CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

2009-2010
ANNUAL
REPORT
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Dear Friends,

The Center for Human Rights and International Justice celebrated its fifth year in 2009. We bring interdisciplinary academic rigor to address pressing human rights challenges of our time. Rooted in the ethical and religious traditions of Boston College, we train the next generation of human rights professionals and bridge the gap between research and action through the interaction of scholars and practitioners.

When we began, our goal was to be the voice for those who have been uprooted from their homes and communities due to conflict, unjust policies or natural disasters. I am delighted that five years on we have stayed true to our mission and been able to grow in both reach and scope.

Our interdisciplinary focus has pushed the boundaries of conventional rights-based responses. We have made significant contributions to research and policy in the following areas:

• the ethical responsibility to protect refugees and internally displaced people worldwide;
• the effect of wrongful deportations from the United States on both deportees and their transnational families; and
• the rebuilding of African American and immigrant communities in Post-Katrina New Orleans.

The Center also provides multi-disciplinary training in human rights and international justice and teaches both graduate and undergraduate students at Boston College a wide range of tools with which they are able to uphold and promote the rights of the communities and populations they serve.

All our programs have a strong emphasis on practical training which is reflected in our research as well as our educational efforts. The Center's accomplished Fellows bring decades of experience in human rights programs on the ground and routinely contribute to policy discussions and help frame responses to humanitarian crises around the world. Our directors and affiliated faculty are often at the cutting-edge of human rights research and advocacy in their respective fields ranging from law to psychology and from theology to political science.

We host or sponsor more than 15 human rights based events each year at the university, teach multiple courses and seminars, present at prestigious academic conferences around the world and often engage in public dialogue.

Our staff, volunteer base and funding have all grown several fold and we look forward to your continued support and many more years of engaged scholarship and action.

Sincerely,
David Hollenbach, S.J.
The Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College has a distinctive approach to addressing international human rights challenges.

Our model recognizes the interplay of religion, politics, law, economics, and mental health in any nation or community’s efforts to protect human rights or to rebuild following the trauma of conflict or injustice. In particular, the Center is distinguished by its:

- Interdisciplinary Cooperation;
- Integration of Religious and Ethical Awareness;
- Researcher and Practitioner Collaboration; and
- Policy Recommendation Development

Through interdisciplinary training programs, applied research, and the interaction of scholars with practitioners, the Center is nurturing a new generation of human rights scholars and practitioners who draw upon the strengths of many disciplines, and the wisdom of rigorous ethical training in the attainment of human rights and international justice.
The shear number of people who have been driven from their homes by civil and international conflicts and natural catastrophes poses unprecedented challenges, many of them ethical in nature.

David Hollenbach

David Hollenbach, SJ, is the director of the Center and holds the Human Rights and International Justice University Chair at Boston College. His research interests are in the foundations of Christian social ethics, especially human rights in the context of humanitarian crises and the displacement of refugees.

Maryanne Loughry

Maryanne Loughry is Sister of Mercy, psychologist, and Visiting Scholar at the Center. She is associate director of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia. Her research interests include social effects of climate change.

Faculty Profiles

The Project on Ethical Responsibility towards Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons is designed to generate effective responses to the needs of forcibly displaced people around the world.

In 2009, the Project continued to blend rigorous analysis and practice in educational programs that transform students, and research projects that generate socially transformative policies for refugees and internally displaced persons.

Project director, David Hollenbach, SJ spent the fall 2009 semester at Hekima College in Nairobi, Kenya. There he collaborated with faculty to create and teach a graduate program on human rights and international justice. He also deepened collaboration with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Eastern Africa on research and advocacy to prevent further mass displacement in countries like Sudan and Uganda.

Visiting scholar and associate director of JRS Australia, Maryanne Loughry, RSM returned to the Center in 2009 and 2010 to work closely with both David Hollenbach SJ and the Graduate School of Social Work on researching the rights of refugees in countries affected by conflict, climate change and natural disaster.

In 2010, the volume edited by David Hollenbach, SJ, Driven from Home: Protecting the Rights of Forced Migrants was published by Georgetown University Press. The scholarly work advances the discussion on how best to protect and assist the growing number of people who have been forced from their homes and proposes a human rights framework to guide political and policy responses on forced migration. The book brings together prominent scholars and experts from various disciplines, including international affairs, law, ethics, economics, psychology, and theology to advocate for better responses to protect the global community’s most vulnerable citizens. See page 10 for more.
The Post-Deportation Human Rights Projects (PDHRP) offers a unique and multi-tiered approach to the problem of wrongful and harsh deportations from the United States. Working at the interface of law, social work, education, psychology, and social science research, the project advocates for the rights of those who have been wrongfully deported and their families through research, policy analysis, outreach and training programs.

In 2009, PDHRP researchers conducted surveys on more than 130 Latino immigrant parents to evaluate how threats and experiences of detention and deportation affected them, their children, and their parent-child relationships. The results of the survey underscore the impact of detention and deportation policies on the Latino immigrant community and on the undocumented community in particular. The results of the study will be published in the August 2010 issue of the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences.

In March, 2010 the PDHRP hosted a working conference on Deportation, Migration, and Human Rights: Interdisciplinary Theory and Action. The conference brought together more than 30 scholars, community organizers and practitioners from various fields. Together, the participants reflected critically on theoretical and practical problems in the current US deportation system that often elude analysis within single disciplines. Project directors, Professors Daniel Kanstroom and M. Brinton Lykes are working with conference participants on an edited volume arising from the conference. See page 8 for more.

