LABOR PROTECTION WON!

On September 26, 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed into California law the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, approving daily overtime pay for all domestic workers. Domestic work has been regulated in California since 1976, but until now, many workers have been excluded from basic labor protections. After seven years of fighting, domestic workers, employers and community leaders are celebrating this historic victory.

As with many policy wins, research played an integral role. This year, NDWA and its member groups in California teamed up with DataCenter and the University of Illinois at Chicago to produce a California-specific report to target decision makers. *Home Truths: Domestic Workers in California* presents an empirically grounded picture of what it means to be a domestic worker in California, helping make this victory possible. Read more: datacenter.org/ndwa

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

Reflections on *Decolonizing Knowledge* and Our Continual Efforts for Research Justice by Margaret Rhee

On April 26th, 2013, over 500 community members, activists, students, cultural workers, scholars, and youth leaders gathered to ask: What is Knowledge? Through songs, speeches, and stories, we redefined the answer. Knowledge is not only produced in the ivory tower of academia. Instead, community knowledge such as traditions, languages, and stories are just as, and many times, more valuable. Together, we realigned knowledge production and celebrated DataCenter’s commitment to Research Justice and community-driven research as a path towards self-determination and justice.

*Decolonizing Knowledge* honored community traditions, spiritualities, and indigenous languages through listening to our cultural healers. As we gathered in Oakland, on Ohlone territory, Ann-Marie Sayers, a local Costanoan Ohlone native and activist, gave her blessings for the event. Member of the Pascua Yaqui tribe, Eddie Madril performed a hoop dance.

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NOW THAT’S WHAT WE CALL RESEARCH JUSTICE!

Dear friend,

DataCenter helped build the research capacity of domestic workers through the last ten years, so they could be their own experts and make change happen – and the successful campaign to pass the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights attests to the powerful impact of grassroots communities doing their own research (pg. 1).

For those of you committed to long-term systemic change, your gift amplifies the effect of our work; one experience in a project directly informs another. Through toolkits, such as An Introduction to Research Justice and Civic Maps (pgs. 3 and 6, respectively), we share resources and lessons from each project, benefiting many more communities.

Your support also strengthens the conduit between research resources and marginalized communities. And grassroots communities need access to rigorous research.

Above all, your gift signifies a long-term, far-sighted investment in the social justice movement. Whatever the issues or geographies, communities will always need research as their own tool for effective change.

With your support, DataCenter will put the ‘strategy’ into grassroots organizing by empowering grassroots researchers and experts.

In the coming year, we’ll be working with people like Juan Haro of Movement for Justice in El Barrio to address housing conditions for low-income residents in East Harlem, and Luna Ranjit of Adhikaar to organize Nepali nail salon workers in New York City.

Thanks for your solidarity, and trusting DataCenter to deliver on the promise of lasting change for our community partners like Juan and Luna, and hundreds of other dedicated advocates of Research Justice.

In community,

miho kim
Executive Director
DataCenter

— donate at datacenter.org/give —

DataCenter Welcomes Jennifer Lee

DataCenter welcomes research fellow Jennifer Lee to the Research Justice team! Jennifer is Korean-American who was born and raised in the Midwest. She has worked in the nonprofit sector and brings a background in affordable housing, poverty alleviation, homelessness, micro-entrepreneurship, and immigrant rights. Jennifer holds a Master’s in Public Administration from New York University with a concentration in policy development and analysis. Most recently, she has spent the past five years at Transforming Communities: Technical Assistance, Training & Resource Center working in the domestic violence prevention field to advance community-driven evaluation and participatory action research strategies.

“I coordinated a national research justice webinar for violence against women prevention organizations and witnessed firsthand its powerful impact on re-framing evaluations as a means to learn, grow, and deepen relationships. I am excited to be a part of the team in modeling and promoting this important work!”

— Jennifer Lee

Jennifer’s experience will undoubtedly add depth and richness to DataCenter’s work. We’re honored to have Jennifer on the team!
An Introduction to Research Justice

"DataCenter offered us expertise in research while respecting the leadership, vision and social justice values of our membership. Together we were able to produce research that surpassed our own expectations."
— Ai-jen Poo, Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance

A free, popular education toolkit for community organizations working towards social justice.

**New Toolkit: An Introduction to Research Justice**

Having knowledge is a right, not a privilege. In today’s knowledge-based economy, it’s a premium — and yet, grassroots communities are not seen as ‘knowledge’ producers and the unique knowledge that lives in the communities is often considered invalid. This reality undermines the community’s ability to solve their own problems and achieve change.

Research Justice recognizes people’s intelligence not just based on formal education level but as inclusive of firsthand experiences and culture. It’s critical that community members drive their own research — which includes agenda setting and determining the research goals — to truly affect change. Research Justice suggests a path to unleash the power of our communities to transform their realities by taking informed action.

