct, and Watson is [currently](#) listed as an associate professor of educational leadership. The university still [maintains](#) a "Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA+)" made up of five City College staffers, that holds events throughout the year.

Federal spending supercharged DEI at City College. Multiple DEI-related grants aimed to fundamentally change the university, including:

\$500,000 from National Endowment for the Humanities (2022-2024) for two year-long post-doctoral fellowships to "build partnerships with cultural institutions to study and preserve New York City's Black and Latinx cultural heritage." One fellowship in Black studies and another in Latin American and United States Latinx studies. Each teaches one course each semester.

It also creates 20 undergraduate internships "with local community partners" at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Hispanic Society Museum and Library.

"This program also prepares City College's diverse body of students to enter the workforce as stewards of New York City's cultural heritage."

The grant description falls just shy of admitting that it's a waste of time to get a degree in this field of study: it notes the lack of jobs in this field, saying the grant "serves the humanities more broadly by creating two positions for recent PhDs at a time when many are leaving the profession because of the dearth of full-time jobs."

The teaching and mentorship experience contributes to the Black Studies Program as it develops into a [fully-fledged department](#), which occurred in 2024. The department was established in 1969, then was dismantled and a program was established in 1996, then the full department was re-established in 2024.

"Undergraduate students will improve and promote the community partners collections. Together, these activities will enhance the Black intellectual tradition."

Another [\\$1.5 million grant](#) from the National Science Foundation was to be used between 2018 and 2023 for "building capacity ... at the Hispanic-Serving Institutions program" to build a social media platform "designed specifically for students entering, continuing or transferring into STEM majors."

HSIs are American colleges and universities with a full-time undergraduate Hispanic student population of at least 25%.

The [student population](#) at City College is 38.6% Hispanic, 22.4% Asian, 15.7% Black, 14.9% White.

The grant was to create [this social media platform](#) aimed to help students navigate a new environment, learn how to register for classes and other campus activities, as well as deal "with changes in rigor and pacing in coursework."

The college's many other webpages already do those things, including [step-by-step instructions](#) on how to register for classes, various websites for [student activities and clubs](#) and more.

- Another \$1 million grant from NSF, 2022-2025 is for "advancing inclusion, diversity and equity in STEM" again, at the college with a student body that's majority minority.

This grant, however, focuses on faculty, "to implement institutional transformation that fosters an equitable and supportive professional environment for all faculty, with a particular emphasis on women and Black, indigenous and people of color STEM faculty."

The project's pillars include "fostering an inclusive environment for all by decreasing systemic racism" and "foster gender equity" by eliminating "organizational barriers that impede the full participation and advancement of diverse faculty ... the barriers that inhibit equity may exist in policies, processes, practices and the organizational culture and climate."

Yet, 59% of instructional and classified staff at the school [are minority](#) - Black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian and other. That includes more than half of its top executives: two vice presidents, five assistant vice presidents, two deans, two associate deans and seven other administrators, [according to a CUNY report](#) on the demographics of its workforce.

## CUNY'S JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSOR PROFILES

**John Jay College of Criminal Justice sociology professor [Lucien Baskin](#) showed** support for a terrorist, **[promoted](#)** an intifada course – **[which was later canceled](#)** after an outcry – and **[called](#)** for Israel's destruction during its war against Hamas terrorists in early 2024.

Baskin promoted violence and **[equated](#)** Israel with Nazi Germany in early 2025 and **[spread](#)** hatred of Zionists and **[Israel](#)**.

Baskin, who is also a media fellow at **[Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#)**, includes the phrase "From the River to the Sea" **[in his X bio](#)**, and supports **[removing police](#)** from college campuses.

**John Jay Political Science Professor [Corinna Mullin](#) led** an anti-Israel disruption, **[expressed](#)** support for terrorists and **[promoted](#)** hatred of Israel and **[America](#)**.

Mullin is a **[supporter](#)** of the BDS movement and was **[affiliated](#)** with the **[Students for Justice in Palestine](#)** chapter at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2021 and 2023.

Mullin was also **[affiliated](#)** with the pro-terror activist group **[Within Our Lifetime](#)**, which calls for the destruction of Israel.

In **[June 2022](#)**, Mullin said she **[served](#)** as a member of the anti-Israel activist group **[CUNY4Palestine](#)**. The group describes itself as "A network of CUNY students and workers organizing for Palestinian liberation on campus."

She was **[arrested](#)** in April 2024 for **[joining](#)** an anti-Israel encampment at CUNY, set up to protest Israel's war against Hamas.

She was accused of organizing a protest that led to \$3 million worth of damage. Two Jewish NYC Council members asked CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos Rodriguez **[to investigate her](#)** and hold her accountable.

**[The New York Post reported](#)** that during the event, protesters fired a flare gun, which started a fire on the roof of a science building; clashed with public safety officers; and broke into an administrative building, where they smashed glass doors and vandalized offices.

Protesters also threw rocks at campus police and pepper sprayed them, with two CUNY cops sustaining injuries.

Mullin authored an essay **[titled](#)**: "Settler Colonialism, Imperialism and Sanctions from Below: Palestine and the BDS Movement," published in a 2021 book **[called](#)** "Sanctions as War: Anti-imperialist Perspectives on American Geo-Economic Strategy."

### CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice DEI Infrastructure and Spending

Open the Books requested salary data for CUNY colleges via public records request but did not receive them in time for publication.

John Jay has an Office of Compliance and Diversity and a [Chief Diversity Officer](#), but some of their most ideological activities present themselves on their “Faculty Hiring Resources” [page](#). Their “Full Time Faculty Search and Hiring Process” documents how the Director of Compliance and Diversity (CDO) reviews applications selected by search committee members for interviews. The document then says the CDO will conduct a review “to ensure that the applicant and interview pool are sufficiently diverse” and that the search chair must be notified that the pool “has been certified for diversity before candidates may be contacted for interviews.”

The guide further notes “departments should be aware that John Jay places a priority on affirmative action goals.”

Departments are encouraged to ask for “diversity statements,” and the hiring process document provides a rubric for scoring such statements, with top marks for those that “convincingly express intent, with examples, to be a strong advocate for diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within the department/school/college and also their field.”

Once the interview gets underway, candidates should be asked “questions that reveal a **candidate’s capacity** for and **interest in** enhancing the college’s diversity mission.”

In a sample candidate assessment rubric, commitment to DEI is graded alongside research and teaching potential. The document was updated on June 16, 2025.

Sample Rubric 4 – Assessing Candidate Applications

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Commitment to DEI				
Research potential				
Research Relevance to program(s)				
Teaching potential				
Service potential				
Recommendation letters				

Updated June 16, 2025

Federal funding reinforced DEI at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Some DEI-related grants include:

- National Endowment for the Humanities also threw CUNY’s John Jay College of Criminal Justice a **\$273,000** life preserver [in the form of a grant](#) to retain humanities professors who “will otherwise lose their jobs” in 2020.

Similarly to the NIH grant for City College, it artfully bolsters a flailing humanities field.

“This project will save the jobs of nine humanities adjunct professors and train 62 adjunct humanities professors to create effective online humanities courses during the Covid-19 crisis.”

- Yet another \$500,000 from NEH [for a program](#) “to increase the number of Black and Latinx associate’s degree holders who transfer and earn bachelor’s degrees in the humanities at John Jay College.”

This is as the college boasts, “We have the most diverse student body of CUNY’s senior colleges.”

Its [student population](#) is 44% Hispanic, 21% white, 20% Black, and 12% Asian – making the Black and Latino student population the vast majority of the school, while they are being courted through this grant.

The grant funds two staff positions and one research associate position to encourage transfers from CUNY’s community colleges, developing academic support clinics, peer mentorship and “the incorporation of culturally responsive teaching practices.”

- The [NSF granted \\$270,000](#) in 2021-2021 for John Jay to study “the criminal deportation pipeline” decrying the “mass deportation of immigrants with criminal records ... forming the cornerstone of increasingly punitive immigration policy in the United States over the past 30 years.”

The patent absurdity of the federal government spending federal dollars to undermine its own criminal justice and immigration law system speaks for itself, and John Jay College was happy to help spend those taxpayer dollars.

State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton

The State University of New York system is the largest public university system in the country, comprised of 64 campuses including research universities, liberal arts colleges, technical colleges, land-grant colleges, community colleges, and health science centers. SUNY Binghamton was chosen as an example for this report. Open the Books encourages further investigations into the SUNY schools.

From 2021 to June 2025, the federal government has spent nearly \$300 million dollars in grants and contracts at SUNY Binghamton colleges.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
2021	\$83,139,736	\$954,343	-	\$2,771,747	\$86,865,826
2022	\$89,330,347	\$1,311,825	\$301,244	\$150,000	\$91,093,416
2023	\$35,061,169	\$3,662,577	\$800,000	-	\$39,523,745
2024	\$54,832,950	\$3,829,998	-	-	\$58,662,948
2025	\$15,635,840	\$1,721,124	-	-	\$17,356,964
	<b>\$278,000,042</b>	<b>\$11,479,866</b>	<b>\$1,101,244</b>	<b>\$2,921,747</b>	<b>\$293,502,899</b>

## Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

SUNY Binghamton has the highest Jewish population among SUNY schools, and one of the highest Jewish populations in public universities nationally, with about 3,950 Jewish students making up about 22% of the student body.

An American-Israeli student named Omer Neutra, who had deferred admission to Binghamton to join the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), was killed fighting Hamas on October 7. He was presumed kidnapped until the IDF [confirmed](#) his death in December 2024.

The university nevertheless experienced a lot of unrest from student protestors in the wake of the October 7 attack. On [October 12](#), over 100 students held a pro-Palestinian rally at Binghamton, which drew Jewish student counter protestors. In [May of 2024](#), students had set up what they called a “Divest from Death Coalition” encampment, demanding the university divest from and boycott Israel and the “military-industrial complex.”

On the [one-year anniversary](#) of the attacks, Students for Justice in Palestine led a walkout and a rally, saying “October 7th marks one year of Israel’s continued genocide of Palestinians.” Protestors chalked messages like “engineers should build not destroy” near the school’s engineering department, which collaborates with defense companies like Lockheed Martin. Tensions rose as counter protestors joined the gathering, which was closely monitored by security officials.

Provost Donald Hall, Vice President of DEI Karen Jones, and Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Rose released a statement at the time on behalf of the university, stating:

“October 7 and the days that follow will undoubtedly be remembered in different ways by different communities on campus, but will certainly be an emotional time for most,” the B-Line read. “Please value the community and campus we share in your words and actions.”

## SUNY BINGHAMTON PROFESSOR PROFILES

Anthropology professor [Frances Harrison](#) is a [supporter](#) of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement and has promoted a BDS [resolution](#) calling on the American Anthropological Association to boycott Israeli academic institutions. Harrison has also been a member of Students for Justice in Palestine and has [defended](#) SJP on Facebook.

On the Anthropology Department’s homepage is an article highlighting a recent graduate who is now working for the university [as coordinator for diversity education](#) at the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. “In my anthropology courses, we were all very like-minded people,” the graduate told BingUNews.

## **SUNY Binghamton DEI Infrastructure and Spending**

Open the Books requested salary data for SUNY Binghamton via public records request, which were denied even on appeal, a highly unusual practice for a state university system. In total, SUNY Binghamton received \$222 million in federal grants in the last five years.

Binghamton has a robust and extensive DEI program that continues to this day, including through a Division of DEI, led by Vice President of DEI Karen Jones. As a part of the “road map” to make Binghamton more “inclusive,” the university plans on increasing “the number and value of scholarships to aid in recruiting diverse students” and also “increase recruitment, representation and promotion of diverse faculty.”

The Road Map defines “diverse” as an “under-represented minority” i.e., anyone but people who are white or Asian. As has been found time and again, universities engage in increasing “diversity” through race-based discrimination against non-“diverse” groups, which is illegal. While Binghamton and the SUNY system have doubled down in the face of Trump’s anti-DEI orders, programs have been modified after Trump’s executive orders against racial discrimination. For example, the “[Presidential Diversity Research Grant](#)” formerly gave grants to support professor research efforts only to non-white and non-Asian applicants. In 2025 the grant was modified to include “women in STEM” of any race as well.

Federal grantmaking reinforced DEI at SUNY Binghamton, like:

[\\$700,000 from NSF](#) for improving secondary mathematics education through a teacher education grounded in community, equity and inclusion

Partners undergraduate math majors to have careers in secondary math teaching and work with local high schools.

“The project is designed to support the pedagogical practices, belief and identity development of secondary mathematics teachers to be effective educators in high-need school districts through a focus on community equity and inclusion.”

Besides recruiting diverse teachers, the grant aims to “foster scholars’ awareness of their own histories, biases, assumptions and relationships to mathematics, and how these shape their students’ classroom experiences and learning opportunities.”

It also states its goal to “prepare scholars to address issues of equity, access, inclusion and privilege within the teaching and learning of mathematics in high-need schools.”

**SUNY Binghamton also [received \\$641,000](#) in Foreign language and Area Studies funds for its Middle East Studies program in 2023-2025.**

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The University of California (UC) system is composed of ten campuses, five teaching hospitals, six academic health centers, and agricultural field stations with related infrastructure. Core funding for the operations of the basic work at the universities—teaching and research—costs about [\\$10.8 billion](#), of which the State of California directly contributes \$4.6 billion, and tuition and fees make up \$5.7 billion. Federal grants and contracts are not included in core funding but are roughly equal to tuition payments.

Two UC campuses were chosen for our analyses: UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley. Open the Books encourages further investigations into the UC schools.

