

SUSAN R. GZESH

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Education

University of Chicago	A.B. 1972 Philosophical Psychology; Dean's List
University of Michigan Law School	J.D. 1977 Social Justice award
Bowen H.S., Chicago Public Schools	1968

Professional license

Admitted to practice, Illinois Supreme Court; member in good standing Illinois State Bar since 1980

Current employment

The University of Chicago

Instructional Professor in the College

2001 – present

Full time appointment (title changed from “Senior Lecturer” in 2020 and from “Senior Instructional Professor” in 2022); create and teach courses for College and graduate students on human rights, rights of immigrants & refugees, human rights in the U.S. and Mexico; research on rights of non-citizens, asylum seekers, and U.S.-Mexico and global migration policy; supervise CAs; direct student research and supervise BA and MA theses;

- Courses taught: Human Rights: Contemporary Issues; Human Rights: Migrant Refugee Citizen; Human Rights in Mexico; The Rights of Immigrants & Refugees in Practice; Water, Water Everywhere; Practice of Human Rights - Torture; Practice of Human Rights - NGOs; Human Rights: Contemporary Issues/ Europe; Pathways for High School Students - Human Rights; Self, Culture & Society (Social Sciences core)
- Co-convenor, New Drivers of Migration study group – faculty from University of Chicago, Colegio de Mexico, University of Illinois-Chicago; member, working group on migration Colegio de Mexico
- UChicago Gray Center Fellow in the Arts 2019-2022 – collaborator on project on the right to water with Northwestern University Professor Inigo Manglano and UChicago Smart Museum curator Abigail Winograd;
- Advisory Board, Chicago Studies Program
- Associate faculty, Center for Latin American Studies.

Executive Director, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights & Senior Lecturer

2001 - 2020

Full time; co-lead (with Faculty Director) nationally-known, multi-disciplinary academic center on human rights; created three-institution project on teaching human rights in the liberal arts (2006 – 2008) with faculty from UChicago, Carleton, and Macalester Colleges; created Activist Fellows project on migration (US, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala - 2003-2005); lead expansion and development of innovative summer Human Rights internship fellowship program (over 450 alumni as of 2020); created and taught 3 courses per year on human rights, rights of immigrants & refugees, human rights in the U.S. and Mexico; supervised TAs; coordinated Study Abroad faculty for Human Rights Spring Quarter course in Vienna, Austria; supervised BA and MA theses; directed professional and student staff and events for interdisciplinary human rights center; represented Center at national meetings with peer institutions; collaborated with development staff to raise over \$10,000,000 for support of Center (\$7.2 million in endowment) <http://humanrights.uchicago.edu>;

Current practice of law

Of counsel - Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym, Chicago

2010-present

Advisory role in immigration and civil rights cases; responsible for securing major client, government of Mexico (2010 – 2014) <http://hsplegal.com/lawyers/susan-gzesh/>

Prior academic appointments

The University of Chicago Law School -	1992 – 2001
Lecturer in Law – taught annual course on immigration & nationality law	
University of Michigan Law School	1991 – 1993
Visiting Adjunct faculty – taught annual course on immigration & nationality law	
Northwestern University School of Law	1990 – 1992
Adjunct faculty – taught annual course on immigration & nationality law	

Current and previous formal consultancies

Midwest Regional Advisory Committee, Consul General of Mexico	2019 – present
Member of attorney advisory panel on civil rights issues for Mexican nationals in the Midwest	
Instituto para las Mujeres en Migracion (Mexico City) –	2017 – present
Member of advisory board; review publications on U.S. and Mexican immigration law; advise on recruitment and support of U.S. lawyers	
Migration Policy Institute (Washington, DC)	2009 - present
Non-resident Fellow – write occasional articles; 2018-19, member U.S.-Mexico Migration Study Group, high-level, binational committee to draft recommendations for long-term migration relations	
Hillel – University of Chicago	2018 – 2020
Consultant and instructor of Milgrom Summer Social Justice Fellowship program for College students	
Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, El Salvador,	2014
Pro-bono consultant with Minister for Protection Services and Embassy of El Salvador (Washington) on migrant rights, conducted training for consular staff in summer 2014	
Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, Mexico -	1997-99 and 2010 - 2014
Legal advisor on U.S. immigration policy with Embassy of Mexico and Direccion General de Proteccion, advising on implications of US law and policy on Mexican nationals in U.S (paid consultancies)	
John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation -	2006 and 2010;
Short-term paid consultancies on Mexican migration; Global Forum on Migration and Development	
3rd and 4th Global Fora on Migration & Development -	Oct. 2009 and Nov. 2010
Observer and panel presentation, Civil Society Days delegation; consultant for MacArthur Foundation on civil society participation (paid consultancy)	
United Nations Global Migration Group,	2008
edited GMG Report on International Migration & Human Rights (paid consultancy)	