For almost ten years, DataCenter has been developing, popularizing, and expanding its flagship Research Justice training curriculum. The curriculum has been packaged into a new toolkit titled *An Introduction to Research Justice*. The toolkit aims to build the capacity of grassroots organizers and community members and better equip marginalized communities to reclaim, own, and wield all forms of knowledge and information. With strategic support, the knowledge and information generated by these communities can be used as political leverage to advance their own agendas for change.

The toolkit effectively:

- Explores the theory of Research Justice — a strategic framework that seeks to transform structural inequities in knowledge production
- Advances community-driven research as a powerful tool to build grassroots power
- Helps participants choose which research methods will prove most effective for their campaigns and organizing objectives
- Employs popular education techniques to encourage leadership development

**Download this free toolkit at**

[datacenter.org/store](http://datacenter.org/store)

This toolkit is the first of a series of Research Justice toolkits. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at [datacenter.org/subscribe](http://datacenter.org/subscribe) and join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/researchjustice](http://facebook.com/researchjustice) for more toolkit releases!

Stay updated with the latest in Research Justice: [facebook.com/researchjustice](http://facebook.com/researchjustice) • [datacenter.org/subscribe](http://datacenter.org/subscribe)
Now Available to All! Research Justice Trainings

DataCenter developed its Research Justice curriculum in partnership with numerous low income community-based organizations. We refined our trainings through working with domestic workers, restaurant workers, youth and families of incarcerated youth, as well as southwest indigenous communities, among many others.

As a result of the DataCenter's training program, communities build their capacity to:

1. conduct high-level research using a wide array of robust methodologies to generate powerful evidence;
2. forge effective partnerships with research institutions and issue and policy experts around the country;
3. unleash the power of their community’s knowledge so that they are seen as the authorities of their own experiences, and necessary contributors in policy generation that is in-line with the community’s needs;
4. have the internal research capacity to demonstrate community needs based on concrete data, and are therefore able to tap into sustainable funding services; and
5. scale the work in a way that invests in the ‘base’ and continually develops experts from the bottom-up.

*An Introduction to Research Justice* toolkit (see pg. 3) and our more in-depth tools can strengthen your research planning and process. Contact DataCenter today to discuss training opportunities or potential research partnerships — jay@datacenter.org, 510-835-4692 x307

“[DataCenter] greatly increased our capacity to engage in research...to gather and document powerful stories, as well as recruit directly affected members to plug into campaigns.”
— Participant of a DataCenter webinar

NEW AT DC

Research Justice YouTube Channel

DataCenter is proud to debut its brand new YouTube channel featuring all things Research Justice. Subscribe at [youtube.com/researchjustice](http://youtube.com/researchjustice) and get clips from our trainings, workshops, case studies, and speaking engagements. Recently, we added a couple of new videos featuring Dr. Linda Tuhuiwai Smith and Dr. Michelle Fine sharing their thoughts about DataCenter's work. Did you miss DataCenter’s epic *Decolonizing Knowledge* event? Watch the entire event on our YouTube channel! With over a dozen videos already on the Research Justice channel, you’ll be sure to find something that catches your interest.

Online Store with Free Resources

Have you been to DataCenter’s website recently? New for fall 2013 is DataCenter’s Online Store — [datacenter.org/store](http://datacenter.org/store) — where you can buy DataCenter shirts and posters, and download free Research Justice resources. This holiday season, support DataCenter and buy a shirt or poster for a friend or family member.
1. Benefits You & DataCenter
Monthly sustainership benefits both you and DataCenter. You can maximize your giving potential by giving smaller amounts each month that over the course of the year add up to much more than you might ordinarily give in a one-time gift. And with a gift of $15 or more a month, you’ll get a free Decolonizing Knowledge t-shirt!

2. Improves Cash-flow
For DataCenter, as with many organizations that rely on grassroots fundraising, the bulk of donations from individual donors come during the holiday season. It’s much better for our financial health to spread this abundance around. Donations given throughout the year helps us maintain good cash-flow, which allows us to fill our immediate needs so that we’re better able to focus on the work and less on the operations.

3. Increases Organizational Stability
A strong monthly sustainer program provides stability, particularly for hard to fund infrastructure, such as maintaining our program database and building our capacity and our partner’s capacity to use open source technologies.

4. Better Budgeting
Knowing your donation is coming in every month allows us to better budget our projects. It puts us in a position to better estimate what is and isn’t possible, which, in turn, leads to more efficiently allocated funds.

Top 4 Reasons to Become a Monthly Sustainer

Where does your monthly support go to?
A gift of $25 a month covers the cost of supplies for our annual Research Justice Academy; helps DataCenter build the leadership of another worker along the food chain; or allows us to maintain a secure database for organizations collecting primary data through surveys.

