



Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) **Activities for Academic Year 2015-2016**

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, was established with a mandate to study the main challenges to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms; analyze and assess the interactions between human rights violations and international crimes; investigate genocide historically and in the contemporary world; and devise educational programs aimed at increasing public awareness of these norms.

The CIHR focuses on a critical examination of long-standing and emerging issues on the human rights agenda, as well as on equipping our students with the necessary background and experience to pursue their interests in human rights scholarship and advocacy. The Center regularly conducts research workshops, seminars (including panel discussions and lectures) and develops outreach programs. The workshops focus on cutting edge issues and bring together experts in the field to present and discuss their work and usually result in publications as books, or special issues in scholarly journals. In addition, CIHR is consistently looking for innovative outreach/awareness activities to actively involve the college community, as well as the broader public, on important human rights issues.

Below is a list of our activities for the 2015-2016 academic year:

Seminars, Panel Discussions and Lectures

- Fall 2015 – Spring 2016: CIHR holds an annual Human Rights Seminar Series in co-sponsorship with UNHCR, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center
 - For this year, we chose the theme *Migration*.
 - The focus on migration could not come at a more appropriate time, given the migrant crisis in Europe and the controversies surrounding certain proposals to deal with migratory flows from Latin America in the context of the 2016 US presidential election. At a time when migratory movements call for effective management and international cooperation among countries which claim adherence to norms of non-discrimination and due process, ensuring such effective, as well as legitimate, responses constitutes a key task of democratic and accountable governance. In this context, here are some key focal issues and questions that we asked participants to address:
 - What are some of the main challenges that the current crisis has posed for the refugee protection regime and how can these be addressed?
 - The European Commission’s Agenda on Migration refers to the importance of managing the migration crisis “in all its aspects.” Proposals include the improvement of EU’s skilled labor migration (Blue Card Directive), the creation of asylum camps in North African Countries, and the need for a ‘new model of legal migration.’ What are the prospects for implementing such initiatives and what are the main obstacles facing such implementation?
 - How have civil society organizations (CSOs) responded to the needs of migrants? Taking into consideration declining state capacity, how and to what extent have CSOs managed to fill the gap?
 - The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants has called on the EU to create a “coherent and comprehensive migration policy,” making “mobility its central asset.” What would this entail and to what extent is such a proposal feasible given the existing dynamics within the EU?

- Some of the standard policies adopted by states around the world to address irregular migration persist despite the lack of supporting evidence as to their effectiveness. For example, detention does not deter irregular migration, nor does it discourage migrants from seeking asylum. Why do such policies persist? What are the alternatives?
- The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:
 - Thursday, October 29, 2015 – Addressing the Global Refugee Crisis
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, UNHCR, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
 - Speaker: Ninette Kelley, Director, UNHCR Liaison Office, NY
 - Thursday, December 3, 2015 – Responding to the Needs of Migrants and Refugees: The Role of CSOs
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, UNHCR, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
 - Moderator: Anne-Christine Eriksson, Deputy Director, UNHCR Liaison Office, NY
 - Panelists:
 - Abbas Barzegar – Assistant Professor, Georgia State University
 - Lenni B. Benson – Professor, New York Law School, and Director, Safe Passage Project
 - Trinh Tran – Staff Attorney, Sauti Yetu Center for African Women and Children
 - Thursday, March 10, 2016 – EU Migration and Asylum Policies in the Wake of the Refugee Crisis: Issues and Responses
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, UNHCR, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
 - Moderator: Professor George Andreopoulos – Director, CIHR.
 - Panelists:
 - Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas – Deputy Head of Delegation of the EU to the UN
 - Ms. Agnes Hurwitz – Senior Policy Advisor, UNHCR Liaison Office, NY
 - Ambassador Peter Lehmann Nielsen – Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN
 - Ambassador Inigo Lambertini – Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN
 - Ambassador Phillipp Charwath – Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN
 - Thursday, April 14, 2016 – Revisiting State Responses to Migrant and Refugee Flows
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, UNHCR, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, European Union Studies Center, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
 - Chair: Stephanie R. Golob – Associate Director, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, and Associate Professor of Political Science, Baruch College and the Graduate Center, CUNY
 - Panelists:
 - Olga Byrne – Senior Associate in Refugee Protection, Human Rights First
 - Christian Karstensen – Legal Counselor, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN
 - Ambassador Inigo Lambertini – Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN
 - Catherine Tinker – President and Founder, Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations

