



## **Center for International Human Rights (CIHR)** **Activities for Academic Year 2013-2014**

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.

What follows is a list of our activities for the 2013-2014 academic year:

### **Research Workshops/Conferences**

- October 2-4, 2013 – 7<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on Applied Business & Economics (ICABE 2013)*
  - CIHR, in collaboration with the University of Piraeus organized the ICABE 2013 Conference on *The Role of Financial Accountability and Transparency in Economic Activities*.
  - The three day conference consisted of 23 panels, 102 panelists and 7 keynote speakers.
  
- June 11-14, 2014 – *John Jay College's 11th Biennial International Conference in Athens, Greece on 'The Rule of Law in an Era of Change: Security, Social Justice and Inclusive Governance.'*
  - John Jay College, in collaboration with the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) at the Greek Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection. The conference was funded by a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.
  - The Conference was designed to promote an interdisciplinary and critical understanding of rule of law issues, aspiring to bring together scholars, policymakers, activists and representatives of international organizations.
  - The three-day conference consisted of 55 panels, 245 panelists and special guests, including Greek Government officials, and three keynote speakers: Vasilis Kikilias, Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Greece; Theodoros Dravillas, Director General, National Intelligence Service, Greece; and George Bizos, Senior Counsel at the Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. In addition to other events, the Mayor of Athens hosted the opening reception at City Hall, and the closing reception and dinner were held at the Acropolis Museum.
  - The Organizing Committee for the Athens conference was chaired by George Andreopoulos and also included Jana Arsovska, Rosemary Barberet, Aferdita Hakaj, Anne Lopes, Rosemarie Maldonado, John Paul Narkunas, Mayra Nieves, Katherine Stavrianopoulos and Patricia Tovar.

## Seminars, Panel Discussions and Lectures

- Fall 2013 – Spring 2014: CIHR holds an annual Human Rights Seminar Series in co-sponsorship with the CUNY Ph.D./ M.A. Program in Political Science, which takes place at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The seminar meets approximately once a month throughout the school year. Each academic year the Center for International Human Rights invites five to six renowned scholars and/or practitioners to address cutting-edge human rights issues.
  - The theme for the 2013-2014 series was *Mental Health and Human Rights*.
  - While the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) stipulates the “right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,” such issues have yet to receive adequate treatment within the human rights discourse. Mental health, which is an indispensable component of well-being, remains a distant goal for many people throughout the world. Despite advances in treatment and increased research on mental health, the quest for the “highest attainable standard” faces considerable challenges. Among these challenges, stigmatization was and remains a major concern. The discriminatory treatment of people with mental illness severely restricts their access to health care, as well as to the underlying determinants of health, and undermines their ability to reach their full potential as productive members of society. Our seminar series addressed some of the main issues involved in the effort to advance a less discriminatory, more inclusive social order where the aspirations of people with mental health concerns can be fully realized.
  - The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:
- Thursday, October 24, 2013 – Dr. Jacob Kumaresan, Executive Director, World Health Organization Office at the United Nations, gave a talk on ‘Health and Development: Post 2015;’
  - Co-sponsored by CIHR, John Jay College, the Minor in Human Rights, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
- Tuesday, December 10, 2013 – Mental Health and Justice: Stigmatization and the Challenge of Inclusion;
  - Co-sponsored by CIHR, NAMI on Campus at John Jay and the Minor in Human Rights.
  - This event was held in commemoration of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
    - Moderator: Professor George Andreopoulos – Director of CIHR.

Panelists:

  - Senator Kevin Parker – New York State Senator, 21st Senatorial District in Brooklyn.
  - Prof. Shabnam Javdani– Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology, Department of Applied Psychology, NYU Steinhardt.
  - Mr. Hernan Carvente – Research Assistant, Vera Institute of Justice.
- Thursday, March 20, 2014 – Dr. Allen Keller, Associate Professor of Medicine, NYU School of Medicine, Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture (PSOT) and Director of the NYU School of Medicine Center for Health and Human Rights (CHHR), gave a talk on ‘The Horror and the Hope: Promoting Mental Health in the Face of Human Rights Abuses.’
  - Co-sponsored by CIHR, John Jay College, the Minor in Human Rights, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
- Thursday April 24, 2014 – Dark Light: A Short Experimental Film About the Nature of Depression
  - This event was organized by CIHR and cosponsored by NAMI on Campus at John Jay; the Minor in Human Rights; and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
    - Opening Remarks: Professor George Andreopoulos, Director, CIHR.
    - Intro to Film: Gina Guerrieri, Director.

Participants:

  - Ms. Gina Guerrieri – Producer, Director and Associate Professor at William Paterson University.
  - Ms. Cecilia Potenza – Associate Producer and Student at William Paterson University.
  - Mr. Alan Katana – Graphics Artist and Student at William Paterson University.