Past employment

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, Chicago	1995 – 2001
Director of international migration policy programs; founded, fund-raised, and directed:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chicago-Mexico Leadership Initiative – supported by the Chicago Community Trust;• Mexico-U.S. Advocates Network (now Alianza Americas) – supported by MacArthur, Ford, and other major national foundations;• Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (coalition of North American and Central American NGOs, civil society participants in intergovernmental Regional Conference on Migration)	
Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law	1986-1991
Staff attorney specializing in civil rights, immigrants' rights law; developing pro-bono projects for major Chicago law firms; started project to implement Illinois anti-hate-crime law	
Alexander, Fennerty & Fujimoto,	1984 – 86
Associate attorney, immigration, labor, & elections law, representing local Latino political candidates, representing leadership of the U.S. Sanctuary movement	
Jacobs, Burns, Sugarman and Orlove,	1982 – 1984
Associate attorney, immigration law; representing Mexican and other Latin American clients in deportation defense, family visas, political asylum applications; pro-bono lead counsel in successful political asylum trial for Dennis Brutus, South African poet (1983)	

- Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago** 1980-1982
Staff attorney, Legal Services Center for Immigrants, representing Mexican and other Latin American clients in deportation proceedings, etc.
- Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services** 1978-1980
Staff attorney, Migrant Legal Services Project, representing migrant farmworkers in labor and civil rights matters

Board memberships

- K.A.M.-Isaiah Israel (Reform Jewish congregation) 2023 - present
- Seminario Migracion, Desigualdad, y Politicas Publicas/ Seminar on Migration, Inequality, & Public Policy, El Colegio de Mexico, invited member 2019 - present
- Migration Policy Institute, Washington, (Non-resident Fellow; Study Group on Mexico-U.S. Migration) 2009 – present
- Strategic Dialogue on Migration and Covid-19; Sin Fronteras, Mexico; U.S.-Mexico Studies Program UC-San Diego; ITAM, Mexico 2020 - 2022
- Human Rights Watch – Chicago Committee (by invitation) 2009 - present
- Instituto de la Mujer Migrante – IMUMI (Mexico) Advisory Board 2016 - present
- Kartemquin Films (documentary film company) Board member 2007 – 2016
- Red Regional de las Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones, Co-founder and member, Executive Committee 1996 - 2001
- Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Board member 1980s
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights, Board member & Chair 1980s
- National Immigration Project, National Lawyers Guild, Board member & Chair 1980s

Past appointments

- University of Chicago Institutional Review Board (Social Sciences) 2010 - 2012
- United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Task Force on ICE Misconduct 2008
- Illinois Governor’s New Americans Initiative Task Force 2005 - 2008
- Clinton-Gore Presidential Transition Team, Department of Justice group 1992
- Fulbright Commission Discipline Advisory Committee for Law 1991-92
- Fulbright Visiting Lecturer, Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico), 1990

Publications (2006 – present only)

- “Asylum seekers should be allowed to work in Chicago,” *Chicago Tribune*, June 19, 2023, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/commentary/ct-opinion-asylum-seekers-chicago-employment-authorization-20230619-yow6dbosc5hktbi72o4qlwtjeq-story.html>; reprinted in *The Portable Gray*, Univ. of Chicago, Vol.6, No. 2 Fall 2023, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/728275>
- Susan Gzesh, Inigo Manglano-Ovalle, Abigail Winograd, Jill Sterett, “Fluid Dynamics—Water, Rights, and Art in the Body Politic,” *The Portable Gray*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Spring 2022, Univ. of Chicago, <https://www-journals-uchicago-edu.proxy.uchicago.edu/doi/epdf/10.1086/720489>
- “Why Must Central American Asylum Seekers Risk Their Lives to Reach the US? There is an Alternative.” *Just Security*, online journal, New York University, April 19, 2021, <https://www.justsecurity.org/75799/why-must-central-american-asylum-seekers-risk-their-lives-to-reach-the-us-there-is-an-alternative/>
- “Whistleblower: DHS Suppressed Reports on Central America,” *Just Security*, online journal, New York University, September 16, 2020, <https://www.justsecurity.org/72451/whistleblower-dhs-suppressed-reports-on-central-america-and-inflated-risk-of-terrorist-border-crossers/>

