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Author Jane King Hession

Authors on Architecture: Hession on Close

SAH/SCC Zoom Program

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 1-2:30PM Pacific

Discover the work of a Midwest architect with author Jane King Hession, who will discuss her book *Elizabeth Scheu Close: A Life in Modern Architecture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020), which received a 2024 Modernism in America Award of Excellence from Docomomo US.

Elizabeth "Lisi" Scheu Close, FAIA (1912-2011), left an indelible mark on Minnesota's built landscape during her six decades as an architect. In 1938, with her architect husband, Winston Close, FAIA (1906-1997), she founded the state's first architecture firm dedicated to modernism. In addition to designing the first International Style house in Minneapolis, the firm also created more than 250 handsome and efficiently planned modern residences. One of few women who were practicing architects in the mid-20th century, she blazed a trail for future generations of women in the profession.

As Hession shows, the trajectory of Close's architectural career was shaped by the political, economic, and aesthetic upheavals of the 20th century. Raised in a renowned modern house in Vienna, Austria, Close was exposed to revolutionary ideas in art and architecture at a young age. Forced to emigrate to the United States as the Nazis rose to power in Europe, she completed her architectural education at MIT. During the Depression, she struggled to find work and encountered challenges as a young woman in the field. In her pursuit of and devotion to a singular and successful career as a modern

architect, she proved herself to be talented, determined, and adept at negotiating obstacles.

Hession is a Minneapolis-based architectural writer, researcher, and historian specializing in Mid-Century Modern. She is the author of *John H. Howe, Architect* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016, with Tim Quigley), *House in Ebsworth Park: The Kraus House* (Pomegranate Communications, 2015), *Frank Lloyd Wright in New York: The Plaza Years, 1954-1959* (Gibbs Smith Publishers, 2007, with Debra Pickrel), and *Ralph Rapson: Sixty Years of Modern Design* (Afton Historical

Society Press, 1999, with Rip Rapson and Bruce N. Wright). Hession has curated exhibitions at University of Minnesota's Goldstein Museum of Design, Northwest Architectural Archives, and College of Design, as well as at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Weisman Art Museum in Minneapolis.

Authors on Architecture: Hession on Close—Sunday, July 19, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



Interstate Clinic (Red Wing, MN, 1940).
Photo: Hedrich-Blessing Collection, Chicago History Museum



Oskam House (Edina, MN, 1962).
Photo: William B. Olexy



Elizabeth Scheu Close in her Minneapolis office, circa 1940.
Photo: Roy M. Close Family Papers

SAH/SCC President's Letter

Last month I had the great pleasure of walking Hollywood Boulevard with Brian Curran, Executive Director of Hollywood Heritage, and Margot Gerber, Executive Director of the Art Deco Society. It was a fascinating afternoon. After meeting up in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, we headed eastbound.

Brian was quick to point out that the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a tourism project created in 1963 to lure people back to Hollywood Boulevard when it was in decline, actually distracts people from looking at the buildings along the Boulevard. It was true. Everyone we passed was looking down, oohing and ahing about the famous names and hardly giving a glance to the important buildings that line the street.

Brian also pointed out the large number of abandoned buildings along the famous strip. Because we all spend so much time looking down, it is easy to miss that some of the largest buildings no longer have tenants in the retail or the offices.

Standing across the street from the complex formerly known as Hollywood and Highland (Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects, 2001), Brian also pointed out that in 2021 the new owners of the complex removed the decorative features that evoked the films of D.W. Griffith: the faux Mesopotamian arch and elephants reminiscent of his film *Intolerance*. Now known as Ovation Hollywood, the complex looks like any other you might find in Anytown, USA.

Farther east along Hollywood Boulevard, we stopped to look at the Egyptian Theater (Meyer & Holler, 1922; Hodgetts + Fung, 1996; Studio 440, Gensler, HRG, 2023). SAH/SCC toured the newly restored venue years ago. Now owned by Netflix, the Egyptian has once again lost its glory as one of the earliest motion picture theaters in Hollywood. Even more disturbing, the Pig 'N Whistle (Morgan, Walls & Clements, 1927) next door, which had been lovingly restored, has largely been destroyed. You may recall hearing talk of an unpermitted renovation conducted back in 2021. Admittedly, I hadn't been there since, but what I saw was shocking.