### UC Los Angeles

UCLA has received \$4.3 billion in federal grants and contracts from FY 21 to June 2025.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
2021	\$905,468,063	\$69,748,654	\$21,045,783	\$3,940,673	\$1,000,203,173
2022	\$828,088,247	\$90,312,536	\$10,424,124	\$10,128,797	\$938,953,706
2023	\$851,084,494	\$134,709,017	\$10,437,067	\$18,817,427	\$1,015,048,006
2024	\$801,380,054	\$136,477,929	\$12,904,449	\$40,257,859	\$991,020,290
2025	\$343,277,057	\$67,691,300	\$5,006,003.25	\$974,253	\$416,948,613
	<b>\$3,729,297,916</b>	<b>\$498,939,436.40</b>	<b>\$59,817,427.69</b>	<b>\$74,119,008</b>	<b>\$4,362,173,788</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

Following October 7, it was one of the campuses that drew national attention when anti-Israel activists on campus formed a human barricade and refused to permit Jewish students to cross the campus. A subsequent lawsuit from three Jewish students described the university as a “hotbed of antisemitism” and called the division a “Jew Exclusion Zone.” The campus was peppered with “Zionist checkpoints.” Per [NBC News](#):

The complaint alleges the protesters created a “Jew Exclusion Zone” where in order to pass “a person had to make a statement pledging their allegiance to the activists’ view.” Those who complied with the protesters’ view were issued wristbands to allow them to pass through, the complaint says, which effectively barred Jewish students who supported Israel and denied them access to the heart of campus.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Mark C. Scarsi sided with the three students and rebuked the school.

*“Jewish students were excluded from portions of the UCLA campus because they refused to denounce their faith. This fact is so unimaginable and so abhorrent to our constitutional guarantee of religious freedom,” he wrote.*

## UCLA PROFESSOR PROFILES

**Khaled Abou El Fadl is a UCLA law professor** and “one of the world’s leading authorities on Shari’ah, Islamic law and Islam, and a prominent scholar in the field of human rights,” [according to his bio page](#). He is former chair of the Islamic Studies Interdepartmental Program at UCLA, and founder of the Institute of Advanced Usuli Studies, “a non-profit educational institute dedicated to ethics, beauty and critical thinking in the Islamic intellectual tradition.”

In 2024, he compared Israel policy to that of the Nazis, [saying in an X video](#), “The Germans blamed the Jews for their own slaughter. The Germans insisted that what they did in the countries they occupied wasn’t their fault. It was always the fault of the occupied. The rhetoric of the Germans is indistinguishable from the rhetoric that Israel uses about Palestinians.”

The [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#) highlights as an example of anti-Semitism, “Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.”

In the same video, El Fadl stated, “We are considered like animals. Exactly like the Nazis looked at Jews. Something subhuman, something less than human, exactly like the narrative and the language of the Nazis.”

He has spread anti-Israel conspiracy theories, including that Indian Hindu nationalists are volunteering to fight alongside the Israeli army in Gaza “for the joy of killing Muslims.”

**History professor Robin D.G. Kelley** is an [advisory board member](#) of the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, which is part of the BDS movement, and is an advisory board member of [Palestine Legal](#), a group that provides advice and support to anti-Israel activists.

Kelley has been [affiliated](#) with the campus group Students for Justice in Palestine, the anti-Israel groups [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) and [Palestinian Youth Movement](#).

Kelley [served](#) as a judge for Palestinian Youth Movement’s “Annual Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship in 2019.”

Kanafani was a leading and spokesperson for the terrorist organization [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), during which he announced the PFLP’s responsibility for the [Lod Airport Massacre](#) outside Tel Aviv of May 1972 that [killed](#) 26 people and [wounded](#) 80 others.

He has made numerous anti-Israel statements, has whitewashed violent protests and [spread incitement](#).

Kelley has [contributed](#) essays to two anti-Israel books: “Letters to Palestine: Writers Respond to War and Occupation” [and](#) “Apartheid Israel: The Politics of an Analogy,” both published in 2015. He is writing a book “Making a Killing: Cops, Capitalism, and the War on Black Life” set to be released next year.

## UCLA DEI Infrastructure and Spending

UCLA has extensive DEI programming, that has somewhat been impacted by Trump’s executive orders and regulatory reforms aimed at eliminating the race-based preferences DEI engenders. UCLA has openly stated one of its goals is to become a federally-recognized “Hispanic-Serving Institute” (HSI) by 2025. In order to be designated an HSI, a university must have at least a 25% Hispanic student body. The [website](#) for the UCLA HSI task force states the university “has a responsibility to ensure that our institution reflects the diversity of California and welcomes members of our Latinx communities, honors their intellectual and cultural contributions, and empowers them to flourish both at UCLA and well past graduation.”

But the financial incentives for this interest in “equity” are also stated plainly on the webpage: “achieving federal recognition as an HSI will make UCLA eligible for a range of federal grants that would bolster existing educational programs, research training and academic attainment for Latinx, low-income and other underrepresented students.”

Their website states their HSI Task Force has compiled recommendations for becoming an HSI, “including directing efforts and resources toward improving admission, yield and retention rates for Latinx students.”

This program raises questions: Is UCLA conducting race-based admissions preferencing in order to obtain financial benefits from the federal government? They certainly have an incentive to do so. In June 2025, the Trump administration opened a Department of Justice [investigation](#) into the UC system, including UCLA, for illegal race and sex-based hiring and admissions practices.

Beyond their HSI initiative, UCLA maintains an “Office of Inclusive Excellence” which “supports all Bruins by leading and advancing strategies for enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion; protecting civil rights; and upholding dignity for all in our community.” Ralina Joseph was chosen to lead the office in May 2025. The press release announcing her appointment called her a “widely respected scholar of race, racism, gender and class,” highlighting her books on those topics:

- “Racial Exhaustion: How to Move Through Racism in the Wake of DEI” (2025)
- “[Postracial Resistance: Black Women, Media, and the Uses of Strategic Ambiguity](#)” (2018)
- “[Transcending Blackness: From the New Millennium Mulatta to the Exceptional Multiracial](#)” (2013)

Her history on X shows her strong commitment to DEI ideology, in one instance stating white mentors should acknowledge their “whiteness.”



One major way UCLA has responded to Trump's policies against DEI is by no longer requiring employment applicants to submit a DEI statement, although the UC provost [stated](#) at the time that it was a difference without a distinction:

“To be clear, stand-alone diversity statements will no longer be permitted in recruitments,” she said in the letter, according to the Daily Bruin. “However, consistent with federal and state law, the University should, and will, continue to provide due recognition to prospective or current employees who wish to share how they have contributed to inclusive excellence.”

While UCLA might have engaged in DEI extremism on its own, the university was encouraged by federal grantmaking reinforcements like:

- [\\$1 million](#) from NSF since 2021 for University of California, Los Angeles for “researching equity and antiracist learning in computer science.”

The grant extends funding to the University of Oregon, in collaboration with UCLA, to train high school computer science teachers on an “equity-focused CS course.” The grant description states, “This [Broadening Participation in Computing] alliance extension supports a BPC mission to challenge colorblind notions of building capacity in schools through antiracist approaches that disrupt and address systemic racism in high school computer science.”

- [\\$1.6 million from NSF](#) since 2020 for University of California, Los Angeles for “experiences that shape undergraduate computing trajectories: an equity-focused longitudinal study at center for inclusive computing institutions.”
- [\\$216,000 from NSF](#) since 2024 for University of California, Los Angeles for a “mathematical sciences institutes diversity initiative ... to increase participation of underrepresented groups in the mathematical sciences.

The member math institutes organize scientific conferences, including “a workshop on mathematics on racial justice ... and two roots of unity conferences.”

***UCLA also received several [Foreign Language and Area Studies \(FLAS\) grants](#) since 2020 totaling \$6.1 million – \$2.8 million of which was for “near Eastern” studies, an alternative name for Middle Eastern studies. The rest was for Asian studies and Latin American studies.***

The FLAS program has come under scrutiny in recent years as radical professors from the funded departments engaged in or instigated anti-Israel activities in the wake of the October 7 attacks. Two professors listed on the [UCLA FLAS grant application](#) as examples of the Near Eastern department’s expertise are **Saree Makdisi and Sherene Razack.**

According to the New York Post, Makdisi and Razack held an “Emergency Teach-In on the Crisis in Palestine” just days after the Hamas attack on Israel. Razack told the Post about the event in an [email](#):

“Yesterday’s panel did depict Israel as a settler colonial society that came into existence through the dispossession of Palestinians and that maintains a brutal occupation of Palestine.”

“Further, Israel practices Apartheid and Palestinians and Jews do not possess equal rights under law, a conclusion widely shared by scholars – Israeli and non-Israeli alike, and by Amnesty International, among others. As my panel member Professor Makdisi put it in a [recent article in The Nation](#), Israel is ‘a colonial power driven by an exclusionary racial ideology.’”

The Near Eastern department also received [\\$70,000 from National Endowment for the Humanities](#) in 2024 to study “energy technologies, development, and the environment in modern Iran, 1935-2005’ focusing on “the history [of] natural gas in 20th-century Iran, using the energy source as both a varied material substance and an object of discourse as a lens to study the country’s developmental programs, its charged politics of modernization, and their connection to the natural world.”

[NEH also gave a \\$35,000 in 2020](#) for “new directions in Middle East learning,” what was billed as a “multidisciplinary freshman course sequence exploring MENA [Middle East and North Africa] culture through diverse humanistic perspectives.”

## UC BERKELEY

**University of California Berkeley has received \$2.5 billion in federal grants and contracts from 2021 to June 2025, or about \$550 million per year.**

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
2021	\$553,006,611	\$26,856,631	\$37,583,321	\$165,000	\$617,611,563
2022	\$436,310,110	\$29,652,323	\$95,709,315	\$1,240,434	\$562,912,182
2023	\$400,155,049	\$36,986,226	\$66,192,983	\$511,945	\$503,846,203
2024	\$470,549,758	\$49,133,203	\$37,919,191	\$12,013,968	\$569,616,121
2025	\$158,009,335	\$24,869,775	\$67,325,232	\$8,115,390	\$258,319,733
	<b>\$2,018,030,863</b>	<b>\$167,498,159</b>	<b>\$304,730,042</b>	<b>\$22,046,738</b>	<b>\$2,512,305,801</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

### Activist professors

**Hamid Algar, professor emeritus of Persian and Islamic Studies at UC Berkeley, and Center for Middle Eastern Studies senior research scholar,** has blamed Israel for Palestinian terrorism and is a [supporter](#) of the BDS movement.

He has signed various anti-Israel petitions: a Students for Justice in Palestine petition calling upon the University of California Students Association to join the BDS movement in 2015; a 2014 petition authored by various American Muslim organizations titled "[End Israeli Aggression and Occupation.](#)"

Algar [signed](#) another petition by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel in 2009. It was a letter to then-President Barack Obama, accusing Israel of ethnic cleansing and apartheid and described the situation in Gaza as "one of the most massive, ethnocidal atrocities of modern times." It called for the U.S. to divest from Israel.

Algar, born in England, converted to Sunni Islam and then later Shia Islam. He traveled in Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan for four years after graduating University of Cambridge in 1959 and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Tehran.

He translated a book written by Ruhollah Khomeini, the First Supreme Leader of Iran, who supported the hostage takers during the Iran hostage crisis; and who issued the fatwa to murder British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie for his description of prophet Muhammad in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini is also known for referring to the U.S. as the "Great Satan" and Israel as the "Little Satan."

For his heroic admiration for Ayatollah Khomeini, National Review dubbed him “[Khomeini’s Favorite American.](#)”

“For 45 years (1965–2010) [Algar] used his position as professor of Persian and Islamic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, to celebrate the ‘genius’ of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, denounce American foreign policy, and spread lies and conspiracy theories about Israel,” National Review wrote.

Berkeley made the news in 2024 when protestors interrupted a celebratory dinner party hosted in the home of law school dean Erwin Chemerinsky. The legal scholar invited all third-year law students to his home to congratulate them on their coming graduation. An activist with Students for Justice in Palestine, Malak Afaneh, stood up during the event, holding a microphone, and began speaking about the war in Gaza. Before she could get far into her speech, Chemerinsky’s wife, fellow law professor Catherin Fisk, tried to grab her microphone and told her to leave their house. Afaneh asserted that she was exercising her first amendment right to free speech at a university gathering (the university paid for the event), while Chemerinsky and Fisk maintained freedom of speech as guaranteed in the Constitution does not apply to private homes.

Later that week, 15 students returned to the Chemerinsky home during another dinner for students, staying outside the house for 90 minutes while chanting and banging drums, according to the [New York Times](#).

Chemerinsky is by all accounts a left-wing scholar who has challenged the concept of Constitutional originalism and has called for the abolition of the Electoral College. He has called for a two-state solution to solve their regional issues but stated that calls for the destruction of Israel are antisemitic in the wake of the October 7 attacks. This stance likely put him in the crosshairs of student activists who would later disrupt his home:

“I strongly oppose the policies of the Netanyahu government, favor full rights for Palestinians, and believe that there must be a two-state solution. But if you listen to what is being said on college campuses now, some of the loudest voices are not advocating for a change in Israeli policies but are calling for an end to Israel,” in an op-ed after the Hamas attacks.

“An oft-repeated mantra among some is that Israel is a settler colonialist country and should be forced to give the land back to the Palestinians. I have no idea how it would be determined who is rightly entitled to what land, but I do know that calling for the total elimination of Israel is antisemitic.”

### **UC Berkeley DEI Infrastructure and Spending**

Like UCLA, Berkeley has an extensive, well-documented DEI infrastructure. The university did not provide salary data for 2024, but Open the Books has previously reported on their 2023 DEI staff.

Strangely, UC Berkeley, the academic darling of the progressive movement, only shows 13 people working in a DEI role on their payroll records for 2023, the latest year available.

Surely there are more employees than that.

Their payroll records don't provide what department people work in, so potentially hundreds of people in DEI-related roles can't be counted, including those who work in the [Othering and Belonging Institute](#), the new lexicon for diversity, equity and inclusion that avoids those keywords.

