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SARU JAYARAMAN SHARES TOOLS TO BUILD LASTING SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN INAUGURAL RESISTANCE SCHOOL @ BERKELEY SESSION

“Fundamentally, what we’re talking about is shifting the power balance in America.”-- Saru Jayaraman

BERKELEY, CA -- In the first session for [Resistance School @ Berkeley](#), a free online training program that puts tools in the hands of people working to advance progressive goals, renowned organizer and University of California, Berkeley faculty member Saru Jayaraman discussed tools that organizers can use to build an intersectional and long-term movement. Jayaraman’s session, which aired today, is available to the public on the Resistance School @ Berkeley’s [Facebook](#) page and [website](#).

Building on her vast experience as co-founder and co-director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Jayaraman discussed ways to take fights for bold social change goals and transform them into sustained action. Her lesson, based in social movement theory and history, encourages viewers to think about how they can make transformative change by building coalitions across organizations, issues, and sectors.

“Organizing is not just listening-- it’s pushing people beyond where they’re currently at to think more broadly, to understand commonality,” said Jayaraman in her talk today. **“Fundamentally what we’re talking about is shifting the power balance in America or in the world. In my opinion, that power balance lies entirely in the hands of elite corporate actors. And the people who don’t have power are pretty much everybody who is not part of that corporate elite.”**

The session, which was attended by local organizers and activists, along with UC Berkeley students, is the first of four Resistance School @ Berkeley lessons for Fall 2017. Other speakers at Berkeley include former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich**, Principle of ASO Communications Anat Shenker-Osorio, and Berkeley Law Professor **Ian Haney López**. New sessions will air online every other Thursday at 3pm PT/6pm ET on the Resistance School @ Berkeley Facebook page.

Following each session, viewers are encouraged to engage with other organizers online via [Resistance School Town Square](#), hosted on the Slack platform. This virtual collaborative space provides a forum where activists can discuss the session, share their experiences, and build connections with other people doing important organizing work.

Resistance School @ Berkeley is the first partner institution of [Resistance School](#), which a group of Harvard Kennedy School students founded in spring 2017 to meet a growing demand for organizing training and skills. Recognizing the nation's continued need to train and empower progressive organizers, a group of students at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy founded Resistance School @ Berkeley this fall. Together, Resistance School and Resistance School @ Berkeley seek to support organizing efforts across a range of skill and experience levels. Resistance School sessions will air on Thursdays at 3pm PT/6pm ET, and will alternate with Resistance School @ Berkeley content to give viewers a new video each week from the expanding Resistance School network.

Jayaraman's session helps people and groups situate their individual work within broader social movement theory and think about how to make transformative change by building coalitions across organizations, issues, and sectors. She covers how patterns of political opportunities and constraints can lead to windows that, when paired with sustained organizing efforts, can lead to a social movement.

ABOUT RESISTANCE SCHOOL:

Resistance School was founded by graduate students at Harvard, who wanted to find a way to contribute to the wave of new and renewed political activism in communities across the country. The curriculum was designed for groups to join trainings held on Harvard's campus and live-streamed online to communities across the country.

Resistance School aims to deepen community-based organizing infrastructure nationwide in order to secure issue and electoral victories at the local, state, and national level and advance progressive values of fairness, equity, and inclusivity. Resistance School believes that the power of collective action can break through barriers that undermine the people's access to democracy.

Recordings of Semester One of Resistance School are available for unlimited playback at www.resistanceschool.com and via Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/ResistSchool/>). New trainings will begin on Thursday, October 12.

Resistance School is a student-run initiative developed by students at Harvard University and is not an official course offering of Harvard University or any of its schools.

ABOUT RESISTANCE SCHOOL @ BERKELEY

Resistance School @ Berkeley was founded by a group of graduate students at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy, and will use the same pedagogical framework established by Resistance School. This semester's recordings will be available at www.resistanceschoolberkeley.org and on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ResistanceSchoolBerkeley/>).

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