“Pandemic as Pretext: Trump initiatives against asylum seekers,” (in Spanish and English), *Notas Sobre Migración y Desigualdades. Notes on Migration and Inequality*, Colegio de México, July 2020, <https://agenda.colmex.mx/Actividad/1719/migracion-y-desigualdades-ante-covid-19-el-contexto-economico-politico-y-social-en-mexico-y-estados-unidos/20200616>

“The Virtual Wall: Mexico, Part 1,” “Safe Third Country Agreements with Guatemala and Mexico would be unlawful;” “Blocking or Aiding Asylum Seekers: the U.S. Canada Agreement;” and “Questions Surround Secretive U.S.- Guatemala Agreement,” series of articles on regional refugee issues, *Just Security*, online journal, New York University, July 2019; February 2020, <https://www.justsecurity.org/author/gzeshsusan/>

“Mexican Asylum Seekers and the Convention Against Torture,” (chapter), in Anaya, Alejandro & Barbara Frey, Eds. *Mexico’s Human Rights Crisis*, (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press) 2018

with Congressman Jesus Garcia “Carta a AMLO sobre los derechos de migrantes en el EU,” *La Jornada*, 9 de julio 2018, <https://www.jornada.com.mx/2018/07/09/politica/019a2pol>

with Jorge Schiavon, “La protección consular mexicana ante la administración Trump: Recomendaciones de acción inmediata,” *Documentos de Política Migratoria*, Colegio de México/ CIDE/ UNAM, April 2018, <https://migdep.colmex.mx/publicaciones/DPM-02.pdf>

“The Human Rights of Migrants: From Treaty to Reality,” Vol. 47, *NYU Journal of International Law & Politics*, 529, (2015)

“Latino Immigrant Leadership in Chicago,” in Xochitl Bada, Jonathan Fox, Andrew Selee, ed(s.), *Latino Immigrants in the Windy City: New Trends in Civic Engagement*, Woodrow Wilson Institute, 2010

<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/Chicago%20Eng.pdf>

“Redefining Forced Migration Using Human Rights,” in *Migración y Desarrollo*, Vol 10, special edition: migration and human rights, 2008, <http://rimd.reduaz.mx/revista/rev10ing/e5.pdf>

“Central American Asylum Policy in the Reagan Era,” *Migration Information Source*, Migration Policy Institute, April 2006 <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?id=384>

Lectures and conference presentations (2014 – present only)

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, SUDIMER Diplomado series, Lecture (in Spanish), “La política migratoria hacia los flujos de refugiados hoy en día,” May 24, 2022;

National Council of Jewish Women, Chicago – Lecture: “The legal framework of today’s immigration policy,” (Zoom) May 23, 2022

University of Chicago, Alumni Weekend, Panel coordinator and moderator, “Roe v. Wade: Then & Now,” May 21, 2022;

University of Chicago, Speaker, “A career in social justice is possible,” *Seeds of Justice*, University of Chicago Community Service, April 19, 2022

University of California, Berkeley, “Contemporary Asylum Problems,” Introduction to Human Rights course guest lecture for Dr. Rohini Haar and Prof. Eric Stover, Mar. 17, 2022

Congregation K.A.M.-Isaiah Israel, Panel moderator and lecturer, “Refugee Resettlement Now,” Feb. 27, 2022

University of Chicago, “A Human Rights Framework for Health,” guest lecturer, Health & Human Rights course, Dr. Renslow Sherer, Jan. 11, 2022;

University of Chicago, “Contemporary Immigration Issues,” guest lecture in College, Mobility in Society course, Bryce Lowry, Post-doctoral fellow, instructor, Oct. 14, 2021

University of Chicago, Lecture for Exploring Frontiers program for prospective students, “From Civil Rights to Human Rights,” Office of College Admissions, July 28, 2021

University of Chicago Community Service Center “A career in social justice is possible,” *Seeds of Justice*, UCSC, April 20, 2021,

Yom HaShoah Virtual Memorial, (Chicago city-wide network of Reform Jewish congregations), Speaker, “How U.S. immigration law was responsible for Holocaust Deaths: My family’s story,” April 7, 2021

American Immigration Lawyers Association, “Mexico: Mas alla de la frontera/ What U.S. lawyers need to know,” National Fall Conference, December 17, 2020

Latinx Medical Students, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine, “Human Rights of Mexican and Latin American Immigrants in Historical Perspective,” August 2020

Milgrom Fellows Program, University of Chicago Hillel, Speaker, “Jewish Roots of Social Justice: A Generational Perspective,” July 13, 2020

College Office of Admissions, University of Chicago, Speaker, “Human Rights and the Pandemic,” model class, June 30, 2020

Speaker and article author, “Pandemic as Pretext,” Seminar on Migration and Inequality, Colegio de Mexico, June 16, 2020

