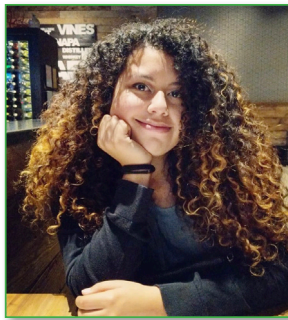

2021 GARDNER FELLOWS

The John Gardner Fellowship Program is proud to announce the 2021 class of fellows. They are an accomplished group of graduating seniors from UC Berkeley and Stanford University with interests in regulating artificial intelligence, criminal disenfranchisement, intersectional gender justice, Muslim civil rights, immigration reform, and education policy. We are confident that this class of fellows will honor John Gardner's legacy of excellence in their public service careers.

Aurora Lopez (UC Berkeley)

Aurora Lopez has always seen education as a way for her and others in her community to get ahead in life. As a transfer student from community college to UC Berkeley, Aurora worked hard



to overcome many challenges that she faced growing up as a child of a 15-year-old single mother from an immigrant family. Living in a house with 14 other people, Aurora often had to take responsibility for the educa-

tion of her brother and cousins, at the same time she carved out enough space and time to excel at community college and then UC Berkeley. At UC Berkeley, Aurora majored in Political Science with a GPA of 3.85.

At UC Berkeley, Aurora discovered her passion for international affairs. She took several classes inside and outside her major focusing on international affairs, the Middle East and Arabic language studies. She also completed an independent study on the topic of the European Union and the migrant crisis. Outside the classroom, Aurora interned with the British Consulate

General and then one year later, she interned with the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. In January 2021, she was selected to be a Cal-in-Sacramento Fellow, where she hopes to find an internship that deals with California public policy through an international lens.

Becoming interested in international affairs did not mean Aurora abandoned her interest in education. During college, she worked as an Academic Coach at College Track supporting at-risk youths in their education pursuits. Additionally, Aurora spent one summer working for Harmony Plus, where she helped develop on-line education content for students and parents with a focus on outreach to DACA, first-gen, and low-income students. She also helped connect this company to a local, after-school nonprofit organization and inspired them to create a scholarship opportunity to help disadvantaged, aspiring entrepreneurial youth. As a result, she earned Berkeley's Kid's First prize for her efforts in fighting for equitable education.

With the John Gardner Fellowship, Aurora hopes to pursue a career in politics and government that can bridge both her interests in education and international affairs.

Haazim Amirali (UC Berkeley)

Haazim Amirali—born and raised in the San Fernando Valley—cultivated a deep interest in his community and public policy starting in high school with the California YMCA's Youth and Government program.

Three years later, he worked on Katie Hill's congressional campaign and then in her office during the summer of 2019.

One of the issues he helped address was the closing of the Aliso



Canyon Gas Well, which had devastated his family/community in 2016. At UC Berkeley, Haazim double majored in History and Political Science, writing honor theses in both majors.

On the UC Berkeley campus, Haazim dedicated countless hours to serving in student government. In 2019, he was elected to the ASUC Senate, where he worked to expand the campus' pre-law resources, supported students in residential life, and built a more accessible ASUC. His office helped establish UC Berkeley's first-ever campus-wide pre-law mentorship program, institutionalized town hall requirements for all ASUC elected-officials, and laid the foundations for a new career counselor to work specifically with students in the residential halls.

As an Ismaili Muslim, Haazim often struggled to find his place in community advocacy spaces. However during the summer after his junior year, he had the transformative experience of working as a policy intern with Muslim Advocates. This experience solidified his goals in life and inspired his political science honor thesis which focuses on the electoral success of Muslims post-2016. In fall 2020, he worked as a research and communications intern with the nonprofit Jetpac, building his community organizing skills while also continuing to invest in building more Muslim electoral power.

With the Gardner Fellowship, Haazim hopes to build on this advocacy and to fight for the civil rights of Muslims throughout America. He is excited to be mentored by and work alongside attorneys in the fight as he prepares for a public service career.