## Other Public Events

- October 11, 2013 – *Seminar on Another Viewpoint on Planning Post-2015 SDGs (ACUNS-TECONY SEMINAR SERIES IN NEW YORK)*
  - This panel discussion was organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in NY at their office location and cosponsored by CIHR and the Academic Council on the United Nations System.
    - Welcoming Remarks: Mr. Alex Fan, Acting Director General Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.
    - Introduction: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS).
    - Keynote Speech I: Dr. Tapio Kanninen, The Ralph Bunche Institute The Graduate Center, City University of New York.
    - Keynote Speech II: Ms. Kate Offerdahl, Thematic Expert on Post-2015 and Sustainable Development, IISD.
    - Moderator: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS).
    - Q&A Discussants: 1. Ambassador Stuart Beck, Palau’s Ambassador for Oceans and Seas; 2. Ambassador Lois Michele Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations; 3. Ambassador Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations; and 4. Mr. Brian Su, Deputy Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.
  
- December 16, 2013 – *Criminal Justice Matters Screening & Panel Discussion on Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System*
  - This screening and panel discussion was organized by the Center on Media, Crime and Justice in collaboration with CIHR, the Office of Student Life and the Department of Counseling,  
Participants:
    - Wendy Brennan, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI, NYC office).
    - Crispin Jackson, CUNY student and mental illness sufferer.
    - Dr. Katherine Stravianopoulos, John Jay Professor, Department of Counseling.
    - Amalia Rudnick, Vice President, John Jay Chapter of NAMI.
  
- March 6, 2014 – *International Women’s Day Event Celebration – The Mental Health Effects of Gender Inequality*
  - International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality, and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security. The designated theme was “The Mental Health Effects of Gender Inequality.”
  - Participants were asked to address the following focal issues and questions: How does inequality affect women’s mental health? What are the main challenges that women face within society, such as in the family and the workplace? What are some of the key initiatives that have been undertaken to address women’s mental health concerns and their social position in society? Who are the key stakeholders in these undertakings and how effective are they? What are the social implications of neglecting women’s mental and emotional well-being? What can be done on the mental health front to enable women to advance to the maximum of their potential, and contribute more effectively to public life?
    - Moderator: Samantha Majic, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.  
Panelists:
  - Dr. Rama Lakshminarayanan – Senior Advisor, Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health at the World Health Organization.
  - Ms. Miriam Goodman – Coordinator of Trafficking Programs at the Center for Court Innovation.
  - Ms. Kriti Sharma – Fellow in the Disability Rights Division at Human Rights Watch.
  - Ms. Nadia Allen – Executive Director of Mental Health Association in Orange County.

- May 13, 2014 – *Greek and European Union Policies on Migration: Challenges and Prospects*
  - This panel discussion was sponsored by the Office of the President, the Consulate General of Greece in New York and CIHR with a reception and photo exhibition in the Justice Quad, featuring the work of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation in Greece.
 

Welcoming Remarks:

    - Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
    - Georgios Iliopoulos, Consul General of Greece in New York.
    - Chair: George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science and Director, CIHR
- Participants:
  - Ambassador Inigo Lambertini – Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations.
  - Demetrios G. Papademetriou – President of the Migration Policy Institute.
  - Vasili Tsamis – Chief Operating Officer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation.
  - Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas – Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Mission to the United Nations.
- May 15, 2014 – *Seminar on Building the Future We Want: Post-2015 Development Agenda & Indigenous Participation (ACUNS-TECONY SEMINAR SERIES IN NEW YORK)*
  - This panel discussion was organized by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in NY at their office location and cosponsored by CIHR, the Academic Council on the United Nations System, the Permanent Mission of Solomon Island to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the United Nations.
    - Welcoming Remarks: H.E. Ambassador Paul Wen-Liang Chang, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in NY.
    - Introduction: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS).
    - Keynote Speech I: Dr. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University.
    - Keynote Speech II: Dr. Tunkan Tansikian, Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies, National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan.
    - Moderator: Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, Academic Council on the UN System.
    - Q&A Discussants: 1. H.E. Ambassador Collin Beck, Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations; 2. H.E. Ambassador Makurita Baaro, Permanent Mission of Kiribati to the United Nations; 3. Dr. Andrew Thompson, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo; Program Officer, Balsillie School of International Affairs; 4. Ms. Kate Brown, Partnership Coordinator, Global Island Partnership; 5. Ms. Jocelyn Ting-Hui Hung Chien, Co-chair of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus.