A big thanks to our current sustainers! Lisa Rudman, Jane Armbuster, Sujata Srivastava, Torri Estrada, Effie Westervelt, Paul Bundy, Jill Casey, Trlice Santana, Andrew Joliavette, Leila Roberts, Milton Moskowitz, and Soya Jung.

Will you join the team?

“I decided to become a monthly sustainer as a long-term commitment to the work, and it fits well with my own ‘cash flow.’ It’s a gift that keeps on giving and DataCenter can count on it in their planning.”

— Lisa Rudman, Director, Making Contact Media, radioproject.org

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE? Reflections on Decolonizing Knowledge  by Margaret Rhee

Continued from pg 1

and Pacific activist-sisters Fuifutupe and Sauliita Niumeitulou offered a call-and-response song. The evening culminated in the melodies of Wappo and Dine tribe member Desiree Harp.

In addition to cultural knowledge, our gathering offered an unprecedented dialogue on activist-scholarship. DataCenter Board member and professor Andrew Joliavette moderated a conversation between activist-scholars Linda Tuhiwai Smith and Michelle Fine on participatory research, community knowledge, and knowledge production. From Linda, Andrew, and Michelle’s words, we learned about knowledge that is collaborative, community based, transformative, and healing.

Now, as a result of Decolonizing Knowledge, students at Mills College are writing about the inspiring indigenous performances and the importance of indigenous knowledge. Community members learned about Linda Tuhiwai Smith’s work firsthand. UC Berkeley faculty members are teaching the accessible Decolonizing Knowledge video as educational curricula. Local activists met through the conference and continue to meet for movement building in and around the Bay Area. And it is just beginning.

Through our commitment to Research Justice, we will continue to demand knowledge that recognizes and is accessible to marginalized communities. The evening was priceless but the fruit from Decolonizing Knowledge continues and we ask you to join us. Decolonizing Knowledge taught us What is Knowledge? can only be asked and answered together.

Didn’t have a chance to attend Decolonizing Knowledge? Watch the entire event on DataCenter’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/research justice

About the author: Margaret Rhee is a DataCenter board member and a doctoral candidate in Ethnic Studies with a designated emphasis in New Media Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

For more news, photos, and reports, join us: facebook.com/researchjustice • twitter.com/researchjustice • youtube.com/researchjustice

datacenter.org 5
Civic Maps is an innovative web-based toolkit with a single aim: to demystify mapping for grassroots communities fighting for justice. Mapping, also known as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), promises to impact the way we visualize, conceptualize, and utilize data we collect on our own communities.

As mapping technologies become cheaper and more user-friendly, more and more organizers are realizing the power of map-making as a tool to achieve self-determination for marginalized communities.

For example, mapping technology has been used to:

- demonstrate/visualize racial segregation
- protect sacred native sites from land surveyors
- document environmental risks found in low-income communities
- document health and other disparities
- reveal unjust forms of policing
- visualize the concentration of foreclosures
- map community assets
- facilitate community planning

DataCenter, along with Massachusetts Institute for Technology’s Center for Civic Media, grounded the toolkit in the grassroots. The resources and case studies are designed to introduce the field of map-making to organizers with little to no background in mapping technology.

The toolkit supports organizers to integrate mapping into their work and provides clear overviews of specific mapping tools. It includes key concepts, processes, and concrete examples of how mapping has been used to achieve impact. It also features an extensive list of free / low-cost resources with links to open-source tools, curriculum, and other materials. Subscribe to DataCenter’s monthly e-newsletter – datacenter.org/subscribe – and get news of the toolkit’s release this winter!

DataCenter unlocks the power of knowledge for social change. We support grassroots organizing for justice and sustainability through strategic research, training and collaborations. We use research to help move the knowledge and solutions of communities of color and the poor from the margins to the center of decision-making.

Civic Maps Case-Study: Winnemem Wintu Use Maps to Defend Sacred Land

Caleen Sisk, the chief and spiritual leader of the Winnemem Wintu tribe, at a protest at the State Capitol building in July 2012.

The Winnemem Wintu, an indigenous tribe in Northern California, has ancestral roots in the McCloud River Basin going back at least 8,000 years. Recently, the basin has been threatened by plans to expand nearby Shasta Dam. The expansion would mean the partial or complete submersion of 36 sacred sites on the tribe’s remaining lands, and endangerment of 15 others.

With all sides gearing up for an intense legal battle, the Winnemem Wintu, with help from DataCenter, used mapping technology to document the extent of the impending cultural site destruction. Now, equipped with the data to support their claims, the Winnemem are organizing to fight for the preservation of their land and culture.

For more on the Winnemem Wintu’s struggle, visit:

- winnememwintu.us
- civicmaps.net
- datacenter.org/ww

(Photo credit: Winnemem Wintu)