Egyptian Theatre.
Photo: Andreas Praefcke/Creative Commons

Our tour ended at the Jack and Victoria Horne Oakie Gallery operated by Hollywood Heritage, where the model of Hollywood created by Joe Pelkofer is displayed. This enchanting miniature depicts Hollywood as it appeared in the 1930s. It squeezes 450 scale buildings into an accurate street grid measuring 11 by 12 feet. The miniature stood in stark contrast to the reality of Hollywood Boulevard today.

Brian rightly dubbed Hollywood Boulevard one of the longest Main Streets in the country. The linear nature of the Boulevard means it takes on a variety of roles, from tourist center to raucous hospitality corridor to tree-lined residential road.

The moral of the story is that we can't expect these important places to sustain themselves when we are ordering from DoorDash, streaming movies, and buying from Amazon. This summer, go out and visit your own city. Shop. Dine. Enjoy. It may not be there forever.

—Sian Winship



Hollywood & Highland in 2013. Photo: Kajikawa/Creative Commons

Tour and Event Information:

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Authors on Architecture: Hodgetts on Reading Design

SAH/SCC Zoom Program
Sunday, July 12, 2026, 1-2:30PM Pacific

Architects and authors Craig Hodgetts, FAIA, and Alan Hess, AIA, will explore how designed objects affect and reflect society based on Hodgetts' new book, *Reading Design: The Visual Language of Common Objects* (Unicorn Publishing, 2026).

In *Reading Design*, Hodgetts sorts through the myriad of things that surround us with an eye trained by years of teaching at UCLA's School of Architecture along with his bold and experimental architecture practice, Hodgetts + Fung. He has long been immersed in the selection and appreciation of objects that represent outstanding examples of contemporary design as they exude an emotional connection to evolving lifestyles—attributes that range from the sublime to the brutal. Consisting of more than 200 hand-drawn sketches of classic designs from architecture and fashion to autos and household appliances, this book can change the way we look at things and break down the barriers that markets and tastemakers erect by their recommendations.

Hodgetts is known for employing an imaginative weave of high technology and storytelling to invigorate his designs, producing an architecture that embraces contemporary ideology, information culture, and evolving lifestyles. He is presently professor in the UCLA Graduate program and previously was a founding dean of the School of Design at the California Institute of the Arts. He will be joined in conversation by Hess, a prolific architecture writer.

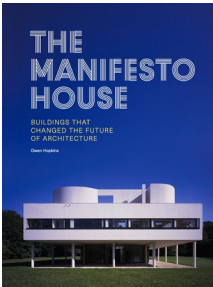
Authors on Architecture: Hodgetts on Reading Design—Sunday, July 12, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



Author/architect Craig Hodgetts, FAIA



Author/architect Alan Hess, AIA



Authors on Architecture: Hopkins on Manifesto Houses

SAH/SCC Zoom Program
Sunday, September 20, 2026, 1-2:30PM Pacific

Join Owen Hopkins as he discusses his new book, *The Manifesto House: Buildings That Changed the Future of Architecture* (Yale University Press, 2025). Manifesto houses reflect new visions for how we can live. Often extreme and uncompromising, they are vehicles for innovation, new ideas, and new ways of doing things.

These houses that break with the past and do something different stand outside of usual expectations and instead are conceived to embody whole new theories or agendas. They are “manifesto houses.”

Hopkins brings together a collection of 21 such manifesto houses, exploring the visions for architecture conjured by Andrea Palladio, Eileen Gray, Frank Lloyd Wright, FAIA, Harry Seidler, Hon. FAIA, Lina Bo Bardi, Luis Barragán, Hon. FAIA, and Sou Fujimoto, among others. *The Manifesto House* looks in detail at the ideas and ambitions embodied in each house, the contexts that shaped them, and their impact and influence on the future of architecture.