Other Public Events

- Tuesday, October 6, 2015 – The Future of Migration into Europe
 - This seminar was organized by European Affairs Committee, NYC Bar Association, and the European Union Studies Center and co-sponsored by Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies and CIHR
 - Welcome: Chase Robinson, President, the Graduate Center, CUNY
 - Moderator: Tanya Domi, Adjunct Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
 - Panelists:
 - Ambassador Inigo Lambertini, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN
 - Ninette Kelley, Director, UNHCR Liaison Office, NY
 - Peter Shuck, Simeon E. Baldwin Professor Emeritus, Yale Law School

- Thursday, October 15, 2015 – Unable to Challenge Traditional Cultural Values: The Reproduction of Traditional Gender Roles in Greek Political Extreme Right and Left Wing Groups
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Political Science Department, and the Gender Studies Program
 - Speaker: Gerassimos Karabelias, Associate Professor of Sociology, Panteion University

- Wednesday, November 25, 2015 – Engendering Policing Institutions: Transnational Advocacy Networks and Implementing Women’s Security in Central America
 - Co-sponsors: The National Political Science Honors Society--Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Department Brown Bag Series, International Crime and Justice MA, CIHR, and Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies
 - Speaker: Dr. Shannon Drysdale Walsh, University of Minnesota Duluth

- Monday, December 14, 2015 – Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want: Challenges in Advancing Human Protection
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, OHCHR, Student Council, UNSA, Students for Justice in Palestine
 - This event was held in celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the UN and the sixty-seventh anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
 - Chair: Professor George Andreopoulos – Director, CIHR, and Professor of Political Science, CUNY

Panelists:

 - Anthony Cardon – Former Officer-in-Charge, OHCHR-Nepal
 - Edward Flynn – Senior Human Rights Officer, CTED United Nations
 - Holly Stubbs – Leebron Human Rights Fellow, Center for Economic and Social Rights
 - Belinda Cooper –Senior Fellow, World Policy Institute

- Thursday, March 3, 2016 – *International Women’s Day Event Celebration – Protecting and Empowering Refugee Women and Girls: Issues and Challenges*
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, NAMI on Campus at John Jay, UNSA, Women’s Empowerment Society, the Women’s Center for Gender Justice, Students for Justice in Palestine, Political Science Students Association-Pi Sigma Alpha, the BA Major in International Criminal Justice, the MA of Arts in International Crime & Justice, and the Human Rights Studies Minor
 - Moderator: Jean Carmalt– Assistant Professor of Political Science, John Jay College

Panelists:

 - Heidi Lehmann – Senior Director, Women’s Protection and Empowerment Unit, International Rescue Committee
 - Manar Marouf – Refugee Resettlement Intern and Community Interpreter, International Rescue Committee