### Outreach

- Thursday, November 14, 2013 – *In Our Own Voice: College Students and Mental Health*
  - Co-sponsored by CIHR, NAMI on Campus at John Jay and the Minor in Human Rights.
  - This event was titled “In Our Own Voice” (IOOV). IOOV was set up as a series of public peer education presentations given by individuals living with mental illness to promote education about mental health issues, empowerment, and recovery. The program is widely recognized for its potential to reduce stigma, and it is supported by the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). Student IOOV speakers shared their personal stories with mental health and the role it has played in their lives. These presentations were followed by a panel of expert speakers who offered their perspectives on stigma and identity, youth and medication, and college students and mental health services on campus.
    - Moderator: Dr. Katherine Stavrianopoulos – Licensed Psychologist and Professor at John Jay College.
- Panelists:
  - Ms. Mary Beth Anderson – Director at the Urban Justice Center and the Project Director at the Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project in NYC.
  - Ms. Kaitlin Bell Barnett – Journalist & Author of *Dosed: The Medication Generation Grows Up*.
  - Mr. Joseph Deluca – President of NAMI’s chapter at John Jay, Student at John Jay College.

- Mr. Paul Reed – Youth and Programs Coordinator at The National Alliance for Mental Illness NYC metro-area.
  - Ms. Amalia Rudnik – Vice President of NAMI’s chapter at John Jay, Student at John Jay College.
  - Dr. Katherine Stavrianopoulos
- April 2, 2014 – *Raise the Age: Long-Term Implications of Trying Children as Adults in Criminal Court and How Changing The Law Can Improve Future Outcomes For Youth*
    - This event was organized by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New York City and co-sponsored by CIHR, NAMI on Campus at John Jay and John Jay College Office of Accessibility Services.
      - Presenter: Gabrielle Horowitz-Prisco, Director of the Juvenile Justice Project at the Correctional Association of NY.
- Panelists:
- Jeannette Bocanegra (Parent Voice) – Family & Community Organizer, Community Connections for Youth.
  - Carol Fisler (Moderator) – Director, Mental Health Court Programs Center for Court Innovation.
  - Hernan Carvente (Student Voice) – Research Assistant, Center on Youth Justice, Vera Institute of Justice.

### Curricular Developments

- Fall 2013 Semester – *Minor in Human Rights Studies*
  - The Human Rights Studies Minor introduces students to some of the key conceptual, ethical and methodological approaches to the study and practice of human rights. In particular, it addresses key concepts, principles and norms, such as human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, due process, empowerment, human security, human development, and accountability; it exposes students to diverse disciplinary and methodological approaches to the study and practice of human rights from a domestic as well as an international perspective; it familiarizes students with the evolution of international human rights norms both in theory and in practice, the latter through the study of pivotal events in the history of human rights, such as the anti-slavery and anti-slave trade campaign, the Civil Rights Movement, the Campaign Against Apartheid, the transnational movement spawned by the Helsinki Final Act, and, more recently, the campaign to establish the International Criminal Court and the launching of the Millennium Development Goals; it trains students how to use the human rights framework in order to analyze and assess critical developments in key issue areas of global concern; and it provides students with internship opportunities so as to hone their advocacy skills in addressing the challenges of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. This minor can be paired with all majors; examples would include Gender Studies, Global History, Humanities and Justice, International Criminal Justice, and Political Science.
    - Total Credits Required: 18
    - Required Course (1 – 3 credits): Political Science 320 International Human Rights
    - Elective Courses (15 credits from a series of selected courses)
  - October 2, 2013 – *Human Rights Minor Kick-Start Event*
    - Guest speaker: Mr. Richard Dicker, Director, International Program at Human Rights Watch, gave a talk on ‘Progress and Problems in Brining Those Accused of Atrocity Crimes to Trial.’
    - This event was an introductory event, sponsored by CIHR, to discuss the newly established human rights minor at John Jay College in an interactive session with a guest speaker, professors and students in the field.

### Upcoming Event & Projects for 2014 -2015

CIHR has a very active agenda for 2014-2015. In particular, we plan to produce a book on *Migration and Security* (in collaboration with the Center for Security Studies of the Greek Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection) and a Report on *Rights for All? Sexual Orientation, Religious Traditions and the Challenge of Inclusion*. We also plan on conducting research workshops on *United Nations Counterterrorism and Human Rights*, and on the *Rule of Law in UN Peace Operations* and expect to produce monographs based on the presentations and deliberations resulting from these workshops. Moreover, we will continue our work on *Mental Health and Human Rights* which will constitute our main theme for one more year, as well as our outreach/awareness initiatives by organizing public events on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day (December 2014), and on International Women's Day (March 2015). In addition, CIHR looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) on Campus at John Jay on mental health and human rights issues. Last, but not least, we intend to build on the momentum generated by our collaborative undertakings both within, as well as outside the College, with other 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: Ksenia Armstrong, Katherine Azcona, Taniya Dewan, Rozhaja Doci, Yumna Khan, Marina Kumskova, Adriana Michilli, Ana Paredes, Imtashal Tariq and Nikolaos Petropoulos.

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