Madhu Krishnan (UC Berkeley)

Madhumitha (Madhu) Krishnan, a native of the East Bay, studied Political Science and History at UC Berkeley with a focus on comparative politics and the history of law and government. Madhu wrote her History senior honors thesis on the Madras Torture Commissioner's Report and the origins of colonial policing in South Asia. Madhu has extensive research experience, working with professors in the Political Science Department, the Center for Politics and Development, the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at the UC

Hastings School of Law, and most recently with the Indian Police Foundation on policing reforms that better protect the rights of human trafficking survivors. Her writing on organ trafficking has been used in the book, *Perspectives on Black*



Markets, v. 3. Madhu is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a Critical Language Scholarship Finalist (in Russian), a Washington Leadership Scholar, and a Cal Leadership Award recipient.

In addition to her research experience, Madhu was a public

service leader within both her Berkeley and Bay Area communities. She served as an Editor-in-Chief of the Berkeley Political Review, UC Berkeley's preeminent political journal. She was also a board member and workshop director for the Student Immigration Relief Clinic, where she helped mobilize students to provide aid at naturalization clinics throughout the Bay Area, and co-organized a student trip to volunteer at the Border Rights Project in Tijuana with *Al Otro Lado* in the midst of President Trump's "zero tolerance policy." Here, she drew attention to the underreported quotidian violence taking place at the border.

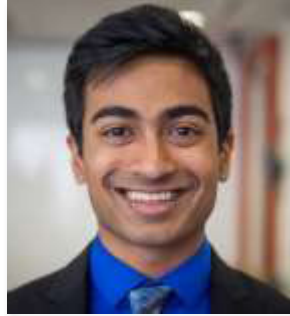
Madhu is equally passionate about ensuring that immigrant and marginalized communities have fair representation in government and public service. Growing up as a second-generation immigrant, surrounded by multiple friends and loved ones who were undocumented, she wants to fight to make sure the American Dream is accessible to all. She has worked at the office of Civil Rights in the Department of Commerce, helping to organize the First Generations program to increase support and representation for first-generation civil servants. On campus, she founded and is the director of Women in Politics at Berkeley, an organization that aims to provide a space for those marginalized due to gender identity on the UC Berkeley campus.

As a Gardner Fellow, Madhu hopes to find a placement that focuses on reforming the United States' policing, carceral,

and immigration systems, with a particular interest in addressing their intersections.

Nik Marda (Stanford)

Nik Marda was born and raised in Minnesota, and he came to Stanford intending to pursue a career in Silicon Valley. This changed in his first year when he saw Congress struggle to hold Facebook accountable for its role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal.



Nik was struck that Congress did not have enough technical expertise at its disposal to properly investigate and regulate tech companies, and he felt compelled to help fill this critical gap.

Today, Nik works on problems at the intersection of technology and government, with a focus on helping policymakers harness and regulate artificial intelligence. He began to explore this work as a sophomore, serving as a Civic Digital Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, where he built tech products for one of the most visited federal websites. Since then, Nik has worked on tech policy at the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, the Tech Talent Project, and the Office of U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Most recently, he supported the Tech Strategy and Delivery Team on the Biden-Harris Presidential Transition.

At Stanford, Nik has built and sustained communities focused on better aligning tech development with the public interest. He is co-president of the Stanford Public Interest Tech Lab, a group of more than 60 students aiming to improve technology's role in society. He is also a co-founder and co-director of the Stanford Tech History Project, which documents how Stanford's tech ecosystem has changed over the past decade. Nik is also senior editor for Stanford Politics, director of tech for Stanford in Government, and co-founder and strategic director of the Stanford Open Data Project.

In recognition for his leadership and commit-

ment to service, Nik has been named a Truman Scholar and a Coca-Cola Scholar. As a Gardner Fellow, Nik is excited to leverage his technical skills to help tackle current issues in tech policy.