Hopkins is an architectural writer, historian, and curator. He is the author of *The Museum* (Frances Lincoln, 2021), *Reading Architecture* (Laurence King, second edition 2023), and *The Brutalists: Brutalism's Best Architects* (Phaidon, 2023), which was featured in a previous Authors on Architecture (purchase the video on Page 5).

Authors on Architecture: Hopkins on Manifesto Houses—Sunday, September 20, 2026; 1-2:30 PM Pacific. Tickets required, \$5. Go to www.sahscc.org, and pay via PayPal or mail in order form on Page 6 with check. Zoom link sent upon registration.



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Lee Purvey

Letter from Mexico

Merry Ovnick Fellowship Post-Conference Essay

By Lee Purvey

The week of the SAH 2026 conference in Mexico City this past April was a whirlwind of activity. I set out to fit three programs into my week-long visit: a two-day research forum organized by the Latin American Architectural Histories (LAAH) SAH affiliate group, a one-day meeting by the Nuestro Norte es el Sur (Our North is the South) scholarly group, and finally three full days of SAH conference presentations. Suffice to say, it was a busy week.

My visit began Monday with the LAAH Research Forum, which took place at Juan O’Gorman’s Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo (1932). Beneath its piloti-supported mass, I watched a collection of SAH-member scholars from Latin America and beyond present on a broad range of topics related to the forum’s theme of “Historical Archives/Architectural Archives: From the Institution to the Construction of Knowledge.” The day concluded with a visit to the National Institute of Fine Arts and Letters (INBAL) architectural archives housed in the historic Palacio Nacional de Bellas Artes (Adamo Boari and Federico Mariscal, 1934). As a scholar of Mexican modernism, visiting this archive—which was previously unknown to me—was incredibly useful.



Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo, Mexico City (Juan O’Gorman, 1931-1932).

On Tuesday, the Forum changed locations to the National Autonomous University of Mexico’s (UNAM) Faculty of Architecture, where I presented a paper titled “History and Form in Manuel Amábilis’s Maya Neoclassicism,” developed through my research this year in Yucatán on a Fulbright-García Robles fellowship. While I gave my short presentation in English, the majority of the event took place entirely in Spanish—a new experience for me, having

only presented at American conferences to this point. It was an immense confidence boost to participate in a conference outside of my native language and connect with Latin American scholars. The forum concluded with a tour through UNAM’s architecture archives. While I have worked in these archives in the past, it was an enlightening experience to receive a formal tour and learn about recent changes to organization and usage policies.



National Institute of Fine Arts and Letters (INBAL) architectural archives.

On Wednesday, I attended a one-day meeting of Nuestro Norte es el Sur, a group of faculty and graduate students interested in developing pedagogical and investigative methods that resist the colonial and Eurocentric structures that have historically shaped the discipline. I joined a fellow graduate student and two professors of architectural history for a wide-ranging discussion on everything from Indigenous modes of knowledge to the growing threat of global fascism. We shared our own research and methods and exchanged ideas regarding the primary theoretical concerns that inform our efforts to investigate and teach architectural history. After a full day of conversations, I had enough energy left to make it to the SAH opening reception, where I reconnected with graduate student scholars I knew from previous SAH events and made several new connections.

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Rodney Walker: The Ojai Years: tri-fold, black-and-white brochure featuring Walker's important residences in Ojai, with pictures and article by historian David Mason. \$5

Rodney Walker 3 30 90: 12-page brochure featuring nine homes on five sites, as well as the architect's use of the three-foot module. \$8



■ **Gregory Ain:** Anthony Fontenot on *Notes From Another Los Angeles: Gregory Ain and the Construction of a Social Landscape*.

■ **Architectural Pottery:** Dan Chavkin, Jeffrey Head, and Jo Lauria on Mid-Century Modern designs.

■ **Architecture Unbound:** Joseph Giovannini on *Architecture Unbound: A Century of the Disruptive Avant-Garde*.