The Institute published an "[inclusiveness index](#)" that ranks countries on how inclusive they are. According to its website, "the index holistically examines the experiences of groups across a range of social dimensions, including race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and general population indicators of inclusivity, including political inclusion, income inequality, incarceration rate, refugee settlement, and greenhouse gas emission rates."

New Zealand was ranked the most inclusive country, while Hawaii was ranked the most inclusive U.S. state.

This year the US ranked 79th among countries, two positions lower than the previous year.

No fewer than 109 people are listed in the Institute's "[expert database](#)." They are professors, senior fellows, lecturers, senior researchers, endowed chairs, program directors and senior social scientists. None are listed on UC Berkeley's payroll with their DEI affiliation.

Without departments, and only titles showing 13 DEI staffers, the highest paid is Dania Matos, Vice Chancellor for the Division of Equity & Inclusion, making \$346,146. Matos stepped down to become VP for DEI at DePaul University in Chicago in January 2025. Her accomplishments at UC Berkeley, according to a press release, including creating the B4 - [Building Belonging @ Berkeley and Beyond](#) initiative, which involves "actively engaging in dialogue that challenges colonial and oppressive ideologies and practices by naming the forces that are oppressive and honoring critical forms of consciousness like mestiza consciousness (Anzaldúa, 1987), Indigenista thought (Grande, 2004), and Black Feminist Thought (Hill-Collins, 1990)."

Matos was replaced by current interim vice chancellor for equity and inclusion Fabrizio Mejia, who is "deeply committed to equity, transformation, and justice," according to his website biography.

The 12 other people all are squeezed into a single category with roles listed as, "Div Equity Incl Prof."

Those dozen people include [Martha Chavez](#), Assistant Dean of Graduate Diversity, making \$154,718, who manages the Office of Graduate Diversity. Her job description sounds legally dubious at best, stating her office supports "the outreach to, recruitment, admission, academic success, and graduation of students who will enrich the diversity of graduate programs at the University of California, Berkeley." The office also provides race-based "graduate resources regarding the admissions process, academic support, financial advice, professional development, and a forum to share ideas and programs to enhance their educational experience"

[Che Abram](#), Chief of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, makes \$152,206. Abram "considers herself a culture shifter by moving race and equity initiatives forward," and "brings the lens of intersectional identities and restorative practices to her work," according to her website biography.

Tiffany Melendez, Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging & Justice for University Health Services, made \$107,934.

Katrina Koski is the Director of Inclusion and Belonging, and made \$118,208. She's on the [UC Berkeley Haas School of Business Diversity Equity Inclusion Team](#) along with [Anthony Whitten](#), Director of Diversity Admission, who made \$118,799; Marco Lindsey, Associate Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion, who made \$102,34; and Queen Jaks, making \$75,749, is diversity instructional support consultant.

[The head of the DEI team](#), Elida Bautista, Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer, making \$202,362, is listed on UC Berkeley payroll as "Acad Prg Mgt Ofcr 5" and thus isn't counted in the 13 DEI-related roles.

Likewise, Clemika Young, an administrative assistant to the DEI Team, makes \$75,440 and is listed in payroll as "blank asst 3."

The Molecular and Cell Biology Department's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Program Manager, [Aubrey Green](#), made \$33,730.

A small sample of DEI departments at UC Berkeley found online – but not delineated on the payroll – include the [Division of Equity & Inclusion](#), which lists [13 employees](#); and the university's [Staff Engagement & Belonging](#), with six employees [listed](#).

The [Office for Faculty Equity & Welfare](#) states, "All Berkeley faculty have the opportunity to ensure equity and inclusion in their research, teaching, and service, so that the diverse community of students and colleagues they work with will feel a sense of belonging and thrive."

Their [staff page](#) shows seven employees.

The university also spent almost \$400,000 in 2023 on organizations with a DEI purpose, according to its vendor spending records.

Chicago-based [Workers Center for Racial Justice](#) received \$58,083, while the Buffalo, NY-based organization [Showing Up for Racial Justice Education](#) collected \$81,125.

The [Equal Justice Society](#) in Oakland, CA received \$37,625. That organization "is transforming the nation's consciousness on race through law, social science, and the arts. Our legal strategy broadens conceptions of present-day discrimination to include unconscious and structural bias."

Also in Oakland, [Justice Outside](#) "advances racial justice and equity in the outdoor and environmental movement." It received \$123,907 from the university.

Another Oakland organization, [The Sarah Webster Fabio Center For Justice](#), "create[s] opportunity as a form of social justice" and received \$18,000.

[Honeycomb Justice LLC](#) in Hoover, AL “is committed to guiding communities in creating and implementing ethical, anti-racist practices that embody equity,” received \$10,000.

Several immigrant groups also got funding.

[Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights](#) in Chicago collected \$41,000, while [the Multicultural Institute](#), a nonprofit in Berkeley, that offers programs to increase access to opportunities for immigrant families to reach economic stability, got \$28,970.

While UC Berkeley might have engaged in DEI extremism on its own, the university was encouraged by federal grantmaking with reinforcement like:

- [\\$1.7 million from NSF](#) in 2024-25 to “increase the capacity of organizations to build more racially just and equitable work environments for professionals of color in outdoor and environmental science education.”

The project is a collaboration of The Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley, a community-based racial and environmental justice organization ([Justice Outside](#)) and a data and strategic consultancy firm (Informing Change).

On its mission page of its website, Justice Outside states, “The environmental movement has historically excluded the voices, leadership, and needs of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. What began as a mission to increase access to outdoor spaces has evolved into a comprehensive strategy to transform who holds power in environmental decision-making.”

“We understand that meaningful change requires more than simply creating pathways to nature—it demands a fundamental shift in how resources, opportunities, and authority are distributed.”

Informing Change has DEI buzzwords all of their website, including social justice, racial equity, [and stating](#) “We are a BIPOC-, queer-, female, and immigrant-owned and -led organization. Our staff is diverse and full of skilled and passionate individuals, each with unique strengths, identities, and experiences. Our firm’s foundations for success are built from the inside out with the right people and a philosophy of consistently growing and learning from each other, which bolsters our collective ability to eliminate unconscious biases.”

- [\\$200,000 from NSF](#) grant funds a project that “seeks to build knowledge about inclusive, effective and culturally responsive approaches to science instruction that will advance equitable science education in k-12 classrooms.”
- [Another \\$191,000 from NSF](#) in 2020-22 for “restoring justice: new designs for moderating social media platforms.”

Open the Books reported in November 2024 that at least [\\$127 million from the federal government](#) was used to study and counter Covid-related speech, taxpayer-funded censorship portrayed as combating misinformation.

- [\\$150,000 from NSF](#) in 2022-23 for professional development to help Oakland school teachers implement “justice-centered climate change pedagogy.”

The grant description laments a focus on science when studying climate change, urging teachers to insert social and political components.

“In U.S. classrooms, climate change teaching is primarily focused on scientific, rather than social or political understandings of the causes and consequences of climate change or environmental justice,” it states.

“However, worldwide, students from Black, Indigenous and other communities of color bear a disproportionate brunt of environmental burdens and poorer health outcomes ... justice-centered climate pedagogy ... serves as an opportunity for students to become transformative intellectuals, learning about both science and social context surrounding the climate change issues impacting their communities.”

### **UC Berkeley also got \$17.6M in FLAS funds since 2020.**

Berkeley’s [Center for Middle Eastern Studies](#) states it “administers Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships from our U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, encouraging undergraduate and graduate students to study critical and less commonly taught foreign languages in combination with area studies, international studies, or international aspects of professional studies. The Stevens Global Ambassadors Project is an innovative series of virtual exchanges providing an opportunity for UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate students to interact with a diverse group of peers at institutions in the Middle East and North Africa through synchronous and asynchronous courses and peer learning.”

Berkeley also [received \\$247,000 from the State Department](#) between 2021 and 2025 to “establish a partnership between UC Berkeley’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies and UAE University’s Humanities and Social Sciences Department to build a 2-way student and faculty exchange program for 7 participants by August 2022.”

The grant description provides no further details but [various announcements](#) from the two universities show [various partnerships](#) and [collaborations](#) between the American and Middle Eastern schools over the years.

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN - ANN ARBOR

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor is the flagship campus of the Michigan university system. The university has come under intense scrutiny in recent years for its extreme Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices, featured in the [New York Times](#) as creating a hostile campus environment where students and professors are hyper-sensitive to potential “micro-aggressions.” The university’s president, Santa Ono, fully embraced divisive DEI programs at UM-Ann Arbor, a position he later [recanted](#) in his failed bid to become president of the University of Florida.

But Ono isn’t the only UM-Ann Arbor staff member with questionable views. Canary Mission identified six current and former professors promoting anti-Israel activities like Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction and supporting known terrorists. Three are profiled in this section.

**Victor Mendoza is an associate professor, holding joint appointments in Women and Gender Studies and English, and is a core faculty member of Asian Pacific Islander American Studies.** According to his university [profile](#), he wants to be referred to with ze/they pronouns.

In 2014 Mendoza signed a petition from the anti-Israel group Electronic Intifada supporting Rasmia Odeh, a member of the terrorist group the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). Odeh, through PFLP, was responsible for a 1969 bombing at a Jerusalem supermarket that killed two and wounded nine people. She also tried to bomb the British consulate in Jerusalem. She was tried and imprisoned for terrorism by Israel but served ten years of her life sentence before being released in a prisoner exchange with PFLP in 1980.

By lying about her criminal record on her visa application, Odeh was able to obtain a U.S. visa in 1995. When she applied to become a U.S. citizen nine years later, she again stated she did not have any criminal convictions or serve time in prison. Her application was successful, but she was indicted, convicted, and in 2017 was eventually stripped of her citizenship and deported for lying on her immigration forms.

The [petition](#) Mendoza signed protested Odeh’s immigration fraud charges.

That same year Mendoza also signed a petition urging “A Call to People of Conscience Not to Speak at the University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Until Chancellor Wise Honor [sic] the Contract to Hire Professor Steven Salaita.” Salaita was slated to work at Illinois Urbana-Champaign, but his contract was revoked when tweets surfaced of him celebrating the kidnapping of teenage Israeli high school students.

He signed more letters supporting the BDS movement, including:

- January 2020 endorsement of the [U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel](#)
- A 2016 [open letter](#) to the Modern Language Association “calling on the association to pass a resolution endorsing the boycott of Israeli academic institutions”

Mendoza ended his book with hope for “insurrection,” a seeming play on words with political insurrection and the philosophical “insurrection of subjugated knowledges” conceptualized by Michel Foucault, which refers to the process of overturning dominant narratives by highlighting the experiences of “subjugated” or supposedly marginalized people:

“Especially as I write at a time that the U.S. empire persists in aspiring to a totalizing global dominance—in the form of neoimperialist, capitalist hegemony; permanent war; securitization; police and state terrorism; and even neoliberal, exceptionalist flexibility around some acceptably “queer” bodies (though not others)—I hope that this book will serve as a prompt, an incitement, to further insurrections.”

**Juan Cole is the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at UM-Ann Arbor.**

Cole has served in many capacities at the university since 1984 when he first joined the staff, including as the director for the Center for South Asian Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. He also had a stint as adjunct professor at the Gulf Studies Center at Qatar University from 2019-2020.

Cole has his own blog where he writes and curates news and opinion articles. The articles he writes himself are typically about Israel and Palestine, Donald Trump, and climate change. Article titles include:

- Is Trump a Bigger Threat to America than Usama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda?
- “The American Spring:” Trump is increasingly like Middle East Rulers who were Overthrown
- Should Biden, Blinken, Austin and Trump be tried at the Hague for Gaza Genocide?
- Trump-Vance are doing to Haitians what the Israeli Right has done to Palestinians - Demonize a Whole People
- After a major hostage exchange in the wake of the October 7 attack on Israel, Cole [wrote](#) “50 Israeli Hostages to be exchanged for 150 Palestinian “Prisoners” -- Why the Prisoners are also Hostages”

While Cole did condemn the Hamas attacks against Israel as “stupid” and affirmed the terrorist group “committed unspeakable war crimes” on October 7 he says in [one blog](#) shortly after the attack, “you can’t expect a people to suffer under Apartheid without putting up resistance” and in [another](#) called Israel’s retaliation a “colonial revenge genocide.”

Research from [Canary Mission](#) found that in October 2018 Cole [wrote](#) an open letter to the UM-Ann Arbor in support of his colleague John Cheney-Lippold, who was disciplined by the university for refusing to write a promised letter of recommendation for a student to study abroad in Israel.

Cole wrote that he too “would not write a recommendation letter for a student to study at Ariel University, which is a squatter institution on illegally acquired Palestinian land in the Occupied West Bank” and “also would not write a letter of recommendation for a student to work at an Israeli firm located in the West Bank.

Cole benefited tremendously from the generosity of the American taxpayer to boost his early career. He received a Department of Education-funded Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Fellowship to study in India in 1982, a Fulbright-Hays Islamic Civilization Postdoctoral Award to study in Egypt from 1985-1986, a National Endowment for the Humanities award in 1991, a John W. Kluge Chair for Peoples and Cultures of the South, a research fellowship sponsored by the Library of Congress. It is unclear how much those awards were worth at the time, but such awards are highly beneficial to early-career scholars to become more established in their fields.

**Mrinalini Sinha is the Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History at UM-Ann Arbor.** She has been at the university since 2016. According to her university profile, “she has written on various aspects of the political history of colonial India, with a focus on anti-colonialism, gender, and transnational approaches.”

While her research sounds arcane and like it is confined to the Ivory Tower, Sinha is well aware of how radical perspectives in academia can directly inform political activism, as she stated in a 2024 [presentation](#) on Women’s Studies:

“In the relationship between academic scholarship and public and activism, I see that relationship is one that’s naturally productive -- that I think as scholars our job is often to open up new ways of thinking, and it is on the basis of those ideas that I think activists act on and give us more questions and situations to think about. So I do want to think of this as a sort of reciprocal relationship.”

