



For Immediate Release
October 2, 2017

Contact:
Kori Anderson, Co-Founder
(505) 514-3123
press@resistanceschoolberkeley.org

RESISTANCE SCHOOL @ BERKELEY ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL SPEAKER LINEUP FOR FALL 2017

Robert Reich, Saru Jayaraman and others to lead free online sessions teaching concrete skills to organizers and activists working towards progressive change

BERKELEY, CA -- [Resistance School @ Berkeley](#) today announced its fall 2017 speaker lineup, which will feature former Secretary of Labor **Robert Reich**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United **Saru Jayaraman**, Principle of ASO Communications **Anat Shenker-Osorio**, and Berkeley Law Professor **Ian Haney López**.

“I’m excited to be part of the inaugural semester of Resistance School @ Berkeley,” said Reich. **“More than ever, it’s important to be able to communicate respectfully with people who have different views and perspectives, listen carefully to what they have to say, be willing to be persuaded by them, help them understand one’s own position, and mobilize facts, logic, and analysis effectively. Resistance School will help to meet that need.”**

Jayaraman, who will be leading the first session, **Transforming Resistance into a Social Movement**, agreed. **“Resistance School @ Berkeley represents an opportunity not only to share resources and best practices, but to engage organizers across issue areas. Our nation has a lot of work to do, and I’m thrilled to be part of a project that will help people effect positive social change,”** said Jayaraman.

Resistance School @ Berkeley is a free online training program that puts practical tools in the hands of organizers, activists, and everyday people working to promote fairness, equity, and inclusivity in their communities. Launched this fall, 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. Together, Resistance School and Resistance School @ Berkeley seek to support organizing efforts across a range of skill and experience levels.

This semester will focus on effective communications. The first session, **Transforming Resistance into a Social Movement**, goes live via [Facebook](#) on **Thursday, October 5 at 3pm PT/6pm ET** and will feature renowned organizer **Saru Jayaraman**, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United) and Director of the Food Labor Research Center at University of California, Berkeley. The lesson dives into the goals, activities, and skills that organizers should consider in growing their individual organizing efforts into cross-community social movement for lasting social and political change.

Other trainings this semester include:

- **Cross-Cutting Messaging in a Tough Political Environment** with **Robert Reich**, Former Secretary of Labor and Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley (*Thursday, October 19 at 3pm PT/6pm ET*).
- **Shifting Public Opinion Through Strategic Messaging and Metaphors** with **Anat Shenker-Osorio**, Principle of ASO Communications (*Thursday, November 2 at 3pm PT/6pm ET*).
- **Communicating About Race in Politics and Organizing** with **Ian Haney López**: Earl Warren Professor of Public Law at the University of California, Berkeley (*Thursday, November 16 at 3pm PT/6pm ET*).

Viewers are encouraged to watch sessions in groups to fuel organic conversations and direct skill application. Groups are also encouraged to engage online with other organizers after each session through Resistance School @ Berkeley's virtual collaborative space, hosted on the Slack platform.

“We want to provide practical skills to people working to advance progressive social change. This project is all about getting useful tools into the hands of organizers, and connecting them with other people doing similar work across various issue areas to encourage collaboration around common values,” said Lillian Patil, Content Director and Co-Founder of Resistance School @ Berkeley.

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/>).

Resistance School @ Berkeley is a student organization developed and run by students at UC Berkeley, and is not an official UC Berkeley course offering.