■ **Arts & Crafts:** Arnold Schwartzman on *Arts & Crafts: From William Morris to Frank Lloyd Wright*.

■ **Avatar:** Victoria Lautman discusses complex motion-capture technology with artists from the film.

■ **Bakersfield:** David Coffey on the city's hidden legacy of modern architecture.

■ **Reyner Banham:** Todd N. Gannon and Richard J. Williams discuss the writer of *Los Angeles: Architecture of Four Ecologies*.

■ **Behind the Iron Curtain:** John Ellis on visiting the Russian Constructivists and Alvar Aalto.

■ **Blueprints for Modern Living:** Victoria Lautman with Elizabeth A.T. Smith on the 1989 MOCA exhibition on Case Study Houses.

■ **Bowlarama:** Chris Nichols on *Bowlarama: The Architecture of Mid-Century Bowling*.

■ **Brains Meet Buildings:** Michael A. Arbib on the connection between neuroscience and architecture.

■ **Ella Briggs:** Despina Stratigakos on *Finding Ella Briggs: The Life and Work of an Unconventional Architect*.

■ **Brutalists:** Owen Hopkins on *The Brutalists: Brutalism's Best Architects*.

■ **Bunker Hill:** Nathan Marsak on LA's early residential neighborhood.

■ **Gordon Bunshaft:** Nicholas Adams on *Gordon Bunshaft and SOM: Building Corporate Modernism*.

■ **Robert Byrd:** Chris Lukacher on the fairytale ranch houses designed by Byrd.

■ **California Capitol:** Dick Cowan, Wayne Donaldson, and Paula Peper on preserving California's Capitol building.

■ **California Eden:** Susan Chamberlin and Christine Edstrom O'Hara on beautiful landscapes.

■ **California Living:** Michael Webb on *California Houses: Creativity in Context*.

■ **California Modernism:** Todd Cronan on *Nothing Permanent: Modern Architecture in California*.

■ **Church of the Epiphany:** Sian Winship and Escher GuneWardena on the oldest Episcopal church in LA.

■ **William F. Cody:** Catherine Cody, Jo Lauria, and Don Choi on the Palm Springs architect.

■ **Common Ground:** Frances Anderton on multifamily housing in LA.

■ **Conservation:** Miguel Caballero on *The Monument of Tomorrow: Creative Conservation and the Spanish War*.

■ **Designing for Space:** Victoria Lautman with JPL's Kryss Blackwood on the field of UX.

■ **Detroit/Moscow:** Christina E. Crawford and Claire Zimmerman compare and contrast.

■ **Disneyland:** Cindy Mediavilla and Kelsey Knox on *The Women Who Made Early Disneyland*.

■ **Driving Force:** Stephen Gee and Darryl Holter on *Driving Force: Automobiles and the New American City, 1900-1930*.

■ **Tony Duquette:** Victoria Lautman with Hutton Wilkinson on the Hollywood designer and artist.

■ **Harley Earl:** Richard Stanley on how Harley Earl invented the modern automotive design studio.

■ **Early LA:** Antonio Gonzalez on 15 early LA architects.

■ **Craig Ellwood:** Keith York shares his research on iconic designer Craig Ellwood.

■ **Leopold Fischer:** Volker M. Welter on *Exiled in L.A.: The Untold Story of Leopold Fischer's Domestic Architecture*.

■ **Freemasonry:** Victoria Lautman on the world of the Freemasons and their architectural imprint on LA.

■ **Buckminster Fuller:** Alec Nevala-Lee on the visionary life of "the inventor of the future."

■ **Germans in the Desert:** Luke Leuschner delivers the Merry Ovnick Fellowship Lecture: "Beyond Amerikanismus in the American Southwest, 1914-1934".

■ **Irving Gill:** Mark Hargreaves on Gill's sacred architecture in San Diego.

■ **Golden 1:** Rob Rothblatt on the story of Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, CA.

■ **Googie:** Michael Murphy and Alan Hess on the drawings of Googie masters Armet Davis Newlove.