In November 2023, shortly after the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel, she signed a statement called “Feminists for a Free Palestine. Stop the Genocide. End the Occupation.” The statement says: “As scholars in feminist, queer, and trans studies who are rooted in social justice praxis, we refuse to stay silent while a genocide is ongoing in Gaza and a brutal war is unleashed to ethnically cleanse Palestine once again.” The signatories affirm:

- We are for the liberation and self-determination of colonized people, without exception.
- We believe that colonized people have the right to choose their means of resistance, within the boundaries of international law, without exception.
- We stand against apartheid, without exception.
- We stand against war crimes, without exception.

According to [research](#) from Canary Mission, Sinha also signed an open letter to then-President Obama and Congress condemning “the disproportionate harm that the Israeli military, which the United States has armed and supported for decades, is inflicting on the population of Gaza.” This was after the Israeli military began destroying Hamas attack tunnels to stop rocket fire on Israeli civilians.

Like other professors in this report, Sinha has benefited from professional boosts early in her career funded by the American taxpayer, including:

- 2000, Lecturing at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute
- 1994-1995, National Endowment for the Humanities & American Institute of Indian Studies, Senior Fellowship Public Dollars at UM-Ann Arbor

### Public Dollars at UM-Ann Arbor

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor received \$3.5 billion in federal funds from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025.

Across the entire UM system, which includes a medical school and three campuses in Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn, the [2024 budget](#) was \$13.7 billion. Of that, the Ann Arbor campus was \$5.28 billion. Over all campuses, excluding the medical school, 27% of revenue is from “sponsored programs,” which are mostly federal grants. Seven percent is from state appropriations, and 40% is from student tuition and fees.

The federal government seems more invested in the University of Michigan system than the state itself is.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	
2021	\$946,570,757	\$142,974,033	\$22,709,695	\$4,418,237	
2022	\$269,444,798	\$151,932,642	\$26,208,565	\$7,000,893	
2023	\$368,578,833	\$166,151,858	\$30,374,972	\$6,747,398	
2024	\$772,227,25	\$146,295,887	\$37,714,784	\$9,312,883	
2025	\$368,777,692	\$64,729,334	\$12,724,403	\$1,472,258	
	<b>\$2,725,599,336</b>	<b>\$672,083,751</b>	<b>\$129,732,419</b>	<b>\$28,951,668</b>	<b>\$3,556,367,174</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

### DEI at UM-Ann Arbor

After enduring intense scrutiny from the press, and eventually the Trump administration, UM-AA began dismantling their DEI programs in earnest in March 2025. The university issued a [statement](#) stating its Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the Office for Health Equity and Inclusion would close. UM-AA's “DEI 2.0 Strategic Plan” was also discontinued, effective immediately.

By 2024, UM-Ann Arbor had 275 full-time and part-time employees in DEI-related roles, up from 191 Open the Books calculated for 2023 in [earlier](#) reporting. Total salary spending for DEI roles in 2024 was \$24.9 million.

The highest paid DEI staffer was Tabbye Chavous Sellers, the Vice Provost of the Office of DEI. She made \$416,898 in 2024. After the office was dissolved, she became CEO of the American Educational Research Association, which [works](#) “to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.” The nonprofit was paid \$1.7 million in federal grants in fiscal year 2024.

New York Times investigative reporter Nicholas Confessore published an exhaustive magazine report on the outcomes of DEI initiatives at UM-AA- on the campus environment, minority enrollment, and perceptions of race relations. The news was bleak:

*"...On Michigan's largely left-leaning campus, few of the people I met questioned the broad ideals of diversity or social justice. Yet the most common attitude I encountered about D.E.I. during my visits to Ann Arbor was a kind of wary disdain...."*

*"On campus, I met students with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. Not one expressed any particular enthusiasm for Michigan's D.E.I. initiative. Where some found it shallow, others found it stifling. They rolled their eyes at the profusion of course offerings that revolve around identity and oppression, the D.E.I.-themed emails they frequently received but rarely read."*

*- New York Times Magazine*

In fact, it seemed DEI had begun fostering the exact opposite of its intended effect. Confessore noted that in a 2022 survey, "students and faculty members reported a less positive campus climate than at the program's start and less of a sense of belonging. Students were less likely to interact with people of a different race or religion or with different politics – the exact kind of engagement D.E.I. programs, in theory, are meant to foster."

So, DEI is not just a waste of taxpayer money on the intellectual, moral grounds; by the university's own rubrics for success, DEI is anything but.

In the wake of the New York Times story, the UM Board of Regents removed diversity statement requirements from its hiring decisions.

Federal spending also reinforced DEI at UM-Ann Arbor. DEI-related grants include:

- **\$1.8 million** from Health and Human Services to inject middle school curricula with Southern Poverty Law Center's "Teaching Tolerance" material, also known as "Learning for Justice," to create an "anti-racist" student body. Previous reporting has shown SPLC's curricula are designed to provoke strong emotions in children during discussions about race, class, and "privilege."
- **\$998,995** from National Science Foundation for a project called "Changing Our Value System for Clean-Energy Technologies" which hopes to apply "social justice theory to energy systems." The grant description further states "this work will enable energy justice to be applied more expansively, reliably, and systematically by integrating energy justice effects into the design of clean energy technologies, business models, and policies and processes that guide renewable energy research and development."
- **\$492,838** from National Science Foundation to train "critically-conscious aerospace engineers through macro-ethics curricula." The abstract states "this project aims to serve the national interest by significantly sharpening student critical consciousness and sensitivity to injustices within social systems through integration of macro-ethics (ethics of large-scale issues as opposed to individual ethics) into aerospace engineering science curricula."

## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON

While it's become ever harder to predict which way political winds will blow in the Badger State, Madison remains a lakeside progressive bastion.

**[Dr. Hana Masri](#) is the communications manager for education, communication, and outreach at UW-Madison's Center for Health Disparity Research.** She earned \$83,464 in that capacity last year. She is also an [adjunct instructor](#) at Marquette University. She got her PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, where she studied "the relationship between trash and the rhetorical constitution of the nation-state in a variety of contexts, from migration across the U.S.-Mexico border to social movements in the Middle East," according to her [profile](#) on The Scholar and Feminist Online.

Masri spoke at a Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) event in May 2024, where she was called a "long time researcher, educator, and organizer with the Palestinian Youth Movement." PYM is a radical anti-Israel activist group with 14 chapters around the U.S. and Canada, from which it launches actions and rallies nationwide. PYM has [publicly](#) honored and promoted books by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine members, a designated terrorist organization.

Like many anti-Israel groups, PYM is also anti-American, as part of their broader Marxist "anti-colonial," "anti-imperial" and anti-Western ideology. In 2016 PYM sent a [delegation](#) to North Dakota to protest the Keystone Pipeline and "stand together with our Indigenous siblings in the fight against corporate greed and the settler colonial state."

During her speaking event, held in Detroit, Masri demonstrated hatred for both the United States and Israel, stating:

"...because we are here in the belly of the insatiable, imperial beast, we know that we have a very particular role to play in the struggle for Palestinian liberation, and for all people's freedom from the cruelty of the colonialist capitalist world order that our government is so directly responsible for."

She later called for the annihilation of the so-called "colonial capitalist world" represented by the United States and Israel, stating:

"We therefore have a responsibility to shepherd the energy of this moment of individual transformation into the longer-term mass organizing that will bring the empire to its knees not only in Palestine, but across the world."



*Hana Masri, on the left, shortly before calling to “bring the empire to its knees.”*

Masri does not have a public social media presence but has published several articles in recent years, including one published in 2021 titled [“From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go’: rhetorical bordering as transnational settler colonial project.”](#) In it, she bemoans the existence of national borders as a violent, “settler colonial project,” which can be abolished through global partnerships of radical leftists, at one point stating:

“...I therefore suggest coalitional politics as an antidote to the violence embedded in norms of settler colonial citizenship and reproduced by rhetorical scholarship that emphasizes citizenship as a category to be expanded, rather than radically restructured or abolished.”

In 2020, the University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School for Communication hosted Masri to give a talk on [“The Rhetoric of Waste and the Politics of Human Disposability from the Americas to the Arab World.”](#)

Using examples from Gaza and the U.S.-Mexico border, “the presentation focuses on how embodied sensation, like smell, can both communicate human disposability and motivate collective political action. These case studies affirm the rhetorical function of matter across transnational contexts and also evidence a need to attend to the ways racial, colonial, and capitalist hierarchies of human value are embedded in and contested by nonhuman communication.”

This is what passes as scholarship today at Ivy League universities.

Masri served as a post doc at UPenn’s School for Communication from 2020-2022. At the time, UPenn announced in a [press release](#) that she was selected in part because of her “diversity” and that they were excited she would “enhance Annenberg’s diversity and amplify our global reach.”

When not giving speeches about “bringing the empire to its knees,” Masri writes seemingly benign press releases and other communications for the UW-Madison Center for Health Disparity Research (CHDR).

[CHDR](#) is “committed to advancing research, education, & clinical innovations toward the elimination of health disparities,” according to its website, and the center’s research is interesting in “unlocking how social factors interact with biology to produce disease.” To that end, CHDR created a “Neighborhood Atlas” featuring an “Area Deprivation Index” that supposedly maps how “disadvantaged” areas are by census block.

The map was used by the National Academy of Medicine in their influential report “Framework for [Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#),” which advocated dispersing COVID-19 vaccines (and other health interventions) based on factors like race. One part of the report states:

*“Fundamental health inequities in COVID-19 and in other health conditions are rooted in structural inequalities, racism, and residential segregation. Any vaccine allocation framework designed to reduce COVID-19 risk must explicitly address the higher burden of COVID-19 experienced by the populations affected most heavily, given their exposure and compounding health inequities. Mitigating those health inequities is, therefore, a moral imperative of an equitable vaccine allocation framework.”*

The project is funded in part by a [National Institutes of Health](#) grant, which has paid out 34.9 million since 2021.

**Samer Alatout is a professor of “Community and Environmental Sociology” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.** He was paid \$156,976 in 2024. Unlike Masri, Alatout has a robust social media presence, where he is constantly, almost exclusively, posting anti-Israel content.

In May 2024 Alatout was arrested at an illegal UWM encampment protesting Israel’s war against Hamas. The professor is very involved in student activism and was reportedly an advisor for the UWM chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, an anti-Israel student organization that organizes protests.

[Video](#) of Alatout shows the professor pushing against police shields at the UWM encampment. Another UWM staffer, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies professor Sami Schalk, was also removed by police from the encampment.

In a blog post published a few days later, Alatout [stated](#) that “as faculty we remain inspired and indebted to these students, who are carrying on the long legacy of change-making towards justice.”



Like many encampments around the country at that time, student and staff protestors at the UWM encampment were [demanding](#) the university divest its endowment from “pro-Israel” companies. The encampment movement started in New York City at Columbia University.

When New York Governor Kathy Hochul stated that threatening Jewish students with violence or glorifying the terror of October 7 is antisemitic, Alatout [said](#) she was a “worshipper of whiteness or whatever stands in its place at any moment: capital, settler colonialism, arms trade, genocide, whatever, you’d just embrace it.”



Alatout received his PhD in Science and Technology Studies from Cornell University in 2003, but he now teaches a class called “The Palestinians” at UWM.

Katherine Jensen **has been an assistant professor of sociology and international studies at UWM since 2019**. She earned \$120,275 in that capacity last year. Jensen received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in 2018.

While at UT Austin, Jensen was involved in anti-Israel activities as well.

According to [research](#) from Canary Mission, she was a member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), another name for Students for Justice in Palestine, in 2015. That same year she [attended](#) SJP’s national conference.

Just a few weeks after the SJP conference, Jensen and a group of other PSC members disrupted a campus event by Professor Ami Pedahzur of UT’s Institute for Israeli Studies on the history of the Israeli Defense Forces. Jensen started the chant “free free Palestine!” during the event, which eventually led to an altercation between Pedahzur and a PSC activist.

Jensen briefly served as a member of the UT student government, and in 2015 co-sponsored a resolution for UT Austin to divest from holdings in Israel-linked companies.

Jensen was also sponsored by the U.S. government to conduct research in 2015 through a \$16,200 Fulbright Award. She had also received a U.S. Department of Education-sponsored Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship in 2012 to study Portuguese.

Open the Books had [previously reported](#) on FLAS funding to radical professors, noting that the U.S. taxpayer is helping to build the professional profile of people who agitate against American interests.

Since graduating from UT Austin, Jensen has kept a lower public profile as an anti-Israel scene, although in 2023 she signed a petition titled “Sociologists in Solidarity with Gaza and the Palestinian People.” The petition calls states:

“As educators, it is our duty to stand by the principles of critical inquiry and learning, to hold the university as a space for conversation that foregrounds historical truths, and that contextualizes this past week’s violence in the context of 75 years of settler colonial occupation and European empire.”

Her recent work, not directly related to Israel, includes research on “immigration and racial hierarchies in Latin America,” according to her personal website. Her 2023 book called “The Color of Asylum: The Racial Politics of Safe Haven in Brazil” in part explored the concept of “whiteness,” including how “how epistemic privileges of whiteness shape the practices of knowing in asylum.”

### Public Dollars at UW-Madison

University of Wisconsin-Madison received **\$4.3 billion** in federal funds from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025.

Across the entire UW system, the 2023-25 biennial budget was \$13.7 billion. According to a Wisconsin Public Radio [report](#), the federal government spends more on the UW system than the actual state: about 58 percent of funding comes from tuition and fees, 24 percent comes from the federal government and 18 percent comes from the state.

