Center Sponsors Two-day Sesquicentennial Symposium “Migration: Past, Present and Future”

As part of Boston College’s sesquicentennial anniversary event series, on March 21-22 the Center presented Migration: Past, Present and Future—an academic symposium exploring varied issues related to the migration issue around the world.

Noted author and essayist Richard Rodriguez kicked off the symposium with his lecture titled “The Border is Not a Straight Line” on Thursday evening in Robsham Theater. Rodriguez wove together his own personal experience as the son of immigrants to the U.S. with the current dynamics of the immigration issue. Rodriguez first made note of the upsurge in the numbers of women migrating today. He then spoke of drivers, economic and otherwise, spurring people to seek other lands. He noted President Obama’s mother who, raised in middle America, felt a curiosity to see the world and traveled, making her very much “to this moment.” Rodriguez also noted various class and race considerations that have impacted this shift in discourse, lamenting the wall that has been built in America to exclude those deemed “other.” Rodriguez concluded his address by commenting that his fellow Republicans are wrong when they characterize immigrants from the south as bringing “criminal energy” to the U.S. Rather, he sees them as primarily bringing a religious and spiritual vitality to help re-energize our country’s soul.

To begin the Friday program, the first panel “Forced Migration and Economic Refugees” looked at the development of the refugee definition throughout history and commented on the future of the Jesuit Refugee Service as it seeks to serve, protect and advance the vulnerable and displaced. Professor Karen Musalo, the director of Gender and Refugee Studies at the University of California Hastings College Law School, discussed the ever-evolving refugee definition. In 1967, the refugee definition was amended to define a refugee as “an individual with a well founded fear of persecution on account of: race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group.” This definition has remained largely unchanged. However, Musalo argued that a new definition is needed to address new types of refugees that have emerged in the years after 1967 to extend protection to women and children as well as hold non-governmental actors responsible for acts of violence of oppression. Mark Raper, SJ, the president of the Jesuit Conference of the Asia Pacific, commented on JRS’s effectiveness in addressing current refugee needs.

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Center Notes & Events  Selected stories and events the Center hosted in collaboration with other Boston College departments and groups in the Spring 2013 semester.

Notes:

» Center Associate Director Daniel Kanstroom will serve as Interim Director of the Center during the 2013-2014 academic year, as Center Director David Hollenbach, S.J. will be on sabbatical. During his sabbatical, Prof. Hollenbach will be working on a new book tentatively entitled, Humanitarian Crises and Forced Migration: The Perspectives of Human Rights and Christian Ethics.

» Center Associate Director Brinton Lykes will give an address at the American Psychological Association’s (APA) convention in Hawaii in August 2013 as the recipient of the APA’s 2012 Ignacio Martín-Baró Lifetime Peace Practitioner Award.

» In April 2013, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly awarded BC Law grad/CHRIJ certificate recipient Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero an Excellence in Pro Bono Lawyering award for his work with the Center’s Post-Deportation Human Rights Project.

» Prof. Brinton Lykes is traveling to Guatemala this summer to work with the Jesuit University of Rafael Landívar to offer a diploma program to local residents. The diploma will be in Community Psychology and focus on participatory action research and three content themes which are local and national priorities: Migration, Violence, and Extreme Poverty/Malnutrition.

» Natali Soto, Carroll School of Management ’14, and Victoria Torres Vega, Lynch School of Education ’14, received research grants from the Center’s Migration and Human Rights Project (MHRP). They will travel to Guatemala this summer to work with the Center’s following initiatives: Workshop/Mini-Seminar on Community Psychology in Santa Cruz del Quiche (see above note); Collaboration in Community Educational and Arts-based Initiatives with MHRP staff in Zacualpa; and, a Community-based Research Project in collaboration with Mayan youth. They will also develop their own research aligned with their respective interests to be presented on campus in the next academic year.

» The Center welcomes new summer interns and BC undergraduates Molly Holden and Christian Vásquez.