■ **Elizabeth Gordon:** Monica Penick on the influential magazine editor.

■ **Grand Central Air Terminal:** John Berley on the renovation of LA's first commercial airport.

■ **Griffith Observatory:** Stuart Leslie on the architecture of an LA icon.

■ **Growing up Modern:** Julia Jamrozik and Coryn Kempster on *Growing up Modern: Childhoods In Iconic Homes*.

■ **Havana Modern:** Rubèn Gallo and Miguel Caballero on *Havana Modern: Critical Readings in Cuban Architecture*.

■ **Hitchcock:** Christine Madrid French on *The Architecture of Suspense*.

■ **Jack Rogers Hopkins:** Jeffrey Head and Katie Nartonis on *California Design Maverick: Master Mid-Century Designer Craftsman*.

■ **Irvine Ranch:** C. Michael Stockstill and H. Pike Oliver on *Transforming the Irvine Ranch: Joan Irvine, William Pereira, Ray Watson, and the Big Plan*.

■ **Japanese Architecture:** Victoria Lautman with Takashi Yanai and Sian Winship on LA's Japanese architects.

■ **Kappe House:** A special trio, whose roots extend back over six decades, each representing an important segment of this SoCal architecture masterpiece.

■ **Hugh Kaptur:** Steve Keylon on the architect's work—with a guest appearance by Kaptur himself.

■ **Florence Knoll:** Ana Arujo on *No Compromise: The Work of Florence Knoll*.

■ **A. Lawrence Kocher:** Luis Pancorbo Crespo and Inés Martín Robles on Kocher's overlooked work.

■ **Latin America:** Maristella Casciato and Idurre Alonso on Iberian cities in America.

■ **James Leonard:** Peter Wyeth on the British industrial designer of the X202 chair.

■ **Lovell Health House:** Edward Dimendberg and Nicholas Olsberg on the making of Neutra's iconic house.

■ **Cliff May:** Katie Kaford Papineau on the evolution of the ranch house.

■ **MGM Studios:** Steven Bingen on the effect of the movie studio on LA.

■ **Modern Gardens:** Beth Dunlop on garden inspiration for modern homes.

■ **Julia Morgan:** Kimberly Perette on the life of the trailblazing architect.

■ **Movie-Made LA:** John Trafton on the nexus of film and architecture in LA.

■ **Richard Neutra:** Catherine Rose Ettinger on *Richard Neutra: Encounters with Latin America*.

■ **New West:** Wolfgang Wagener and Leslie Erganian explore history through hand-tinted postcards.

■ **Newport Cottages:** Michael C. Kathrens on cottages between 1835 and 1890.

■ **John Parkinson:** Stephen Gee on the architect of many LA icons.

■ **Jock Peters:** Christopher Long on architect's work in LA.

■ **Playhouses:** Abigail A. Van Slyck on *Playhouses and Privilege: The Architecture of Elite Childhood*.

■ **Alfred Preis:** Axel Schmitzberger, Laura McGuire, and August Sarnitz on Preis' tropical modernism.

■ **Preserving LA:** Ken Bernstein and Stephen Schafer on results of LA's preservation programs.

■ **Will Price:** George E. Thomas on an early modern architect working in Philadelphia.

■ **Public Housing:** Nicole Krup Oest on *Photography and Modern Public Housing in Los Angeles*.

■ **Rebuilding Cities:** Andrew Demshuk looks at *Three Cities After Hitler: Redemptive Reconstruction*.

■ **David Wyn Roberts:** Cory Buckner on the Cambridge (UK) modernist.

■ **Saarinens:** Eva Hagberg on *When Eero Met His Match: Aline Louchheim Saarinen and the Making of an Architect*.

■ **Santa Monica Pier:** James Harris on the rich history of the Santa Monica Pier.

■ **Millard Sheets:** Adam Arenson on the designer's association with Home Savings and Loan.

■ **Stepwells:** Victoria Lautman on the mysterious and magnificent stepwells in India.