As stated earlier, federal funds flowed to several programs or grants directly supporting the extremist staffers highlighted in this report, including:

- **\$34.9 million** to the Center for Health Disparities Research, which employs Hana Masri
- Early in her career, Katherine Jensen received a \$16,200 Fulbright Award. She had also received a U.S. Department of Education-sponsored Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship in 2012 to study Portuguese.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	
2021	\$828,210,481	\$161,038,839	\$21,556,100	\$3,462,593	
2022	\$781,765,770	\$91,385,475	\$17,394,754	\$5,114,889	
2023	\$919,844,265	\$113,421,444	\$14,079,819	\$6,377,071	
2024	\$871,028,320	\$105,456,792	\$17,010,918	\$5,507,012	
2025	\$332,230,613	\$74,288,337	\$8,441,407	\$1,081,376	
	<b>\$3,733,079,449</b>	<b>\$545,590,887</b>	<b>\$78,482,997</b>	<b>\$21,542,941</b>	<b>\$4,378,696,274</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

### DEI at UW-Madison

Like many universities, UW system had a robust DEI infrastructure until 2023, when Republican state legislatures held back **\$800 million** in cost-of-living pay raises and construction funds to incentivize cuts to the system’s DEI programs. As a part of this deal, UW-Madison had to end its Target of Opportunity Program, which hired faculty and staff based on race. The university system more broadly had to freeze hiring for DEI positions and reorient some jobs that focused on DEI.

The Trump administration’s executive orders and new regulations against DEI and gender ideology have further accelerated [scrutiny](#) of the university’s DEI programs, particularly related to race-based scholarships.

The Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau [found](#) the university system spent \$40.2 million on offices with duties pertaining to DEI in fiscal year 2023-2024, \$12.5 million in staffing costs for 170 DEI positions, and \$7.9 million on activities listed in DEI plans. However, because costs overlap, those figures cannot be summed. The audit revealed 1,263 DEI activities across the system, with UW-Madison having the largest share at 436 activities—almost twice as much as the next campus, UW-Milwaukee, which had 234.

Madison also claimed the top spot in DEI spending, according to the report:

- \$21,801,500 in expenditures of offices with duties pertaining to DEI
- 80 DEI staff worth \$6,473,700 in salary
- \$3,160,400 spent on DEI activities listed in DEI plans
- 3,578 hours of staff time spent attending DEI-related training sessions and committee meetings

Some DEI activities at UW-Madison the audit found include:

- The Dean’s office funded research assistants for up to 40 hours for professors who want to include issues of race and diversity in their courses
- The Vet Med Diversity Reads program reads a book on DEI topics quarterly and hosts a national book club meeting
- Two DEI-focused micro-courses were developed on “Reflecting on Social Justice Foundational Concepts” and “Including and Navigating Race in the Classroom”
- The Graduate School held the “Niceness is Not Anti-Racism: How White Aspiring Allies Can (and Must) Step Up Their Game” workshop to encourage white allies to think more deeply about their allyship
- The UW-Madison Police Department joined the “30×30 Initiative” pledge to increase the representation of women in police departments to at least 30 percent by 2030

Federal spending also reinforced DEI at UW-Madison. DEI-related grants include:

- \$825,462 for “raising equity values with the inclusive professional framework and the international organization for standardization standards in engineering societies”
- \$702,535 for “advancing equity in middle school mathematics by engaging students and families of color in participatory design research.” The grant description states “this approach has the potential to disrupt inequitable practices of mathematics education ...further, it will be a catalyst for developing racially just practices and processes in mathematics education.”
- \$591,885 for “basic and translational research to combat stereotypes and unintentional biases.”

## ARIZONA SYSTEM

### University of Arizona

One of the more unlikely places to harbor significant antisemitism from professors is in the state of Arizona. Both the University of Arizona and Arizona State University are or have recently been home to professors of note. The Arizona system also demonstrates this extremist thinking is not confined to geopolitical studies like a Middle Eastern Studies department. In Arizona, professors can also be found in the history department and even gender studies.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, these professors can be found with degrees from progressive bastions noted in prior sections - parts of the University of California system and University of Chicago - and in conversation with faculty at places like Georgetown and UCLA.

**Dr. Maha Nassar** is an associate professor of modern middle east history and Islamic studies in the School of Middle Eastern and North African Studies at U Arizona, and her associations are a veritable acronym party. She supports the BDS movement and SJP (as a faculty advisor), has expressed support for the PFLP, and been a nonresident fellow at the Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP).

An anti-Israel group, Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network, also lists Nassar as a policy member. According to Canary Mission, it's "a [pro-BDS](#) group that [supports](#) the Palestinian 'right of return' and levels accusations of [ethnic cleansing](#), [apartheid](#), and [genocide](#) at Israel."

*[Al-Shabaka is a 501(c)(3) housed in California as the Middle East Policy Network.]*

Downstream of those associations has been a torrent of social media posts including, among many other things, conspiratorial thinking about the rise of a Third Jewish Temple and the destruction of Al Aqsa Mosque.

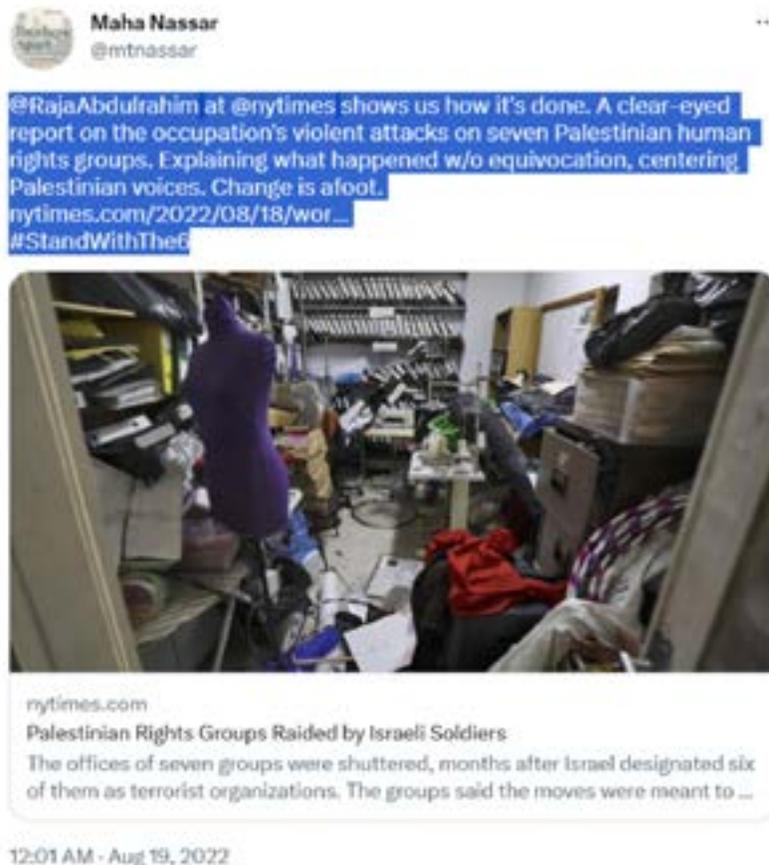
[According to investigative](#) journalist [David Collier](#), "the reason Arabs are murdering innocent Jews is because the 'status quo' on the Temple Mount is being threatened. It is a false rumour that has been used before..." Collier goes on to chronicle incidents of similar claims even predating the partition of Israel.

In an April 2022 post on X, Nassar spread the same message: "Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line have long been connected by their shared sense of duty to protect Jerusalem and its holy sites from Jewish extremists who wish to destroy the Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock. I explain this history here:" There she links to her own 2021 article that she authored for the Berkeley Forum at Georgetown, "'Al-Aqsa Is in Danger': How Jerusalem Connects Palestinian Citizens of Israel to the Palestinian Cause."

In her article, Nassar bemoans "Israeli settler-colonial rule" and claims "a growing network of extremist settler and religious Zionist groups seeking to establish full Israeli control Occupied East Jerusalem" and that the "most extreme of them" wanted to destroy Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.

[The Berkeley Forum is a publication of Georgetown’s Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs.]

Elsewhere on Nassar’s X feed, [she’s found using the hashtag](#) “StandWithThe6” in support of a half-dozen NGO’s found to be funneling money to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian (PFLP), which the United States has designated a foreign terror organization. The prior year, Israel’s defense minister had also declared the NGO’s terrorist organizations and “an arm” of PFLP. “The groups were accused of [funneling](#) donor aid to militants and employing senior PFLP members, “including activists involved in terror activity,” according to Canary Mission.



Similarly, Nassar [used Facebook](#) to honor an early PFLP leader, Ghassan Kanafani. After the 1972 massacre at Lod Airport, it was Kanafani taking credit on behalf of the PFLP. In 2019, a church in Toronto cancelled an event celebrating the [Ghassan Kanafani Resistance Arts Scholarship](#). According to the sponsor group, [Palestine Youth Movement](#), “The purpose of the scholarship is twofold: on the one hand, we seek to provide a much-needed space for our youth to receive support for their creative artistry affirming, through various means, the collective power and resilience of the Palestinian people. We also aim to uphold the [legacy](#) of Ghassan Kanafani, one of Palestine’s greatest writers who tirelessly demonstrated how the power of the written word can be the most potent weapon of all in securing the liberation of a colonized people.”

In her post, [Nassar wrote](#), “Palestinian cultural expression has long been the most potent form of resistance to the Zionist state-building project, which is predicated on denying Palestinian peoplehood and their ties to their land...it’s why Ghassan Kanafani was assassinated on July 18, 1972.”

The tacit support for terrorism gets worse, though. Spring 2018 brought the “March of Return,” a series of Hamas-led protests turned riots that lasted much of the year and included gunfire, “incendiary kites,” IEDs, and storming the border fence at the edge of the Gaza Strip. [Nassar reposted a set of images](#) and narrative that stated it was a “heavy day in Palestine” and mourning 5 casualties due to Israeli retaliation on the “31st consecutive week of Friday protests in Gaza.”

When CNN commentator Marc Lamont Hill lost his gig after he invoked “from the river to the sea” in an address to the United Nations, Nassar took [to Forward.com with an article titled](#), “‘From the River to the Sea’ Doesn’t Mean What You Think it Means.” In it, she claims it’s predicated on a supposition that most Jews would voluntarily leave a unified Palestine, but those who wished to stay would be welcomed. She even suggests Hamas’ 2017 charter revision is evidence they’re merely anti-colonial, anti-Zionist, but not antisemitic.

**Linda Darling is a colleague of Nassar’s at the University of Arizona, lecturing in the History Department.** Like Nassar, [Darling is also a supporter of the BDS movement](#).

Specifically, she called for an academic boycott, having signed a [2014 petition and open letter](#) that accuses Israel of maintaining “an illegal siege on the Gaza Strip for seven years” and says – in so many words – the oft-repeated ‘silence is violence:’

*We, the undersigned scholars and librarians working on the Middle East, hold that silence about the latest humanitarian catastrophe caused by Israel’s new military assault on the Gaza Strip—the third and most devastating in six years—constitutes complicity. World governments and mainstream media do not hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law. We, however, as a community of scholars engaged with the Middle East, have a moral responsibility to do so.”*

The signatories go on to say, “the ongoing massacres in Gaza have been ghastly reminders of the complicity of Israeli academic institutions in the occupation and oppression of Palestinians.” The events the signatories describe as massacres were Operation Protective Edge, Israel’s response to rockets fired at their civilians, including efforts to destroy Hamas tunnels that continued to fuel terror activity through the October 7 massacre in 2023.

“We call on our colleagues in Middle East Studies to boycott Israeli academic institutions, and we pledge not to collaborate on projects and events involving Israeli academic institutions, not to teach at or to attend conferences and other events at such institutions, and not to publish in academic journals based in Israel,” wrote the signatories.

Their three-pronged list of demands include restoring pre-1967 borders and “dismantling” all settlements and walls.

Darling also signed an [open letter](#) to then-President Barack Obama and member of Congress, accusing Israel of “war crimes.” The signatories wrote, in part, “We urge you to suspend US military aid to Israel, until there is assurance that this aid will no longer be used for the commission of war crimes.”

Elsewhere at the University of Arizona, at the College of Education, **two other professors** - [Rebecca Zapien](#) and [Rebecca \(“Becka”\) Lopez](#) – taught a course in 2023 named TLS411 - “Cultural Pluralism for Young Children.”

In an audio recording of one of the lectures, they describe Israel’s actions in Gaza, including a blockade, and Hamas’ mission, like this:

*“That’s so exhausting, to constantly be treated like crap, like you don’t matter. And so Hamas is a group within Palestine. They’re a group of people who are responding to that ...[inaudible] thing that’s going on. So they’re responding. Much like - they’re not the same, I want to separate it....but it reminds me of Black Panthers, for example, in that Black people in the US are really freaking tired of the way that they’re getting treated. So they have this group - like a resistance group. The way I would describe Hamas is like that, they are a resistance group, and yes they are choosing to resist through violence. They don’t represent Palestinian people, they’re not elected officials of Palestine by any means - they are a group of people, of Palestinians, that are responding.”*

The other professor on the recording complains that “Google searches, they just say it like it’s a terrorist group.” The first professor responds in agreement, “language matters.”

At another point in the class, a student says she’s seen videos online of Hamas “speaking very antisemitic,” and she’s corrected that “they’re probably anti-Zionist, which again, is about the Israeli state...Like when we think about Zionists and that movement, it’s not Jewish.”

When one student suggests Zionists are almost as cruel as Nazis, a second student protests, “can we not, like, compare anything to Nazis?” In a perverse form of mediation, one of the professors can be heard saying “there have been many holocausts, and we’re only taught about World War II...genocide is awful, and brutal, and we’re witnessing it again.”

As a kicker, the duo suggested students support the BDS movement. Once recordings of the class were [made public](#) on X, [both were suspended with pay](#) while the university pledged to investigate.

Taking things full circle, Professor Nassar reentered the picture at this point, [providing this comment to the Arizona Daily Star](#) in her capacity as SJP Faculty Advisor:

“This suspension, which was enacted without due process, sends a chilling message to UA students, staff and faculty who believe in Palestinian freedom, dignity and human rights.”

## Public Dollars at U of Arizona

University of Arizona received \$2.4 billion in federal grants and contracts from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025—about \$550 million a year.