Jackie O'Neil (Stanford)

Jackie O'Neil grew up in Richmond, Virginia, whose history and politics have had a strong influence on her academic and service experiences. Since arriving at Stanford, Jackie has incrementally narrowed her focus to the issue of criminal disenfranchisement, exploring barriers to



democracy based on contact with the criminal-legal system through the lenses of history, policy, political theory, psychology, and law. Her honors thesis explores the history and impact of felony disenfranchisement.

If not in class, Jackie is likely to be found at The Stanford Daily, where she serves as the staff development director, an editorial board member, and co-chair of The Daily's affinity group for gender-marginalized staffers. She is proudest of her work promoting equity and accessibility in The Daily's coverage and internal operations during her executive editorship in Volume 258.

Outside of The Daily, Jackie enjoys teaching and mentorship: She is a Teaching Fellow for PSYCH 1: An Introduction to Psychology and a former teaching assistant for the Deliberative Discussions program. In 2018, she developed and taught a quarter-long workshop, "Injustices: The Supreme Court v. We the People," for Stanford's Humanities House. After spending the summer of 2019 as a Cardinal Quarter fellow through Stanford in Government, Jackie became a Cardinal Quarter peer advisor, helping students interested in public service locate and attain mission-driven summer opportunities

Jackie's service focuses on democracy, criminal justice, and racial justice. She has worked at the American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU) of Virginia as an advocacy intern, at the ACLU of Georgia as a policy intern, and at the ACLU of Louisiana as a research fellow. In 2020, she received an Undergraduate Major Grant to spend the summer conducting archival and literature-driven research on the history and consequences of felony disenfranchisement in Virginia, building on her legislative advocacy work at the ACLU of Virginia.

Through the Gardner Fellowship, Jackie is excited to engage further with policy and legal issues relating to voting rights, civil liberties, and America's criminal-legal apparatus. After her fellowship year, Jackie will matriculate at Harvard Law School, with hopes to pursue a career in voting rights litigation.

Chloe Stoddard (Stanford)

Chloe Stoddard studies International Relations and Human Rights and is passionate about using law and policy to address systemic inequities with a focus on intersectional gender justice.

While at Stanford, Chloe co-founded Stanford Women in Law, the Stanford Women's March, and the Student Advisory Board on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response. As chair of the Survivor Support Services and Restorative Justice subcommittees, she works with students, experts, and administrators to fight for increased support services for LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC survivors and expand justice options for survivors and perpetrators of harm.



As ASSU co-director of Community Responsibility, she has advocated for a university grievance process for sub-contracted custodial staff who have experienced workplace sexual harassment and/or assault. She also is a Cardinal Service peer advisor at the Haas Center, where she advises students pursuing public service opportunities, organizes events, and assists the Center's communications team.

Chloe is writing her honors thesis on the use of sexual and gender-based violence during the Spanish Civil War and the Franco dictatorship and the pathways to justice for victims through domestic and international means. Additionally, she works with The Guernica Centre for International Justice to document human rights violations perpetrated by the Ortega regime in Nicaragua.

In addition to addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, Chloe has fought to elect progressive women up and down the ballot. In 2019, she was elected president of Cardinal for Warren and currently serves as a Federal and Gubernatorial Campaigns intern at EMILY's List.

The John Gardner Public Service Fellowship is a program jointly operated by Stanford University and University of California at Berkeley. Founded

in 1985, it honors John Gardner, former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Johnson and founder of Common Cause and the Independent Sector, who was an alumnus of both schools. The John Gardner Fellowship selects six fellows – three from Stanford and three from Berkeley – each year. Fellows are placed for 10 months at the governmental agency or non-governmental organization that best matches their interests with a senior level mentor who ensures a meaningful and impactful fellowship experience. It is one of the most highly sought after and competitive fellowships at each university.

For more information:

<https://igs.berkeley.edu/matsui-center/fellowships/john-gardner-fellowship>