» Center Associate Director Dan Kanstroom is co-editor of a new book coming out in November 2013, entitled Constructing Illegality in America: Immigrant Experiences, Critiques, and Resistance.

Events:

» On February 26, 2013, the Center, along with Boston College R.E.A.C.T. (Rallying Efforts Against Contemporary Slavery) hosted a screening of the documentary Not My Life. The film depicted real-life situations of human trafficking and human slavery in several regions of the globe. After the film, Julie Dahlstrom, Managing Attorney at Lutheran Social Services of New England, offered commentary regarding what is being done locally to help survivors of human trafficking.

» On April 30, 2013, the Center co-sponsored the event “Save Jeju Island.” Jeju Island is an island off of South Korea where a U.S. military base is being planned, against the protestations of many local people. Renowned social activist Professor Noam Chomsky of MIT and two South Korean activists, Jeong Young-Hee and Sukjong Hong, offered their thoughts on the issue and painted the picture of the current struggle regarding the planned base.
On February 6, the Center organized a roundtable that brought together three distinguished authors of books on historical aspects of human rights for a discussion on the development of human rights throughout history. The roundtable included David Hollenbach, S.J., the Center’s director and author of *Claims in Conflict: Retrieving and Renewing the Catholic Human Rights Tradition*; Samuel Moyn, Professor of History at Columbia University and author of *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*; and Michael Rosen, Professor of Government at Harvard University and author of *Dignity: Its History and Meaning*. Moyn began the roundtable discussion and his discussion focused on the relationship between the Holocaust and human rights. Moyn introduced the three approaches he would use to explain the history of human rights in history: the welfarist approach, the anti-colonial approach, and the humanitarian approach. Moyn commented that in the welfarist approach, that sought to end Hitler’s regime and to bring welfare to the victors of WWII, “there was no self-styled human rights movement” despite some occurrences related to human rights. In the anti-colonial approach to human rights, Moyn asserted that the focus was on keeping the world powers at bay in order to promote sovereign equality for all nations. However, this increase in sovereignty in nations also led to oppressive acts being undertaken by those same governments. Moyn then posited that we are currently under the third stage of human rights, that of the humanitarian approach. According to Moyn, the humanitarian era of human rights was not a direct response to the events of the Holocaust but rather was a response to the memory, recovered years later, of the atrocities committed against humanity in the Holocaust. In closing, Moyn concluded that the current conception of human rights is most strongly associated with atrocity prevention, which he supports, but that human rights should not be so narrowly defined but instead should have a much broader connotation, incorporating global welfarism for instance, to achieve their full potential and achieve the most good.

Following Moyn’s remarks on the development of human rights throughout history, Hollenbach detailed the transformative history of Roman Catholicism’s relationship to the human rights movement. According to Hollenbach, in recent years, the Roman Catholic Church “has become more of an international player to promote human rights.” Hollenbach commented that the transformation of the Catholic Church in terms...
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because JRS is not bound by international definitions. Furthermore, JRS has embraced the idea of accompaniment to defend and protect the world’s vulnerable. Raper concluded his remarks by calling for increased advocacy within JRS and globally for the suffering and vulnerable.

In the second panel, “Race and Class in U.S. Immigration”, Mae Ngai, Professor of Asian American Studies and History at Columbia University; Michael A. Olivas, Professor of Law and Chair in Law at the University of Houston Law Center; and Stephan Thernstrom, Professor of History at Harvard University, discussed if, and how, race and class considerations are important in understanding the current immigration situation in the United States. Both Ngai and Olivas discussed both their personal experience and historical instances of how race and class relate to immigration. Ngai’s discussion focused on how Chinese immigration to the U.S. was starkly different from European immigration to the U.S. While European immigrants were able to assimilate and their ancestors are viewed as wholly American, Chinese immigrants have not had the same fate. Ngai stated that Chinese immigrants were the victims of cruel exclusion laws and, because of their distinct racial features, have always been viewed as immigrants in the U.S. when compared to European immigrants. Olivas echoed Ngai’s points on how race and class influence immigration to the U.S. by pointing to how Americans “fear” Mexican immigrants but do not fear, for example, Swedish immigrants. Olivas stated that both race and class reasons heavily impact how Mexican immigrants are thought of in the minds of Americans and in the media. The term “illegal” is often applied to Mexican immigrants, placing them in a lower category of “the other.” Thernstrom offered a contrasting viewpoint on the immigration issue, highlighting domestic labor concerns about immigration in the U.S. that challenged a dichotomous class view of the immigration issue as simply the wealthy vs. the poor.