According to [state budget documents](#) for FY 2025, the state government has a \$970 million spending authority across five entities in the Arizona university system. Of that, UA received \$295 million—substantially less support from the state government than the federal.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	TOTAL
2021	\$514,018,900	\$57,527,973	\$41,229,083	\$5,992,506	\$618,768,461
2022	\$404,545,886	\$38,699,225	\$55,902,310	\$4,541,100	\$503,688,521
2023	\$491,218,901	\$38,746,514	\$42,074,541	\$5,981,834	\$578,021,791
2024	\$429,539,215	\$47,222,212	\$23,422,907	\$14,154,590	\$514,338,923
2025	\$175,218,672	\$21,312,122	\$10,023,711	\$2,146,529	\$208,701,033
	<b>\$2,014,541,573</b>	<b>\$203,508,046</b>	<b>\$172,652,552</b>	<b>\$32,816,559</b>	<b>\$2,423,518,730</b>

Over the years, the university has also been funded for several trips abroad for fellowship recipients, Fulbright programs:

- 2009 [Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant, Teach Ottoman Empire!](#)
- 2007, [Tangier Summer Arabic Language Program](#)
- 2001 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Grant, Teach Turkey!
- 1983 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for Turkey

## Arizona State University

Arizona State is often used in popular culture as a stand-in for a classic “party” school, not a place to go find radical anticolonial thinking. But there in Tempe, ASU houses a School of Social Transformation, where antisemitic views have penetrated even sociology and gender studies.

Assistant professor [Lila Sharif](#) teaches on a myriad of topics, according to her official bio on ASU’s website:

*Dr. Lila Sharif (she/her/hers) is a creative writer, researcher, and educator. She is new faculty in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University where she teaches courses on Indigenous ontologies, race/ethnicity, Arab and Muslim experiences in the United States, food studies, global feminisms and a host of other topics. Her current work conceptualizes land, food, and culture through a global indigenous perspective. Her first solo-authored book is about how the olive—which has been cultivated in Palestine for 7,000 years—comes to signify the rootedness, [decolonial aspirations, and gathering of a community in the context of ongoing settler colonialism in their homeland](#). She has published essays as well as poetry in academic and public journals.*

Sharif led a course called [Justice Case Studies: Palestine](#) in the 2024 Spring semester, which was categorized as a course “on timely topics, highly specialized courses responding to unique student demand.” (That demand likely sprang from the October 7 attacks the previous semester.)

Sharif continues to teach [Global Feminist Theory](#), described as “In-depth studies of global feminist theories and exploration of the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and nation through critical analysis.”

She’s associated with the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) through two different Facebook groups. PYM is supportive of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), traffics in the same rumors about Al Aqsa mosque as noted in previous sections, and has likened the State of Israel to Nazi Germany. Formed in the 1980s, they’ve participated in the protests at Columbia and in Washington, DC, cooperated with the communist-minded Party for Socialism and Liberation, and put out a litany of statements glorifying violence:

In 2012, they said: “Our liberation...will be gained with the path that was written with the blood of our martyrs. We reaffirm that the only path that we are concerned with is the path that explicitly heads towards the liberation of our land and the return of our people to Palestine.”

More recently, in 2021, after fighting erupted over property disputes in Sheikh Jarrah, PYM extended “salutations” to martyrs:

*“The Palestinian Youth Movement extends our salutations to the Palestinian resistance and to all of our people for this courageous victory over the Zionist regime. We honor the hundreds of martyrs and prisoners who have paid the ultimate price in defense of our people’s lives, rights, and land. We affirm that we will continue the struggle against Zionist colonialism and occupation, and will not rest until Palestine is free from the river to the sea.”*

Recent social media posts from PYM refer to [“77 years of Nakba,”](#) meaning “catastrophe.” They’re counting everything following the 1948 Arab-Israel War as a nakba. A [second post](#) counts “600 days of genocide” since the October 7 attacks, and counts 54,506 “martyrs” - citing the Gaza Health Ministry, long discredited as Hamas-controlled propaganda.



Aside from PYM, Sharif has a longer history with Students for Justice in Palestine, dating back to her prior employment at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. According to Canary Mission, she was a featured speaker at that SJP chapter’s annual Palestine 101 conference from 2016 through 2020.

The UIUC chapter of SJP featured heavily in a complaint about UIUC’s handling of antisemitism dating back to 2015. The complaint to the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in 2020, filed by a private law firm and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights, alleges nearly a dozen incidents including vandalism, property destruction, and bias against a Jewish student who was removed from a student government role.

A press release from the Brandeis Center quotes one Jewish senior who said, “Every time I consider doing something Jewish in public I have to think about who might see it...Will I get doxxed? Will I be endlessly harassed online like other students have been? Will I be attacked as others have been? There’s been property destruction, and swastikas on campus.”

SIDENOTE: The University of Illinois system [was a top-10 recipient of Foreign Language and Areas Studies \(FLAS\) grants](#) awarded by the Department of Education since 2020.

Sharif attended the SJP’s 2018 National Conference at UCLA, and per Canary Mission:

*The conference was themed “Radical Hope: Resistance in the Face of Adversity.” The conference [website](#) stated: “[t]he reason we can have hope is that Zionism...can be destroyed.”*

In 2017, Sharif wrote on Facebook that white Europeans had “hijacked” Judaism:

*“the israel of the Bible (Judea and Samaria, home of the Israelite tribe, indigenous canaanites, etc etc) is not related to the settler colonial apartheid state of Israel. The latter is a state formed in 1948 by European colonizers by hijacking the Jewish religion to consolidate a makeshift national identity...”*



Following the Sheikh Jarrah tenancy disputes, violent clashes, rocket fire from Gaza and the Israeli response (Operation Guardian of the Walls) in 2021, Sharif repackaged the racial sentiment again. Her coauthored article in [The New Arab](#) is headlined “This Juneteenth, we honour black and Palestinian liberation as one,” and it decries “white supremacy” in America and Palestine.

During Operation Guardian of the Walls, as described by Canary Mission:

*On May 11, 2021, during OGW, violent Arab riots [broke out](#) in Israel’s mixed Jewish-Arab city of Lod and in [other](#) Israeli cities with large Arab populations. The Lod rioters reportedly raised Hamas and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) flags, and [attacked](#) Israeli civilians with slabs and rocks, firebombs and metal rods. Rioters also [torched](#) synagogues, cars and businesses, and [vandalized](#) hospital medical equipment, schools and government buildings.”*

A few days later, Sharif was sharing a poster on Facebook that read, “DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN UPRISING AND STRIKE.”

The racial politics angle persisted with Sharif, who's also been associated with Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP). JVP launched a 2017 PR campaign called 'Deadly Exchange' which sought to tie Israel and Jewish organizations in the United States to more widespread human rights abuses. [In a video](#), JVP discusses the exchange program that sends American law enforcement and border agencies to Israel for training and vice versa, calling it "an exchange of worst practices" that is "emboldening racist policing and holding up an occupying army as a global gold standard." The video's narrator continues:

*"We were disturbed to learn that many of the organizations running these exchange programs are institutions in our own community, including civil rights organizations. To shut down the deadly exchange, we feel obligated to start with these complicit organizations in our own communities."*

The logos for American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), American Jewish Committee (AJC), Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA), Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Birthright Israel all appear onscreen.

In discussing the 'Deadly Exchange' premise on "The Roundtable Perspective" podcast in 2020, [Sharif managed to link Israel](#) and these groups to the Ferguson riots. "The police department, which was trained by Israel, was using ammunition, including tear gas, bullets, etc., on the residents that were protesting in honor of Mike Brown's murder..." Sharif free associated.

Sharif is a founding member of the Palestinian Feminist Collective, and in keeping with anticolonialism and progressive dogma, the group says it's "primarily located on Turtle Island (the unceded lands known as North America). According to its website:

*"We are an intergenerational collective of activists, organizers, practitioners, creators, thinkers, artists, scholars, healers, water and land protectors, life-givers, and life-sustainers. We are committed to achieving Palestinian social and political liberation by confronting systemic gendered, sexual, and colonial violence, oppression, and dispossession."*

*"Through an anti-colonial approach, we center the political urgency of the Palestinian struggle. We resist the normalization of Zionist violence, oppression, and hegemony in all aspects of public and private life, including within feminist spaces. Our decolonial work centers a set of life-affirming principles and practices to redefine movement cultures that are rooted in transformative justice, healing, and creation. We are inspired by and borrow from past and present Palestinian, Arab, Black, Indigenous, and Third World feminist movements, thought and practice. We advance Palestinian feminism as a liberatory philosophy and practice necessary to create the world we want to live in."*

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Sharif is a product of the University of California system, having completed a dual PhD in sociology and ethnic studies at UC San Diego (2014) and a masters in sociology at the same school.

## Public Dollars at Arizona State University

ASU received \$3.1 billion in federal funds via grants and contracts from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025, or about \$700 million a year.

According to [state budget documents](#) for FY 2025, the state government has a \$970 million spending authority across five entities in the Arizona university system. Of that, ASU received \$408 million—substantially less support from the state government than the federal.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	
2021	\$743,914,059	\$52,039,693	\$24,138,366	\$3,866,663	
2022	\$492,684,330	\$34,260,107	\$23,171,404	\$4,328,099	
2023	\$575,350,682	\$53,168,760	\$33,221,883	\$6,868,777	
2024	\$610,917,226	\$132,228,591	\$35,050,249	\$10,866,878	
2025	\$275,701,454	\$23,720,371	\$16,435,6878	\$525,455	
	<b>\$2,698,567,752</b>	<b>\$295,417,522</b>	<b>\$132,017,589</b>	<b>\$26,455,872</b>	<b>\$3,152,458,735</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

### DEI in Arizona’s Public Universities

As Open the Books has long reported, the rise of public antisemitism on college campuses post-October 7 was preceded by a decade in which spending exploded in pursuit of “diversity, equity and inclusion” (DEI) ideology. The broader framework is often found coupled with anti-colonial, anti-Western sentiments that seek to “dismantle” any number of elements of modern society.

ASU and UA both continue to support a robust DEI infrastructure, although the Trump administration’s executive orders targeting such programming has caused the universities to remove some DEI language from their websites.

UA removed its DEI office, but still much DEI content remains on its website, like this [guide](#) for anti-racist writing instruction, which:

“...invites students and instructors to reflect on what assumptions they have about what counts as *good writing*, to explore where these judgements come from, and to consider who has been granted the power to define what counts as good writing.”

ASU also removed its DEI office, although officials [state](#) resources from that office have just been moved to other locations. Similarly, race and other - identity segregated graduation ceremonies were changed from “convocations” to “celebrations.”

University President Michael Crow told KJZZ at the time:

“We have two graduations, undergraduate and graduate, and everything else is a convocation at the college level or a self-assembled group that’s getting together to celebrate graduation.”

ASU did not provide Open the Books with salary and title data for its employees, requested three months before this writing.

**UA, however, did. We found 75 employees in DEI-related roles, paid about \$7.3 million for fiscal year 2025.**

The highest paid DEI employee was Dr. Francisco Moreno, who was the associate vice president of diversity and inclusion at the Health Sciences department. Today, he is called associate VP of “student engagement and career advancement.” He’s also a psychiatry professor.

Second highest is Jennifer Hatcher with \$397,100 in salary, who still retains her title as vice provost and chief inclusion officer at the UA Cancer Center. She also serves as the associate director of community outreach and engagement, and as a professor of public health.

Federal spending has also reinforced DEI at both UA and ASU in recent years. DEI-related grants include:

- [\\$590,387](#) to Arizona State University from National Science Foundation for “increasing the effectiveness of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion focused institutional change teams through a community of transformation.”
- [\\$349,196](#) to University of Arizona from National Science Foundation for “a community learning project centering race, gender, and mathematics”
- [\\$255,493](#) to University of Arizona from National Science Foundation for “creating justice-centered water literacy along the lower Mississippi Valley.”
- [\\$16,368](#) to University of Arizona from the Department of Agriculture to recruit “students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning” to agricultural careers.

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA - CHAPEL HILL

UNC-Chapel Hill is the flagship campus of North Carolina's public university system, whose DEI infrastructure has had a long, publicly tumultuous history and rollback.

It's also one of 12 universities the Anti-Defamation League [slapped with an "F" grade](#) in 2024 for their policies to protect Jewish students on campus from antisemitism (it improved to a C in 2025).

An April 2024 [student oped in](#) The Daily Tar Heel seems to support that evaluation. "When Jewish students report antisemitic incidents through the appropriate channels, including UNC's Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office, we don't observe action taken to prevent these incidents from reoccurring. When we try to explain to our peers why we believe they are engaging in antisemitism, we are rebuffed," the student wrote. "Whether due to ignorance or malice, I believe there is a lack of knowledge regarding what antisemitism is on campus."

In one incident cited by the ADL, a faculty member spent time justifying Hamas' October 7 attacks and called them "spectacular."

Also from ADL's report card: "Following October 7, the campus Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter posted imagery on social media featuring a paraglider and noose that the University provost concluded "represents a celebration of violence and murder."

The same group, SJP, [wrote their own Tar Heel editorial](#), in which they detail hand-delivering a letter to the administration calling for "divestment from Israeli apartheid" and stating "we reject the assertion that supporting colonized peoples' right to resistance is the same as endorsing violence in our community."

Furthermore, the [ADL documents](#):

"At an on-campus panel discussion event the following month, a speaker called the October 7 attack "a beautiful day" and called for the "eradication of Zionism." In January 2024, the Faculty Council at Chapel Hill postponed voting on a resolution that would have condemned such remarks.

"In April and May 2024, two anti-Israel encampments were established on the University campus, with the first ending in the detainment of 36 protestors. In May 2024, prior to commencement, protestors defaced a University building with red paint, including images of bloody hands and messages saying "UNC has blood on its hands."