- Jean Carmalt – Assistant Professor of Political Science, John Jay College
- Sekou Kesselly – Adjunct Assistant Professor of Sociology, John Jay College
- April 13-15, 2016 – *Puerto Rico, the Debt Crisis, and Self-Determination: Exploring Paths to Decolonization*
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR and the Institute for Multicultural Communications Cooperation and Development, Inc. (IF-MC-CA-DI)
 - Wednesday, April 13, 2016
 - Welcoming Remarks – Anthony Carpi, Associate Provost and Dean of Research at John Jay College
 - Documentary: “The Last Colony” (1:30 min)
 - Discussion with filmmaker Juan Agustín Márquez
 - Thursday, April 14, 2016
 - Panel A: The Principle of Self Determination and the Process of Decolonization: Historical and Legal Perspectives
 - George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York. “Self-Determination: Trials and Tribulations of an Evolving Doctrine”
 - María Victoria Pérez Ríos, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “Former Spanish Territories and Their Quest for Self-Determination in the 21st Century: Western Sahara and Puerto Rico”
 - José Luis Morín, Professor of Latin American and Latina/o Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “Disentangling the Colonial Conundrum: Understanding the International Law Dimensions of Puerto Rico’s Status Question”
 - Olga I. Sanabria Dávila, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comité de Puerto Rico en la ONU. “A history of the Puerto Rican Case before the UN Special Decolonization Committee”
 - Moderator: Juan Cartagena Esq., President & General Counsel, Latino Justice PRLDEF
 - Guest Speaker –The Honorable Juan R. Torruella, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
 - Panel B: Puerto Rico’s Financial & Economic Crisis: Debt Restructuring and Prospects for Sustainable Economic Development
 - Richard Wolff, Economist, New School University. “Politics and Puerto Rico’s Financial Crisis”
 - Rafael Bernabe, “Puerto Rico in the American Century, Debt and Self-Determination”
 - Marisa Soto, Attorney at Law. Bankruptcy Law, “Benefits of Structured Debt Restructuring”
 - Carmen Pacheco, Esq., Pacheco & Lugo, Attorney at Law. “Puerto Rico’s Legal Status and Public Debt with a focus on Puerto Rico v. Sanchez Valle and Franklin California Tax-free Trust v. Puerto Rico”
 - Moderator: Ismael Betancourt Jr., MBA, MA, President & CEO of IF-MC-CA-DI
 - Panel C: Economic Juggernaut: A History of Trade Restrictions, Bond Debts, Neoliberal Policies, and the Impoverishment of Puerto Ricans
 - Rosario Rivera-Negrón, “Economist, University of Puerto Rico”
 - Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, Attorney, Latino Justice PRLDEF. “Puerto Rico’s Odious Debt: The Economic Crisis of Colonialism”
 - Argeo T. Quiñones Pérez, Professor, Department of Economics at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. “Wealth Extraction, Governmental Servitude, and Social Disintegration in Colonial Puerto Rico”
 - Moderator: Nelson Denis, JD. Author “The War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America’s Colony”
 - Friday, April 15, 2016
 - Panel A: Puerto Rico’s Colonial History, Citizenship & Nationality
 - Ismael Betancourt. Jr., MBA, MA, President & CEO, IF-MC-CA-DI. “The State of the Nation”

- Nelson Denis, JD. “The War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America’s Colony”
 - María Elena Pizarro, Adjunct, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “Statehood verses Nationhood: Examining the Status of Puerto Rico as an ‘Unincorporated Territory’ and its Prospects for Self-determination”
 - Rafael Cox Alomar, Assistant Professor of Law, University of the District of Columbia School of Law. “The Re-Conceptualization of Puerto Rican Autonomous Movement”
 - Harry Franqui Rivera, PhD, Research Associate, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, City University of New York. “War and Citizenship: The Cannon Fodder Myth and WWI”
 - Moderator: José Luis Morín, Professor of Latin American and Latina/o Studies, John Jay College
 - Keynote Speaker – Efrén Rivera Ramos Professor of Law, Former Dean, University of Puerto Rico School of Law. “The Legal Construction of Identity: The Judicial and Social Legacy of American Colonialism in Puerto Rico”
 - Panel B: Role of the Diaspora and Paths to Decolonization
 - Ana López, Professor of History, Hostos Community College
 - Andrés Torres, Distinguished Lecturer, Lehman College. “Diaspora Solidarity: a Historical Perspective”
 - Luis Barrios, Professor, Latin American & Latina/o Studies, John Jay College. “Psychological Liberation: The case of Puerto Rico”
 - Moderator: Natalia Velez, Professor of Law, CUNY Law School
 - Panel C: Puerto Rican Voices: Thoughts on Current Crisis and Hopes for the Future
 - Georgina Falú, Founder, Falú Foundation, Adjunct Professor at City College. “Puerto Rican Voices: Thoughts on Current Crisis - Let's organize our own Enterprises and Create our own Jobs”
 - Walter Alomar, MD, JD, University of Puerto Rico. “Health Crisis in Puerto Rico and the Future of Puerto Rican Youth”
 - Juan C. Dávila Santiago, “Documentarian: Screening of La generación del estanbai (The Stand-by Generation)”
 - Hannah Berg, Global Public Health/Anthropology Student NYU. Presenting Photography work by Perla de Leon. “The South Bronx & Vieques During Their Intense Decade of Fire”
 - Moderator: María Elena Pizarro, Adjunct, Department of Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
- Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – *Indigenous Peoples: Conflict, Peace, and Resolution*
 - This seminar was organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in NY at their office location and co-sponsored by CIHR, the Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations, and the Academic Council on the United Nations System.
 - Welcoming Remarks: H.E. Ambassador Lily L.W. Hsu, Director-General of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in NY.
 - Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, ACUNS.
 - Keynote Speech: H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. “The Tale of the Indigenous People of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and their Pivotal Role in Agenda 2030.”
 - Introduction of Topic Speaker: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, ACUNS.
 - Topic Speech: Dr. Tunkan Tansikian, Political Deputy Minister of Council of Indigenous Peoples, R.O.C. (Taiwan). “Resolving conflicts through recognition of indigenous rights.”
 - Panel Discussion I:
 - Moderator: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, ACUNS