Panelist, “La política hacia refugiados de la administración Trump frente al COVID,” Dialogo Regional Estrategico, Sin Fronteras y ITAM, June 11, 2020

Panelist, “Commenting on Inter-American Court decisions re: migration,” Instituto de Investigaciones Juridicas, UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), scheduled March 27, 2020 – postponed

Panelist, “Human Rights teaching in the Liberal Arts,” Consortium on Higher Education (National Leadership network of Holocaust and Human Rights academic centers), University of Nebraska Omaha, December 5, 2019

Commentator, book panel, *Refuge Beyond Reach*, (David FitzGerald, Oxford University Press), Social Science Historical Association conference, Chicago, November 22, 2019

Plenary panelist, “Working with community partners,” National Higher Education Leadership Consortium, (Holocaust and human rights studies centers), University of Omaha, Nebraska, (December 5, 2019)

“La política migratoria de Trump y las implicaciones para las mujeres migrantes,” Encuentro sobre Mujeres Migrantes, co-panelist with Silvia Giorguli (President, Colegio de Mexico), Consul General of Mexico, Chicago, October 16, 2019

“¿Qué son los acuerdos de “Tercer país seguro” y qué implicaciones tendría uno para México?” Seminario de Migración, Desigualdad, y Políticas Públicas, *Colegio de Mexico*, 11 Sept 2019

Participant & speaker, convening of major university human rights centers, *Columbia University*, New York, August 2, 2019

Harper Lecture, “The Fragility of Human Rights,” University of Chicago Alumni Association, San Francisco, California, April 7, 2019 (spoke before audience of 250 University of Chicago alumni)

Featured speaker, “How your donations help College students,” Private Reception for University of Chicago Leaders in Philanthropy, San Francisco, April 7, 2019

New Drivers of Migration: Violence; panel on “Human rights violations, protection gaps, and the State;” chief conference organizer, collaboration between *Colegio de Mexico, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois-Chicago*, with participation by academics and activists from U.S., Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, March 10-12, 2019, Chicago, <https://humanrights.uchicago.edu/newdrivers>

“El futuro del trabajo en contextos de migración – retos para la defensa de los derechos humanos,” *Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas de la UNAM*, Mexico, June 12, 2018

“Perspectivas sobre los derechos de los migrantes mexicanos y la administración Trump,” *Nuevo Curoso de Desarrollos seminar, UNAM, Mexico*, March 16, 2018

Participant, National Leadership Summit, Holocaust Studies and Human Rights, *U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum*, Washington, D.C., December 8-9, 2017

“Retos para la defensa jurídica de los migrantes mexicanos en Estados Unidos” – Seminario Interdisciplinario de Políticas de Atención a las Personas Migrantes, *Colegio de México, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)*, October 19-20, 2017

“La época Trump y los derechos de los migrantes,” *Instituto de la Mujer Migrante (IMUMI) and Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores de Mexico*, August 23, 2017

Coordinator, Chicago meetings, *Agenda Migrante de Mexico, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights*, March 17, 2017

“Los derechos de los migrantes frente al regimen Trump,” *Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economica, Mexico, DF, Mexico*, December 5, 2016

“Do migrants have human rights?” lecture, *Justice Centre of Hong Kong and University of Chicago Center in Hong Kong*, September 2016

“Mexico-U.S. Migration and the Global Context,” Keynote address, *Global Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Austin, Texas, June 2016

“Can Human Rights Really Protect Migrants and Refugees?” keynote address at conference on Recognizing Refugees from Mexico & Central America, *Transborder Institute, University of San Diego*, December 10, 2014

“Hannah Arendt’s Doubts: Can Human Rights Protect Migrants?” Keynote Address at Conference on Migration & Human Rights, *New York University Law School, Journal of International Law and Policy*, November 6, 2014, New York City

“The Challenge of Citizenship,” *University of Chicago Harper Lectures in China*, May 23 – 28, 2014, Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong

“Mexico-U.S. migration through a human rights lens,” *University of Michigan Law School*, March 18, 2014, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Personal –

Member of the Bar, Supreme Court of Illinois, (active status), admitted to practice, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois and U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit;

Member, Service Employees International Union, Local 73, Chicago, since 2022

Fluent speaking, reading Spanish; competent simultaneous oral translation Spanish to English; written Spanish (for publication needs editing by native speaker); reading ability in French

Experienced public speaker and news commentator (English and Spanish)

Board Member, Congregation K.A.M.-Isaiah Israel, Chicago

Son: Max Rothstein, born 1988, Senior Solutions Consultant, Upstart (Upstart.com), Board of Directors, Avodah <https://avodah.net/people/max-rothstein/>