"In September 2024, approximately 150 anti-Israel protestors entered at least nine academic buildings and disrupted classes in a protest that saw violent, anti-Israel rhetoric spraypainted both on and inside school buildings, including the historic naval armory that houses UNC's US Navy ROTC program. The University swiftly condemned the disruptive protest."

While it's unknown which faculty member called Hamas' gruesome attacks "spectacular," two professors turned up in the research of nonprofit Canary Mission.

**Dr. Nadia Yaqub**, [Professor](#), Department of Asian and Middle East Studies

Yaqub is a supporter of the BDS movement and a defender of the infamous Steven Salaita, a professor whose contract offer at the University of Illinois was withdrawn following antisemitic tweets.

In relation to BDS, she [signed a document](#) called "Campaign to Boycott the Oral History Conference at Hebrew University of Jerusalem." It urged academics not to attend because "all Israeli universities are deeply complicit in the occupation, settler-colonialism, and apartheid" but "the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is particularly noteworthy."

In 2015, she signed an open letter urging the Modern Language Association (MLA) to "pass a resolution endorsing the boycott of Israeli academic institutions."

Finally, she [signed a 2021 pledge](#) to promote BDS "in the classroom and on campus."

As for Salaita, his social media activity could reasonably be considered outrageous. After Hamas kidnapped three Israeli high schools students in 2014, [he tweeted](#), "You may be too refined to say it, but I'm not: I wish all the fucking West Bank settlers would go missing." In another post, he mused, "There's something profoundly sexual to the Zionist pleasure w/[#Israel's](#) aggression. Sublimation through bloodletting, a common perversion."

In 2017, [he posted on Facebook](#), "People still ask if I would go back in time and change anything. I would not. If my behavior were dishonorable, then I might have something to regret. I condemned a brutal ethnocratic state. On this count, I will die unapologetic. And insofar as we are forced to contemplate life in binaries, I prefer unemployment to subservience. My heart is with those who struggle for dignity amid terrible."

Yaqub [signed a petition by the BDS movement](#) in 2014 regarding Salaita. The title is self-explanatory: "A Call to People of Conscience Not to Speak at the University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Until Chancellor Wise Honor the Contract to Hire Professor Steven Salaita."

Yaqub authored a book, "Palestinian Cinema in the Days of Revolution," which analyzed films made of the Palestinian revolution or national liberation movement. According to the description, "Filmmakers working within the PLO and through other channels filmed the revolution as it unfolded, including the Israeli bombings of Palestinian refugee camps, the Jordanian and Lebanese civil wars, and Palestinian life under Israeli occupation, attempting to create a cinematic language consonant with the revolution and its needs."

In the course of promoting the book, Yaqub spoke with *Film Quarterly* and made a now-familiar comparison between the Palestinian struggle and the Holocaust: "Israel's repeated and disproportional attacks on Palestinian and other Arab civilians are rooted in a worldview that is very similar to that which produced the genocide against European Jews."

During the same interview, she characterized violent riots and breaches of the border fence as repression from Israel. “As we speak in May 2018, Israeli soldiers are wounding or killing thousands of protesters participating in the ‘Great March of Return’ in Gaza. This violence is the logical extension of the 1970s bombings of camps and villages in Lebanon.”

At a February 2024 campus [panel discussion](#) called “News Media Frameworks for Israel/Palestine,” Yaqub gave opening remarks and, according to Campus Watch, began by asking the audience not to record.

“Why is UNC – a taxpayer-funded public university – so afraid of having their anti-Israel events recorded?” [Campus Watch writes](#). “About 55 seconds into her opening remarks, Yaqub told the audience that Israel is fighting ‘Palestinian resistance groups.’ Not a single panelist spoke up to disagree, and to let the audience know that the United States and many other countries have [designated](#) Hamas as a terrorist organization.”

More from the Middle East Forum’s Campus Watch:

“In January, Yaqub spoke at a UNC Faculty Council meeting to [oppose a resolution](#), titled “Condemning Antisemitism on Campus.” The resolution sought to condemn remarks made by Rania Masri, a recent speaker on UNC’s campus, who [described](#) the Oct. 7 massacre as a ‘beautiful day.’

“Yaqub [told](#) Inside Higher Ed that she did not believe Masri’s comments were ‘objectively antisemitic,’ and that “what actually happened on that day [Oct. 7], and who actually committed what, is still very unclear.”

In a [2024 editorial for The Algemeiner](#), Peter Reitzes writes:

“A source sent me the [first page](#) of what appears to be Yaqub’s current syllabus for ARAB 151 – Arabic Literature Through the Ages. The syllabus states, ‘In light of the extraordinary violence being brought to bear against Palestinians living under Israeli occupation since October 7 and the shockingly callous position the United States government has taken vis-à-vis that violence, it is incumbent on us to educate ourselves about all aspects of the Palestinian condition.’

“It seems Yaqub intends to use an Arabic literature class at a public university to focus on condemning Israel and the United States.”

Reitzes also took stock of Yaqub’s RateMyProfessor page, where reviewers say she “presents Israel as this cartoon-ish villain ... and basically says ‘Israel bad, Palestine good.’”

**Kylie Broderick**, instructor, Ph.D. candidate

At the same panel discussion where Yaqub asked the audience to refrain from recording, she recommended three media sources, all harshly anti-Israel, including Jadaliyya. That publication’s Managing Editor is Kylie Broderick, who’s also come under scrutiny for a litany of extremist remarks.

Broderick got her Ph.D. and UNC and instructed the course “The Conflict Over Israel/Palestine” in Fall 2021.

Monitoring groups quickly highlighted her social media activity. Thanks to reporting from The Algemeiner and [Campus Reform](#), we know that includes a tweet that claimed, “Palestinians are murdered for just being alive & bc [because] they’re inconvenient to Israel & its patron, the imperialist US death cult. We have so few opportunities to resist this empire and do what’s right collectively. Let’s do what we can.”

She also lamented that role-playing games in class don’t work when there’s only one “legitimate” side in the conflict:

“As an anti-imperialist teaching the modern Middle East, I find it difficult to do role-playing games in class,” Broderick tweeted. “2 sides” of most subjects we cover are b/t [between] colonizers/imperialists & oppressed native peoples. Does any1 have any successful [strategies] for this? Is it worth it?”

In a follow-up tweet, she clarified:

“And by ‘2 sides’ I mean there is only 1 legitimate side - the oppressed - versus imperialist propaganda. I don’t ever want to encourage them to believe there is reason to take on good faith the oppressive ideologies of American and Western imperialism, Zionists & autocrats.”

In an open letter published in [IndyWeek](#), Broderick’s accusations range from conspiratorial - that UNC police train in Israel - to petty (the campus store sells Sabra Hummus).

In a [2023 tweet](#) unearthed by Voice for Israel, Broderick seemed to push back on criticism of LGBTQ activists supporting Palestine. She wrote, “Queers do not want to be used as a justification for an apartheid power to commit these heinous war crimes. Our liberation is bound up in the liberation of all the oppressed people in the world. F\*\*\* Israel and all of you lovers of Israel’s genocide.”

Despite the “tweetstorm,” Chancellor Kevin M. Gusciewicz [wrote a letter](#) to Voice for Israel stating that he was confident Griswold would present the course fairly:

“Thank you for sharing your concerns about the course HIST 277, The Conflict Over Israel and Palestine. Carolina’s traditions include a deep and abiding respect for the First Amendment, academic freedom and the open exchange of ideas. We have a responsibility to create a welcoming and open environment that fosters civil discourse, and I am confident that students enrolled this fall in HIST 277 will benefit from a thoughtful presentation of information relevant to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.”

Griswold also [participated](#) in a November 2021 panel discussion by Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Initiative (AMED), called “Whose Narratives? Whose Classrooms?: Teaching Palestine, Gender & Sexual Justice in the Pandemic.” During the discussion, she returned to the notion that there can’t be two sides in a debate, saying, “The concept of objectivity is a colonizer’s tool and one we must discard entirely,” [and that](#) “objectivity is neither desirable nor possible in teaching history.”

After recounting that her tweet-filled summer had generated hundreds of concerned letters to UNC, she retorted that the school “spent a good deal of time examining my ability to be objective, whatever that means.”

She also used a common refrain among those steeped in DEI and anti-colonial worldviews, declaring that as she sat on the video call, she was “on stolen and unceded indigenous territory here in North Carolina,” and went on to [refer](#) to the United States and Israel as “twin settler colonies.”

**Elyse Crystall**, [Teaching Professor](#), English and Comparative Literature

Crystall, like too many fellow academics, is another support of Stephen Salaita, backs the BDS movement, and is affiliated with Jewish Voices for Peace. She’s [another signatory](#) on the open letter asking the Modern Language Association to boycott Israeli academic institutions.

According to [Campus Reform](#), Crystall coordinated with the others in profiled here - Dr. Yaqub and Griswold - to draft a faculty statement “condemning Israeli airstrike against Hamas” during heightened tensions in 2021.

The [statement covered](#) a wide range of DEI greatest hits:

*“We view the Palestinian struggle for liberation as closely entwined with many struggles for racial and Indigenous justice in America, from Ferguson to Standing Rock. In joining our voices to those of the people of Palestine, we reaffirm our commitment to combating racism in all its forms, including anti-Blackness, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Asian racism.”*

Crystall has a longer history and both UNC and Fordham, where she supported SJP on campus. In 2014, as Israel engaged in Operation Protective Edge, Crystall [signed a petition](#) that called Gaza an “open air prison” and claimed air strikes from Israel were hitting “both military and civilian targets almost indiscriminately.” The same document said, “deprivation of the rights of the Palestinian people has been an organic aspect of the Zionist project, which has been supported by the Western imperial powers since 1917.”

Further back, in 2006, she leveled an ethnic cleansing claim, [signing](#) a “Petition for U.S. Jewish/Muslim solidarity.” The name sounds uncontroversial, but the body of the petition said, “Israel was founded through a process of colonization. It is well documented that Israel's founders knew then that their role in this colonizing process would require an ongoing military strategy to continue to ‘cleanse’ the Palestinian population in the name of a ‘Jewish’ state.”

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Grants at UNC**



Like Columbia and Wisconsin, the UNC system was among the top 10 recipients of FLAS grants from 2020-2024, **collecting \$13,880,233** in federal tax dollars from the Department of Education.

But during the Trump administration, UNC’s commitment to ideology over basic instruction drew scrutiny from the first Trump administration.

A joint Duke/UNC program received a [letter](#) from the Dept. of Education criticizing it for giving “very little serious instruction preparing individuals to understand the geopolitical challenges to U.S. national security and economic needs, but quite a **considerable emphasis on advancing ideological priorities.**”

The Feds said the program was missing a balance of perspectives and used taxpayer dollars on irrelevant activities – like a concert series highlighting “Islam, music, and social change” and a conference called “Love and Desire in Modern Iran.”

The schools were to reform the program or lose their funding.

But as we’ve illustrated, programs with top funding have radical professors promoted in their literature and on grant applications. The Department of Education did not respond when asked how or if they scrutinize these applications.

Kylie Broderick, the instructor profiled above, bemoaned the administration’s actions in her letter to the editor at IndyWeek:

*“Finally, UNC-Duke has already come under attack by the federal government in the past for a conference on Gaza - a conference that merely reaffirmed the reality that Gazans are under constant attack by Israel and live under systematic apartheid. In response to UNC-Duke hosting the conference, the Department of Education issued a [Title VI notice](#) against the university, ordering that UNC and Duke remake its Middle East curricula and programming. Public universities are punished for even speaking to the truth of Palestinian suffering - that it is generated by deliberate Israeli policy, in part funded and supported by the US government.”*

### Public Dollars at UNC-Chapel Hill

UNC-Chapel Hill received \$4.1 billion in federal funds from fiscal year 2021 to June 2025.

YEAR	GRANT	SUB-GRANT	CONTRACT	SUB-CONTRACT	
2021	\$745,448,069	\$205,248,504	\$27,738,887	\$4,083,445	
2022	\$761,151,792	\$130,349,724	\$38,177,520	\$5,500,280	
2023	\$764,053,632	\$115,682,903	\$28,443,422	\$2,913,705	
2024	\$733,924,205	\$105,252,361	\$33,634,002	\$3,664,307	
2025	\$284,083,506	\$96,186,115	\$13,526,221	\$2,790,159	
	<b>\$3,288,661,204</b>	<b>\$652,719,606</b>	<b>\$141,520,052</b>	<b>\$18,951,896</b>	<b>\$4,101,852,759</b>

### Grants and Contracts

FY21-25

*\*figures through June 2025*

Across the entire UNC system, the most recent [state budget](#) is about \$3.7 billion a year. There are no school-by-school breakdowns in this budget, so it is unclear what UNC-Chapel Hill’s share of the budget would be between the 16 universities and one high school in the system.

A 2019 [report](#) states UNC-Chapel Hill got \$543 million in state funding, making up 16% of its budget. Research grants made up 25% of its budget that year, or about \$941 million. Although an exact figure isn’t given, most of the funding came from the federal government. Tuition and fees made up 12% of the revenue.

### UNC DEI Funding

The entire UNC system had a robust DEI infrastructure in 2023: Open the Books [found](#) nearly \$90 million in salaries spent on 686 staffers under the DEI umbrella across 16 campuses. At UNC Chapel Hill Open the Books found 88 staffers with DEI roles.

In May 2024 the system's Board of Governors voted to end DEI programming, and while some roles were eliminated, in the 2024 payroll we found 63 staffers with DEI-related positions, with salaries totaling \$6.6 million.

For example, the Women's and Gender Studies department has seven staffers collecting \$825,511 in salaries collectively. Although DEI positions have been banned, the department is still a hotbed of extremism, offering courses like "Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice," "Introduction to Transgender Studies," and "Women Mystics."

The graduate level course "Gender, Race, and Class Issues in Education," according to its description, "provides an understanding of (and remedies for) the racism, sexism, and class divisions that schools can perpetuate. Examines curriculum, counseling, and interaction in classrooms; structure and leadership; and fundamental assumptions."