- Msgr. Simon Kassas & Fr. Roger Landry, Deputy Permanent Observer & Advisor, Mission of the Holy See to the UN. “The Perspective of Pope Francis and the Holy See on Affirming and Defending the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a Path toward Peace.”
- Dr. Terry Mitchell, Professor of Psychology, Wilfrid Laurier University & Balsillie School of International Affairs. “Coercion or Consent: Contemporary access to Indigenous land and resources.”
- Panel Discussion II:
 - Moderator: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, ACUNS
 - Ms. Lopic Kalay (Pi-I Debby Lin), Doctoral Candidate, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health Pingtung. “Resolving conflicts through education and empowerment for Indigenous peoples in Taiwan.”
 - Ms. Eleng Kazangiljan (Wun-Syuan Guo), Paralegal of Legal Aid Foundation of Taiwan, News Editor in Taiwan Indigenous TV. “What’s after the Apology? The Action Plan of Transitional Justice Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Want.”
 - Dr. George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York. “Mechanisms and Processes for Addressing Indigenous Peoples’ Rights.”
- Open Discussion
- Reception in the Lobby

Curricular Developments

- *Minor in Human Rights Studies*
 - The kick-start event of the academic year serves to introduce students in the minor to the work of major human rights/humanitarian organizations.
 - Wednesday, September 30, 2015 – Human Rights Minor Kick-Start Event: Fighting Violent Extremism with Human Rights
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Human Rights Minor, the BA in International Criminal Justice, and the MA in International Crime and Justice
 - Guest speaker: Brian Dooley, Director, Human Rights Defenders Program, Human Rights First
 - Wednesday, February 24, 2016 – Human Rights Minor Spring Kick-Start Event: The ICRC and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Human Rights Minor, the BA in International Criminal Justice, and the MA in International Crime and Justice
 - Guest speaker: Stephane R. Ojeda, Deputy Permanent Observer and Legal Adviser, ICRC Delegation to the UN-NY

Publications

We plan to produce a report on *Migration* based on this year’s series of activities, as well as reports on *Peace Agreements* and the *History of US Foreign Assistance* that will result from our participation in the US State Department’s Diplomacy Lab Project.

Upcoming Event & Projects for 2016-2017

Our theme for next year is *Media and Human Rights* and several activities are planned in this context. In addition, we will continue with our tradition of organizing public events on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 2016) and on International Women’s Day (March 2017). The Center welcomes the establishment of a new club called ‘Student Without Borders’ at John Jay College and looks forward to working with it, as well as continuing the collaboration with the United Nations Student Association. Last, but not least, we intend to build on the momentum

generated by our collaborative undertakings both within, as well as outside the College, in particular with other human rights research centers, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team and whose contribution made all of the above possible:

Grace Theresa Agalo-os, Richard Balkissoon, Estefania Chavez, Daniel Golebiewski, Erick Esquivel, Lodoé Gyatso, Ali Haxhijaj, Timur Insanally, Marina Kumskova, Rocio Maradiegue, Nikolaos Petropoulos, Eleanor Pressman, Tannuja Rozario, and Jeffery White.

Please email Daniel Golebiewski (dgolebiewski@jjay.cuny.edu) to be added to our list serve and to be kept posted of developments with periodic updates. Please also feel free to check our new website at: <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/center-international-human-rights>.