

2017 Update on the Work of the Albert Einstein Institution

This year has been one of significant engagement for the Albert Einstein Institution. Interest in our work from diverse groups throughout the world continues to grow as people increasingly explore and apply nonviolent action to address the serious challenges they face in their communities. This increased attention and expansion in the use of nonviolent action heightens the need for high quality, timely information and resources for communities around the world.

Our Senior Scholar, Dr. Gene Sharp, continues to oversee the work of the Institution and to evaluate proposals for future research in conjunction with our Executive Director, Jamila Raqib, who continues to strengthen public awareness of our work through a variety of outreach efforts. We are pleased to highlight some of the activities and developments that have taken place this year at the Albert Einstein Institution to advance our mission:

In the Media

Numerous international and country-specific news interviews and articles have featured the work of the Albert Einstein Institution and its impact on current affairs this year. These include articles in [The New York Times \(2\)](#), [JSTOR daily](#), [The Progressive](#), [Pan Am Post](#), [The Daily Times](#), [Media Education Foundation](#), [The Badger Herald](#), [El Nacional](#), [The Inquirer](#), [boingboing.net](#), [Open Democracy](#), [Forward](#), [Aporrea](#), [Scientific American](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Christian Science Monitor \(2\)](#), [The TransAdvocate](#), and the [Quint](#).



Photo by Mark Dixon

Ted Talk

Jamila Raqib's [TED talk](#) on nonviolent action as an innovation in conducting conflict has been viewed almost a million times since it was broadcast on PBS. The talk has been an important introduction to our work for new audiences, and has led to significant new interest in the mission of the Einstein Institution.



Defiance

[Defiance](#), a conference held at the MIT Media Lab in July, featured a series of talks that focused on the importance of responsible dissent that breaks rules or norms for the benefit of society. The conference, at which Jamila presented, featured an exhibit of original correspondence between Gene Sharp and Albert Einstein. The following is an excerpt from the exhibit description:

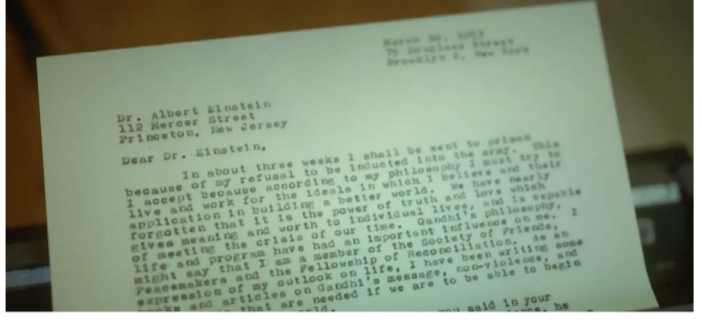


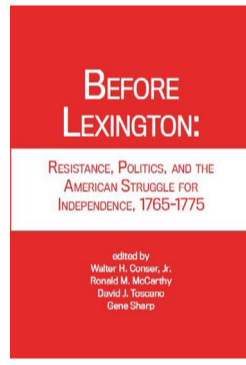
Photo from *Letters from Einstein* film by Ruaridh Arrow

In 2016, Gene Sharp's collaborator Jamila Raqib made an incredible find: a box containing correspondence between Albert Einstein and the 25-year-old Sharp, who was in prison at the time for refusing conscription into the Korean War. Written in the last two years of Einstein's life, the letters show how the two thinkers grappled with some of the most profound challenges of the 20th century: war and violence, totalitarianism, the degradation of civil liberties, and attacks on academic freedom. It is evident that the McCarthyism of the era weighed heavily on Einstein's mind as he offered steadfast support to Sharp and addressed the "conflict between political obligation and moral conscience."

Ruaridh Arrow produced a short film, [Letters from Einstein](#), for the exhibit.

Before Lexington

An updated edition of Dr. Sharp's 1984 publication, [Before Lexington: Resistance, Politics, and the American Struggle for Independence, 1765-1775](#) is now available for order from Amazon.com and for free download from [www.aeinstein.org](#).



Biography of Dr. Gene Sharp

Ruaridh Arrow, creator and director of the award winning film [How to Start a Revolution](#), has recently completed work on the first-ever biography of Gene Sharp.

The book will be made available in the coming year, and outlines the development of Dr. Sharp's work, and its influence on social and political movements around the world.

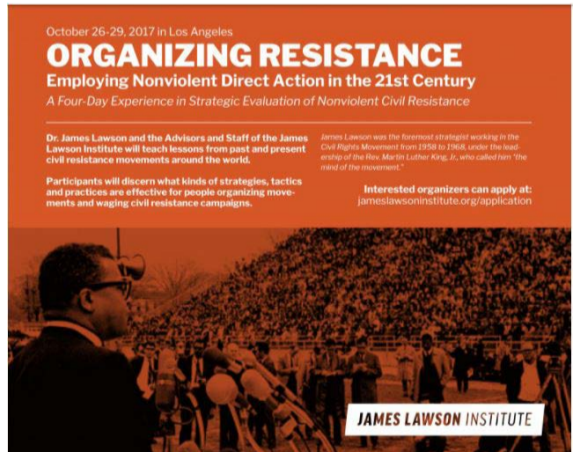
College Freedom Forum - Guatemala

In March, Jamila addressed the [College Freedom Forum](#), held at Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City. Her talk emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing among nonviolent resistance movements.



James Lawson Institute

In October, Jamila gave a presentation at the James Lawson Institute's [Organizing Resistance](#) conference for North American activists and organizers. She was joined by a number of other presenters and faculty at this four-day event exploring the technique of nonviolent resistance and ways it can be more effectively applied in future campaigns by incorporating lessons from past and present civil resistance movements.



Database

Our unique database, which is designed to track and organize information about nonviolent action is continuing to grow, now contains over 1,200 entries. The database has proven to be extremely valuable in tracking emerging patterns of nonviolent action and helping to supplement our curriculum with new case studies.

Social Media Reach

We have seen a significant increase in our social media reach over the past year. We currently have nearly 22,000 followers on Facebook, up by 8,000 from last November. Our Twitter following has also grown significantly to over 7,300, up by 1,122 from last year.

Looking to the future

A detailed review of the programs and activities of the Einstein Institution, from its founding in 1983 to the present is currently underway. New tools and technologies have been assessed and when appropriate, are being evaluated for integration into our work to better allow the collection of knowledge and to facilitate the more broad, rapid, and secure dissemination of our resources.

This assessment has resulted in a clear reaffirmation of the importance of the mission of the Albert Einstein Institution and its ability to remain a guiding force in the study and application of nonviolent struggle.

For this, we need your help

The need for our work is greater than ever. **Your contribution** is critical to the continued success and expansion of the Albert Einstein Institution. Please [give](#) as generously as you can to help us carry out our work to promote greater democratic freedom through nonviolent means.