At lunchtime on Friday, a lecture on Boston College’s unique relationship to the immigrant experience was given by James M. O’Toole, the Clough Millennium Chair in History at BC. O’Toole recounted BC’s history of serving immigrant populations, starting with the early Irish immigrants in Boston. O’Toole noted that immigrants are at the heart of what BC is and what BC was meant to be since its founding 150 years ago. However, O’Toole noted that ironically, BC’s success, built with a strong immigrant base, has caused it to become more distanced from its immigrant past than it used to be, but he encouraged efforts to stay true to Jesuit ideals and find ways to remain committed to immigrants seeking an education.

In the final panel of the day, “The Future of Migration Policy in the U.S.”, Ray Suarez, author and senior correspondent for PBS NewsHour moderated a roundtable discussion with Donald M. Kerwin, Jr., director of the directs the Center for Migration Studies; David A. Martin, Professor of International Law at the University of Virginia; and Peter H. Schuck, Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School. The three panelists offered their thoughts on the current immigration situation in the U.S. and their ideas for policy recommendations to address the current situation. The panelists discussed the nature of immigration in the U.S., focusing on the question raised by Suarez of “Who is immigration for?” All three panelists agreed that immigration to the U.S benefits both the immigrant and the receiving nation. Unfortunately, many in America lose sight of the fact that immigration benefits American society in many ways. Kerwin commented that immigration “strengthens our nation—from families to our economies to reflecting our identity as a caring nation that protects.” Suarez then moved the discussion to a thorough analysis of past and current immigration law. With the failure of early immigration laws and enforcement systems, the new immigration laws and enforcement systems that are set up must not only ameliorate the past problems, but must also seek to ensure that future problems do not occur. Each panelist gave his own opinions on current systems in place and offered ways to amend current systems. While some optimism was expressed during the panel, the road to reform will be difficult. As Schuck commented, “I don’t think we will see a situation where everybody entirely agrees on the issue. But we may agree enough to muddle through and get some better policies in place than we have now.” Following the panel, the floor was open to questions.

The two-day symposium offered insightful and thought provoking discussions and debates on both historical and contemporary immigration trends and issues. While raising and discussing tough questions about how to respond to migration pressures in a just and ethical manner, how to view the immigration issue with different lenses, and connecting contemporary Americans to their migrant pasts, the symposium put the plight of the migrant on the main stage and raised consciousness of the issue in the BC community and beyond.

To view any or all of the symposium online, visit the Center’s Videos page at: www.bc.edu/humanrights/Videos
2013 CHRIJ Certificate Recipients

The Center’s graduate certificate is earned by Boston College students who complete coursework, both inside and outside of their discipline, related to human rights and international justice-related topics; and complete the graduate Seminar in Human Rights and International Justice, completing a research paper exploring a topic related to human rights and international justice with an interdisciplinary perspective. Below are this year’s certificate recipients and their research topics. Congratulations to them all!

Lauren Antonelli-Zullo
Lynch School of Education, MA in Applied Developmental & Educational Psychology
Violence Against Women: Wartime Rape in Africa and Resilience

Cesar Boc
School of Theology & Ministry, Master of Divinity
Forming Partnerships with Community Organizations and Universities in the Quest for Accompanying Immigrants’ Search for their Rights

Sarah Bouchard
Graduate School of Social Work, MSW; School of Theology & Ministry, MA in Pastoral Ministry

Timothy Carey
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Ph.D. candidate in Theology
Religious Ritual as a Response to HIV/AIDS in Kenya

Marianne Tierney
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Ph.D. candidate in Theology
Human Rights Education through International Immersion Programs

Summer 2013 Research Grant Awards

Each year, the Center gives grants to graduate and undergraduate students at BC undertaking research on human rights and international justice issues to help students to cover travel and other costs to complete research in the field. The students then present their findings on campus events in the following academic year. Here are this year’s recipients and the research topics they are investigating:

Demet Arpacik, Lynch School of Education, M.A. candidate in Educational Leadership
Education of the Kurdish Diaspora in the United States: How Does the US Respond to its Refugees’ Needs?

