



Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) **Activities For Academic Year 2016– 2017**

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 2016-2017 academic year:

Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Lectures

- Fall 2016-Spring 2017: Each academic year, CIHR identifies a theme and organizes a series of events in which scholars and/or practitioners address key focal issues and questions relating to the selected theme. The theme for this year was *Media and Human Rights*. The project sought to address some of the following focal issues and questions:
 - What mainstream news outlets (print, television, and new media) cover about human rights, and how do they do so?
 - What makes a news outlet pick up a human rights story, or a human rights frame for a story? What impact do media, especially new media, coverage of human rights have on state and non-state actions?
 - In what ways have new technologies (camera phones, Twitter and other social media) expanded the possibilities for non-state actors to tell their stories to the world, and what effects have those stories had?
 - How can individuals harness the power of the increasingly ubiquitous camera phone to promote human rights?

- Under what circumstances can the media contribute to human rights violations?
- What is the role of media organizations as employers?
- What human rights challenges do media organizations face in the workplace, especially on issues of discrimination, diversity, and gender rights, and do these challenges affect the amount and nature of human rights media coverage?
- The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:
- Thursday, October 20th, 2016 – Meet the Press Roundtable Discussion
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Minor in Human Rights, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
 - Moderator: Shawna Brandle, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Kingsborough Community College

Panelists:

- Trenton Daniel, Associated Press
- Daphne Eviator, Senior Counsel, Human Rights First
- Thomas R Lansner, Visiting Faculty & Project Director, Social Accountability Media Initiative
- Kerry Paterson, Senior Advocacy Officer, Committee to Protect Journalists
- Friday, June 9th, 2017 – Media and Human Rights Workshop
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Minor in Human Rights, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.

Participants:

- George Andreopoulos, Director, Center for International Human Rights & Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, City University of New York; Presented on “*Human Rights Reporting: Rights, Responsibilities and Challenges*”
- Shawna Brandle, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Kingsborough Community College; Presented on “*Media Coverage of Human Rights in the US and UK: The Violations Still Won’t be Televised (or Published)*”

- Brigitte L. Nacos, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Columbia University; Presented on “*U.S. Media and Post-9/11 Human Rights Violations in the Name of Counterterrorism*”
- Janet Reilly, Guest Faculty in Politics and Director of Refugee Initiatives at Sarah Lawrence College; Presented on “*Training Human Rights Reporters: Human Rights Education in U.S. Journalism Degree Programs*”
- John C. Pollock, Professor in the Communication Studies Department, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ); Presented on “*Nationwide Newspaper Coverage of Rape and Rape Culture on College Campuses: Testing Community Structure Theory*”
- Jenifer Whitten-Woodring, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Global Studies PhD Program at UMass Lowell; Co-presented on “*Killings in Context: An analysis of news coverage of violence against women*” with Camelia Bouzerdan
- Camelia Bouzerdan, PhD student in Political Science at UMass Lowell; Co-presented on “*Killings in Context: An analysis of news coverage of violence against women*” with Jenifer Whitten-Woodring
- Pamela Newkirk, Professor of Journalism and Director of undergraduate studies in New York University’s Arthur Carter Journalism Institute; Presented on “*Ota Benga and the Legacy of Dehumanizing Black Media Portrayals*”

Other Public Events

- Wednesday, November 16th, 2016 China: A Human Rights Failure
- Co-sponsored by Students Without Borders, CIHR, and the UNSA

Moderator:

- Lodoé Gyatso, President, Students Without Borders.

Panelists:

- Dr. Jianli Yang, Tiananmen massacre dissident and a vocal human rights activist based in D.C,
- Pema Yoko, Interim Executive Director for Students for a Free Tibet, SFT

- Enghbatu Togocho, Director at Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Center, SMHRIC
 - Mr. Omer, Representative from World Uighur Congress
- Monday, December 5th, 2016 -- The Crisis in North Korea: Security and Humanitarian Dimensions
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR and the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea

Moderator:

- George Andreopoulos, Director of the Center for International Human Rights & Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, City University of New York

Panelists:

- Andrew J. Nathan, Professor of Political Science at Columbia University
- David Hawk, former Executive Director of Amnesty International, USA and former Director of the Cambodia Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Sue Mi Terry, Managing Director at Bower Group Asia, Former Director for Korea, Japan, and Oceanic Affairs at the National Security Council under both Presidents George W. Bush and Barak Obama
- Austin Hyeon, First North Korean student to attend Columbia University
- Kang Cheol Hwan, North Korean human rights activist and journalist

- Thursday, March 9th, 2017 -- (International Women's Day Event) Women's Reproductive Rights: Issues & Challenges
- Co-sponsored by CIHR, the Minor in Human Rights, the BA in International Criminal Justice, the MA in International Crime & Justice, and the CUNY PhD/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center

Moderator:

- Jana Arsovska, Associate Professor of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Panelists:

- Kelly Baden, Director of State Advocacy for the Center for Reproductive Rights
- Patience Stephens, Director/Special Advisor on Education at UN Women

- Christina Chang, Vice-President for Public Affairs at Planned Parenthood of New York City

- Thursday, April 20th, 2017 -- The Future of International Human Rights Litigation in Protecting Global Civic Space
 - Co-sponsored by CIHR, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, and Students Without Borders

Moderator:

- George Andreopoulos, Director of the Center for International Human Rights & Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, City University of New York

Panelists:

- Melissa Hooper, Director of Human Rights and Civil Society, Human Rights First

- Kacey Mordecai, Program Officer, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

- Edwin Rekosh, Director of Human Rights Initiatives, Benjamin Cardozo School of Law

- Wednesday, April 26th, 2017-- Seminar on Measures Taken to Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Co-sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), and The Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Welcoming Remarks provided by;

- H.E. Ambassador Lily L. W. Hsu, Director-General, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in NY

Introduction of Keynote Speaker provided by;

- Prof. Basilio Monteiro, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication & Director of Graduate Program of St. John's University Representative of Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS)

Keynote Speech provided by;

- H.E. Ambassador Inga Rhonda King, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

Topic Speech provided by;

- Dr. Calivat·Gadu, Deputy Minister of Council of Indigenous Peoples, R.O.C.(Taiwan)

Panel Discussion;

Moderator:

- Prof. Basilio Monteiro, Representative of ACUNS

Panelists:

- Prof. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous People's Rights Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University; presented on "*UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Tenth Anniversary: achievements and challenges*"
- Dr. George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York; presented on "*The role of adjudication in implementing the rights of indigenous peoples*"
 - The event was concluded with Global Indigenous Culture Night

Curricular Developments

- Monday, September 26th, 2016 – Human Rights Minor Fall Kick-Start Event: Edward J. Flynn, Senior Human Rights Officer of the UNCTED, presented on *Human Rights at the United Nations Security Council*.
- Tuesday, February 14th, 2017-- Human Rights Minor Spring Kick-Start Event: Marie Louise Kjellstrom, a Child Protection Officer from UNICEF, presented on *UNICEF and Child Protection*.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team during the 2016-2017 academic year and whose contribution made all of the above possible:

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