■ **Louis Sullivan:** Patrick F. Cannon on the work of the Chicago architect.

■ **Synagogues:** Anat Geva on *The Architecture of Modern American Synagogues*.

■ **Wayne Thom:** Emily Bills on the architectural photographer.

■ **3D-Printed Houses:** Victoria Lautman with Babak Zareiyian and Gene Eidelman on new technology.

■ **Warner Bros.:** Steven Bingen on the secrets of the famed studio.

■ **Water:** Anat Geva on architectural representations in sacred spaces.

■ **Jean Welz 1:** Peter Wyeth on the little-known architecture career of a leading South African painter.

■ **Jean Welz 2:** Peter Wyeth on the demolition of Welz's masterpiece Maison Zilveli.

■ **Paul R. Williams:** Stephen Gee, Bret Parsons, and Marc Appleton on the architect's early residences.

■ **Wrights:** Jennifer Golub on Dragon Rock at Manitoga, the home of the famed industrial designers Russell and Mary Wright.

■ **Wrigley Building:** Robert Sharoff, William Zbaren, and Tim Samuleson on the Chicago landmark.

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SAH/SCC MEMBERSHIP FORM

SAH/SCC is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing its members with opportunities to learn about and experience the rich architectural heritage of Southern California and beyond. Our volunteer board members create tours, lectures, travel tours, and other events that explore the ideas behind the architecture as well as the buildings that result from them. From modern to craftsman, from Spanish Colonial to contemporary, our programs are the best-kept secrets in Southern California!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Advance notice of all SAH/SCC events—important because they usually sell out just to members
- 20-30% discounts on tour and event ticket prices
- Quarterly E-news with printable newsletter
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- Special Members-Only E-Alerts about upcoming events
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Hodgetts on Design—Sunday, July 12, 2026

_____ Zoom ticket(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

Hession on Close— Sunday, July 19, 2026

_____ Zoom ticket(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

Hopkins on Houses—Sunday, September 20, 2026

_____ Zoom ticket(s) at \$5 each = \$ _____

check enclosed (Make checks payable to SAH/SCC)

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Letter from Mexico. Continued from page 4

Thursday through Saturday were a blur of panel talks, professional events, and informal conversations. The schedule featured a range of panels relevant to my research interests, from architectural histories of the Caribbean to modern Mexican interiors to architectures of the Plateresque and Churrigueresque. In addition to panels, I also attended professional roundtable discussions on topics both personally relevant—academic journal publishing—and more broadly significant for the discipline as a whole, such as practicing academic autonomy within a hostile political climate. Perhaps most important were the dozens of informal conversations I had with fellow scholars during the week. These included reconnecting with two professors who specialize in Mexican modern architecture and who have shown an interest in supporting my research. One of these scholars will be joining my dissertation committee as an outside member, a significant boon for my project as I previously lacked the perspective of a scholar working on modern Mexico.

As I reflect on SAH 2026, I feel incredibly grateful to have participated in a week of events so closely aligned with my interests and goals. Since the conference's completion, I have remained in Mexico City, where I will complete my Fulbright grant period and continue research into the summer, building upon my SAH experience. Whether networking with Latin American colleagues, learning the local archival ecosystem, or cultivating connections that will support my ongoing dissertation work, the experience was intellectually stimulating as well as beneficial for my academic future.

California Sites Endangered

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) unveiled its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, two Northern California sites were noted. Each site on this year's list illustrates a different connection to the founding-era principle that "all people are created equal."

Tule Lake Segregation Center (Modoc County) is a place that honors the brave contributions of Japanese Americans who fought to protect the rights of American citizenship. Once serving as a maximum-security prison for Japanese Americans who protested their unjust, race-based incarceration and deportation, the site is now a National Monument.

Angel Island Immigration Station (Tiburon) was the busiest immigration port on the West Coast, but many of those who passed through its doors seeking access to America's promises of freedom, particularly immigrants from Asia and the Pacific, were instead subjected to unjust race-based mistreatment, including detention, interrogation, and family separation. See full list [here](#).