Sriya Bhattacharyya, Lynch School of Education, Ph.D. candidate in Counseling Psychology
Caste Discrimination in India: Effects and Possible Responses

Daniel Cattolica, Arts & Sciences '14, Philosophy and Italian
Citizenship and Social Integration: The Path of Migrant Youth in Italy

Mary Popeo, Arts &Sciences ’14, International Studies
From Hiroshima to Fukushima: The Evolving Missions of Hiroshima’s Anti-Nuclear NGOs

Rocio Sánchez Ares, Lynch School of Education, Ph.D. candidate in Curriculum & Instruction
Building a liberatory pedagogy: Guatemalan schools meeting the emotional and educational needs of youth at the interface of immigration
of its relationship to human rights has been “an experience-based tradition.” According to Hollenbach, exposure to Poland, Soviet Marxism, and other societal shifts it saw in the developing world” have impacted the way the Church relates to human rights. Hollenbach added that the Roman Catholic tradition on human rights is still a developing tradition; “It has grown and changed; it can grow and change some more, as I think it needs to.” Hollenbach, in his conclusion, added that while it is a controversial thing to say in our current state of U.S. politics and religion, further developments in the Roman Catholic tradition need to happen in the areas of gender relations and the rights of gay people.

Finally, the roundtable concluded with Rosen’s comments on the development of human rights from a philosophical approach. Rosen focused on the opening of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that states, “all humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Rosen commented on the significance of dignity to both human rights throughout history but also in Catholic thought. Echoing points raised by Hollenbach, Rosen noted earlier Catholic incarnations of human rights in encyclicals that were quite hierarchical in nature, e.g. the worker as subordinate to the employer, very different from the current egalitarian orientation of human rights discourse. Rosen then remarked on the underlying principle of dignity central to Immanuel Kant’s thought, and that if Kant were properly understood, that principle could be extrapolated to a fuller range of human rights than we have realized in the world today. Discussion between the presenters and the audience followed the three presentations.
Accompaniment: Liberation Theology, Solidarity and a Life of Service

On April 3, Roberto Goizueta, the Margaret O’Brien Flatley Professor of Catholic Theology at BC, and Dr. Paul Farmer, the Kolokotrones Professor at Harvard University Medical School and founder of Partners in Health, a non-profit dedicated to improving healthcare delivery to the poor across the globe, sat down to discuss liberation theology and its influence on Dr. Farmer’s work around the world. Co-sponsored by the C21 Center at BC, the CHRIJ and others, the event brought forth fruitful conversation on medicine, theology, and social justice, and how these themes intersect and are reconciled upon enactment.

Farmer revealed that he discovered liberation theology as an undergraduate at Duke University while taking a medical anthropology course. Then, through a close relationship with a nun who worked with migrant farm workers, Farmer began to learn how certain parts of the world worked and started to connect the teachings of liberation theology to the world around him. Farmer first traveled to Haiti in 1985 following his graduation from Duke and before beginning medical school. His initial trip to Haiti afforded him the opportunity to “understand the gravity of the ideas” discussed in liberation theology outside a “safe enclosure.” Goizueta, in his various writings, asserts that one cannot accurately understand suffering within “safe enclosures” and rather one must accompany the poor and marginalized in their suffering in order to understand their suffering. Farmer was unable to forget his experience in Haiti and thus continued to travel to Haiti throughout medical school, ultimately leading him to found Partners in Health.