Another grad-level course "Theorizing Black Feminisms" discusses the "theoretical and practical contributions of African American feminists who maintain that issues of race, gender, sexuality, and social class are central, rather than peripheral, to any history or strategy for bringing about social justice in the United States."

Another class, "Queering China," explores "queer expressions in Chinese literature and visual culture from 1949 through the twenty-first century. It surveys a combination of all-time classics and lesser-known cultural texts featuring non-heteronormative sexual desire and gender-bending performance. We mobilize queer as a broad site of critique beyond Western models of the concept, asking not only how queer challenges normative bodyminds [sic], but also how it negotiates notions of age, family, race, and the neoliberal order.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Public Health has two employees of their "Inclusive Excellence" program making \$108,191 and \$183,045. While DEI is supposed to be banned, the Inclusive Excellence program still has an "[action plan](#)" promoted on its website describing extreme adherence to DEI, including by encouraging:

- Training with a strong anti-racist component for faculty, staff, and teaching assistants
- Social justice and racial equity training at student orientation, as part of the curriculum and in the classroom
- Prioritize funding for anti-racist research

Leah Cox, the former chief diversity officer/vice provost for equity and inclusion, had a title change to vice provost for the Office of the President. While she is not officially a DEI employee, it's very likely she continues promoting DEI causes in less overt ways. Her salary in 2024 was \$327,064.

Federal spending also reinforced DEI at UNC-Chapel Hill. DEI-related grants include:

- [\\$2.8 million](#) from the Department of Health and Human Services to study “Multilevel forms of structural racism and racial inequalities in Alzheimer’s Disease Related Dementias”
- [\\$2.35 million](#) from National Science Foundation to support “racially and ethnically diverse youth in learning about climate resilience in informal settings, including community centers, afterschool programs, and museums.”
- [\\$1.5 million](#) from National Science Foundation to support restructuring “middle school science education around grand challenges such as pandemics, climate events, and diminishing biodiversity.”

## UMASS AMHERST

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has almost [3,000](#) Jewish students, yet antisemitic professors have managed to permeate the departments of History, Philosophy, English, Asian Languages & Civilizations and more.

**[Dr. Sut Jhally](#) is a professor emeritus of communications within UMass' College of Social & Behavioral Sciences.** He is also a filmmaker who presented his work during Israeli Apartheid Week, an international campaign "that seeks to raise awareness of...Israel's settler-colonial project and apartheid system over the Palestinian people."

Jhally's film *The Occupation of the American Mind* opens with footage of the 2014 Gaza War to criticize Israel's "[repeated invasions](#)" of the Gaza strip, which were instigated when Hamas kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank. Later on in the film, singer [Roger Waters](#) claims that "defending a country like Israel by operating for collective murder and the genocide of occupied people is not defense."

Jhally gave a presentation about *The Occupation of the American Mind* at a Students for Justice in Palestine event on UMass' campus in 2015. The lecture featured the "Map That Lies," which uses historically inaccurate borders to claim Israel "stole" land from Palestinians. McGraw-Hill Education has recalled textbooks that included the map, and MSNBC once apologized for using it in a news report.

The film also has an [X account](#), which made a post on [June 6](#) claiming that "**Zionism and white hetero masculinity are drink from the same poison well.**" On [May 28](#), the account posted that "**Israel is a murderous, barbaric regime** aided and abetted by the (past and present) murderous, barbaric regimes in Washington."

Another post claims that Israel is a "[nation of sadists.](#)" A [December 2024](#) post from the film's account mocks a podcast called "Two Nice Jewish Boys" by asking, "Wow, if these are the nice boys, just imagine what the Two Genocidal Asshole Jewish Boys podcast sounds like?"

In a 2019 podcast interview with The Bill Newman Show, Jhally called support for Israel "the most effective propaganda campaign...in American history."

Jhally's other works include *Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land*, which the [New York Times](#) described as a "one-sided" film that ignores the role Palestinians played in creating violence in Gaza. He also wrote the book [Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear and the Selling of American Empire and directed the film Dreamworlds 3: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Video.](#) His website states that he is currently working on a film about "discourses of heterosexual sexuality and domination."

Jhally earned a salary of \$59,327 in 2024. His pay went as high as [\\$213,474](#) when he was chairman of the communications department in 2020.

**[Rachel Weber](#) is a lecturer in UMass Amherst's Social Thought and Political Economy department.** She made [national headlines](#) in October 2023 when a student asked her "Will you condemn terrorism," and Weber answered, "It's not a yes or no question."

In the same conversation, Weber accused Israel of bombing “queer Palestinians.” Homosexuality is punishable by up to [10 years](#) in prison under Palestinian law.

Weber also provided [legal services](#) to Efe Ercelik, a UMass student on a visa from Turkey who was arrested in 2023 for assault and battery during a peaceful pro-Israel rally.

Ercelik reportedly punched a Jewish student in the face and kicked him in the stomach during a Hillel event calling for Hamas to release its hostages. [Witnesses said](#) Ercelik called the Jewish student a “little bitch boy,” took his Israeli flag, and spat on it and stabbed it with a knife. Ercelik pled not guilty at first but later pled guilty to misdemeanors without jail time.

Weber also represented 57 students arrested for trespassing during an anti-Israel rally at UMass in 2023.

UMass students held more pro-Palestine rallies in May 2024, which ended with the arrest of more than 130 participants. Weber later [claimed that](#) “the university caused the escalation in May” and said the university should “make amends with the people that were harmed.”

In 2021, Weber [tweeted](#) that “if you fight for...freedom of speech, freedom of religion, climate justice, queer liberation, the end of apartheid...you should be fighting for Palestine.” Palestine does not allow [freedom of speech](#) or [freedom of religion](#).

Weber’s salary as a lecturer was \$15,190 in 2024. Her four colleagues in the Social Thought and Political Economy department made a total of \$256,396.

## DEI Payroll

The University of Massachusetts Amherst had 25 DEI employees making \$2.24 million in 2024.

The Office of Equity and Inclusion had 11 employees making \$832,883, including a \$150,000 salary for Vice Chancellor of DEI [Marsha McGriff](#). She has also worked for the University of Florida and Indiana University, and she recently received the 2024 Individual Leadership award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.

There are 12 employees in the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies department making \$1.19 million. The fall 2025 [course offerings](#) include “Queer/Trans/Feminist Disability Studies and Teaching” and “Learning in Carceral Spaces,” where students learn how to advocate for prisoners to have access to higher education. Laura Briggs is the highest-paid professor with a \$184,445 salary.

Edna Cheryl Ponder makes \$167,152 as the assistant vice chancellor for advocacy, inclusion and support. When she was hired in [2023](#), the university bragged that “Dr. Ponder is an equity champion committed to supporting organizations to be diverse and inclusive.”

## Public Dollars at UMass

The University of Massachusetts Amherst has received [\\$832.75 million](#) in federal grants and contracts since 2021.

Examples include:

- \$417,644 from the Department of the Interior to “support teaching and training of” climate adaptation scientists “in building a more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just community.” The goal is to make climate science “more equitable and inclusive, leading to a scientific enterprise that is more welcoming and supportive of students of all backgrounds.”
- \$20,000 from the National Institutes of Health for a “diversifying the autism research workforce conference.”
- \$2.8 million from the Department of Health and Human Services for “advancing employment equity for multiply-marginalized people.” The project was designed to “generate new knowledge leading to a reduction of disparities in employment outcomes among the heterogenous population of people with disabilities (i.e., developmental, cognitive, sensory, psychiatric, physical, and multiple disabilities) whose identities intersect with those of other historically underserved populations (i.e., Black, indigenous, and people of color [BIPOC], LGBTQIA+ status, poverty status, rural locale).”

## CONCLUSION

*"I saw a group of lost kids...I asked one of them why she was there, and she told me something I'll never forget: 'We are holding space for Gaza.' What does that even mean? You're not a physics student—what does 'holding space' mean?"*

- Columbia professor Avi Friedman, after removing his kippah and conversing with protestors at Columbia's encampment in April 2024

In many instances, the obsession with inclusion led to increasingly divided campuses and disillusionment about the future of race relations, hesitation to express heterodox views and recriminations on the basis of religion and ethnicity.

The DEI philosophy, which divides the world into "oppressed" and "oppressor," dwells on land acknowledgements, and wants to "decolonize" all aspects of the West, appears anecdotally on campus after campus. So much so that much of the extreme rhetoric seems to run together.

The way the professors in this report discuss the conflict over Israel is of a piece with this radical worldview.

While the Trump administration has worked to tamp down DEI investment through executive orders, it is proving its resilience. For example, at UNC, [multiple secret recordings](#) have demonstrated that faculty are working to do an end run around the directives from Washington and their own board. For example, Accuracy in Media [caught](#) Janique Sanders, assistant director of leadership and community engagement at UNC-Charlotte, on camera, "We've renamed, we've reorganized, we've recalibrated so to speak" and that "if you are interested in doing work that is covert, there are opportunities."

At Columbia, as recently as a month before publication, acting president Clare Shipman had to apologize for leaked text messages from January 2024, in which [she said](#) the school should remove a Jewish person from the board. "We need to get somebody from the middle east [sic] or who is Arab on our board...Quickly I think. Somehow."

But rather than be cowed, many of the professors reportedly resented her [apology](#) and pointed the finger at Shoshana Shendelman for leaking the texts. Shendelman was the Jewish woman Shipman wanted removed from the board. Per the [Washington Free Beacon](#):

*An anonymous group of Columbia University faculty members released a statement suggesting a Jewish member of the school's board of trustees "leaked" acting president Claire Shipman's private text messages to the Washington Free Beacon. In reality, Columbia itself provided the messages to a House committee, which released them in a letter, as a Free Beacon [report on the texts](#) noted.*

*The [statement](#) came from "a group of Columbia faculty and staff," according to "Rise Up, Columbia," a [Substack page](#) run by "members of the Columbia community intent on fighting back against attacks on our university." It says Shipman's texts were "recently leaked to the press" and calls the "timing" of the leak "suspicious."*

*"Who benefits from sending Shipman's messages to the right wing Free Beacon?" the faculty members ask before answering their own question: "Shoshana Shendelman," a Jewish member of Columbia's board who, according to the statement, "has recently come under pressure to resign" and is "desperate to repair her image."*

In short, there's a lot of work to do to repair the damage caused by the divisive, anticolonial, at times anti-Western thinking that's become too prominent in American academia.

Taxpayers have plenty of fodder to examine the cultures they have been indirectly funding for decades. As long as the federal government continues handing out grants for far-Left social engineering, and forgiving loans to prop up bloated tuition and faculties, there is little incentive for prestigious universities to change course.

## METHODOLOGY

Anecdotal connections between university professors, faculty and anti-Israel groups were cultivated from a variety of sources. Foremost was Canary Mission, a 501(c)(3) that's done exhaustive research bringing antisemitism and anti-Israel rhetoric and actions to light. Other sources included X, Facebook, The Algemeiner, campus newspapers and major media outlets including the *New York Times*.

Payroll information on university staff with DEI-related roles was gleaned through public records, university websites, and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Federal grants and contracts were culled from Open the Books proprietary database, the largest private database of public spending in history, and confirmed with USASpending.gov.

FLAS and Fulbright fellowship funding was reported by the Department of Education. FLAS grants appear in "Section 117 Foreign Gift and Contract Data" maintained by the agency.

Grants with radical research proposals, and DEI-related roles, were surfaced by searching a variety of related keywords: DEI, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Race, Black, African American, Equality, Equal, Equitable, Inclusive, Racial, Justice, Multicultural, Immigrant/ Immigration, Latina/o/x, LGBTQ, Queer, Culture/Climate, Belonging, Women, gender and sexuality, Color, Indigenous, Bias, American Indian, and Other, as seen in the UC Berkeley Othering and Belonging Institute.) Employees were also included if their department or institute has a DEI-related name or purpose.

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### IN 2023 and 2024...

Quantified the federal bureaucracy and the waste, fraud and abuse that followed Covid lockdowns. We also exposed the radical DEI ideology that had permeated the Department of Defense, National Science Foundation and the EPA.

### IN 2021 and 2022...

Identified Dr. Anthony Fauci as the top paid federal employee, quantified the staggering cost of U.S. military gear left behind in Afghanistan, cracked open California's state checkbook and Big Pharma's \$1.4 billion in third-party paid royalties – leading to four televised congressional hearings in 2022.

### IN 2020...

*The President's Budget To Congress FY2021* included a first-ever chapter, "Stopping Wasteful and Unnecessary Spending," which was inspired by our oversight report, *Where's The Pork? A Study of \$600 Billion In Federal Grants*. Included in the President's Budget was our report, *Use-It-Or-Lose-It - How The Federal Government Spent \$97 Billion In September 2018*.

### IN 2019...

Our *Top 82 U.S. Non-Profit Hospitals: Quantifying Government Payments & Financial Assets* report launched on *FOX News' Tucker Carlson Tonight* and *USA TODAY*. This report backstopped President Trump's two executive orders on healthcare price transparency by showing that wealthy charitable non-profit healthcare providers and their CEO's were making big profits. Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D) also cited this data in his state of the state address while arguing for price reforms.

### IN 2018...

Open The Books' *Mapping The Swamp, A Study Of The Administrative State Media* report launched on *FOX News' The Ingraham Angle* and directly led to Representative Judy Hice's (R-GA) legislation on pension and bonus transparency (H.R. 2612). Furthermore, we briefed the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management & Budget regarding our policy ideas to drain the swamp.

### IN 2017...

The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act 2017, passed into law and included a claw-back tax on Ivy League-style, excessive university endowments. The *Boston Globe* cited our Ivy League, Inc. oversight report as a catalyst for the legislative provision. Coverage included *The Wall Street Journal* and eight segments on *Fox News*.

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