Goizueta shifted the conversation to a discussion of how the preferential option for the poor, an idea central to liberation theology, has impacted both Farmer and his work with Partners in Health. Farmer noted that it was in his own scholarly work in epidemiology and medical anthropology that he first saw how the work of liberation theologians contained powerful ideas that helped him understand how epidemics and microbes “preferentially opt for the poor” and, in light of this, how to do medicine more effectively. Farmed stated “the biggest barriers to a preferential option for the poor in health are system barriers.” These barriers are systemic and not always visible according to Farmer. Furthermore, these barriers and “structural violence”—a term used by Farmer to describe harmful social structures that enable suffering—not only institutionalize suffering, but also blur the root causes of this suffering. Goizueta added to Farmer’s remarks on the hindrance of effective medical treatment among the world’s destitute by referencing both the geographic and social lines of division, or systems of “separation” and “compartmentalization,” that exist throughout society. For Goizueta, in order to break down these lines of division, connections must be made across borders. “There can be no option for the poor without having friendships with poor people,” Goizueta said, quoting Gustavo Gutierrez, who is considered the founder of liberation theology.

Farmer and Goizueta then turned to discuss the topic of accompaniment and the necessity of accompaniment in authentically understanding human suffering. For Farmer, accompaniment is the immersive understanding of lives disrupted by social disorder and economic tumult. In his work through Partners in Health, Farmer noted, “accompaniment is a notion that to help improve the quality of care that we can deliver as doctors or nurses, we have to be able to reach the everyday lives of the patients.” For Goizueta, the idea of accompaniment is found throughout his theological teachings and in his work with the Latino communities in North America. Both Farmer and Goizueta noted the importance of learning and working “with” the poor and marginalized not “for” the poor and marginalized. It is through true accompaniment with the poor that progress can be made.

Through the exchange of experiences with faith, service and solidarity with the poor, both speakers were able to convey their views of liberation theology, Christianity’s role in conceptualizing approaches to making healthcare available to all, and the call for solidarity in the ever-growing social justice and global health movement.

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the seven values of JRS detailed in their recent strategic plan: compassion, hope, dignity, solidarity, hospitality, justice, and participation. Several of these have been posted thus far, and can be viewed on the JRS website at http://www.jrs.net/theological_reflection.

In June 2013, in a new initiative, the Center and JRS will hold a workshop on the topic of reconciliation, to be held at JRS’ facilities in Siem Reap, Cambodia. JRS staff from around the world will be brought together with a select group of theologians, from BC and elsewhere, with expertise on reconciliation. At this workshop, the JRS staff will share their experiences working in reconciled and unreconciled populations affected by conflicts, such as in Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Syria, and learn more about reconciliation from Christian, Buddhist and Islamic perspectives to better integrate reconciliation into their work throughout the world. Development of training materials for JRS staff on reconciliation based on the stories and reflections to be shared in the workshop will also be a product of the workshop. The Center looks forward to continuing this fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership with JRS in the coming years.
Upcoming Fall 2013 Events

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo
Famed human rights activist group which began during Argentina’s “Dirty War”
7:00 PM • Boston College, Devlin Hall, Room 008

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8
The Price of Truth: Honduran Human Rights Since the Coup
With Fr. Ismael Moreno Coto, S.J.
12:00 PM • Boston College, Fulton Honors Library (Room 215)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
Gender Equality and Sexual Identity Equality: Journeys Just Begun and a Long Way Still to Go
With former President of Ireland Mary McAleese
12:00 PM • Boston College, McElroy Commons, Room 237

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Liberation Psychology and Social Change: An Introduction to Ignacio Martín-Baró and Challenges for 21st Century Scholar-Practitioners
With Center Assoc. Director Prof. M. Brinton Lykes, Boston College
12:00 PM • Boston College, Gasson Hall, Room 100

Visit [BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS](http://BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS) for the latest information and events or to view videos of past events.

Join the CHRIJ listserv to receive news and reminders of CHRIJ events via email.
Go to [BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS/MAILINGLIST](http://BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS/MAILINGLIST) and simply enter your email address to join.