2010 also produced another milestone for PDHRP. In Zacualpa, Guatemala, local human rights advocates launched the Human Rights and Immigration Project. PDHRP’s collaboration with the project in Guatemala strengthens the transnational focus of PDHRP and will deepen knowledge of the long-term effects of deportation on transnational families.

The PDHRP also continued to collaborate with Centro Presente, English for Action and Organizacion Maya Kiche on developing participatory and community-driven Know Your Rights workshops.

At a time when the situation remains difficult for immigrants in the United States, the work of the PDHRP and other immigrant rights projects brings much hope that immigration and deportation policies will change.

See PDHRP 2009-10 annual report for more. http://www.bc.edu/humanrights/
The Post-Katrina New Orleans Project addresses the needs of displaced and newly migrated African-American and Latina New Orleans residents. By using Participatory Action Research and PhotoVoice methodologies, researchers and community members engage in narrative documentation, cross-racial dialogue and social and political advocacy.

In 2009-10 project director, Professor M. Brinton Lykes and visiting scholar, Ms. Holly Scheib worked in collaboration with two New Orleans-based NGOs, Kingsley House and the Latino Health Access Group. African American and Latina community-based health workers of the Central City community in New Orleans were trained to take photos in their day-to-day lives and explain the stories that go along with those images in workshops. This participatory action research strategy combined PhotoVoice with "talking pictures," allowing women in the community to become active researchers and community leaders.

The result of their work and extensive analysis of the photos and stories is an eight-piece mobile exhibit. No photo is without a story and according to those involved in the project, the text is just as important as the photo. The exhibit has been on display and presented at the Crescent City Farmers Market, Katrina@5: Partners in Philanthropy Conference, Kingsley House 2010 Annual Meeting, 2010 Unity Conference organized by the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach, and Puentes Katrina Conference for the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The work will be presented at the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture conference in fall 2010 at Boston College.

An overarching goal of the project has been to analyze and showcase similarities and differences between the Latino and African-American communities in New Orleans and to profile the work of the health outreach workers in rebuilding the community after Hurricane Katrina. The photovoice and participatory research methodology has created a context through which previously silenced voices of many in Central City can now be heard. It has also been a transformative experience for the women participants, empowering them to better articulate their work as health promoters and exercise their leadership in their own and each other’s communities.

M. Brinton Lykes

M. Brinton Lykes is Professor of Community Cultural Psychology at the Lynch School of Education and Associate Director of the Center. Her research interests include gender, culture and the effects of state-sponsored terror.
2009 marked the first year of the partnership between the Center and the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights. The Fund was established to honor the memory of Father Ignacio Martín-Baró, a Jesuit priest and social psychologist who was assassinated with several other Jesuits in El Salvador in 1989. The Fund makes grants to support progressive, grassroots organizations that are challenging institutional repression and confronting the mental health consequences of violence and injustice in their communities across the world.

The Center and the Fund work together to promote education and critical awareness about the consequences of social injustice on individuals and communities. The Center manages the Fund’s educational and financial programming and offers opportunities for student involvement in the grant making process as well as with the work of the grantee organizations.

In November 2009, the Fund celebrated its twentieth year and commemorated the life and legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró by co-sponsoring with the Center and other Boston College groups, two panel presentations at Boston College.

The first panel was hosted in collaboration with the Center on November 4. The event “Living Legacies: 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the Martyrs of El Salvador” began with the screening of the documentary “A New Person, A New Society: A human rights legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró,” featuring the projects of the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund. Speakers included Father Rodolfo Cardenal, SJ and Dr. See more on page 7.

On November 30 the second panel, Memory and its Strength; Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration of the Martyrs of El Salvador featured a conversation between Jon Sobrino, SJ, and Noam Chomsky. The speakers reflected on their experience of the 1989 assassinations at the University of Central America (UCA).

The Fund invited new applications for the 2009-10 grant making cycle and worked with Boston College students, faculty and staff to determine grant recipients. The Fund’s 2010 grantees reflect the important role community organizations play in healing processes for those recovering from trauma. The grantees were: Aware Girls, Pakistan, Proyecto de Salud Mental Comunitaria y Acompañamiento Psicosocial, Mexico, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines-Northern Mindanao Sub-Region, Philippines, Sustainable Alternatives for the Advancement of Mindanao, Philippines, Women Asylum Seekers Together, UK. Visit http://www.martinbarofund.org/projects/2010.html for more on each grant recipient.

The Martín-Baró Fund held its annual fundraising event, the Bowl-a-thon on March 28, 2010. During this year’s “Strike for Justice” 32 participants including students and faculty from Boston College, other local universities and longtime supporters of the Fund, formed eight teams of bowlers. The event generated more than $16,000 in pledges allowing the Fund to support NGOs in the global south in the coming year.
LIVING LEGACIES OF THE MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR

During the month of November 2009, the Center and Martín-Baró Fund marked the twentieth year of carrying on the legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró. Through two panel presentations, the Center and the Fund commemorated the lives of the six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter who were murdered at the Central American University (UCA) in San Salvador on November 16, 1989.

The first panel presentation “Living Legacies: 20th Anniversary Commemoration of the Martyrs of El Salvador” was co-hosted by the Center, the Fund and other groups at Boston College. The event featured the screening of “A New Person, A New Society: A Human Rights Legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró.” This new film documents the work of projects funded by the Martín-Baró Fund was directed by Ms. Jenny Alexander and produced by Northern Light Productions.

Speakers at “Living Legacies” included Father J. Donald Monan, SJ, the Chancellor of Boston College; Father Rodolfo Cardenal SJ, Associate Director, Institute of History of Nicaragua and Central America, Central American University, Managua, and Ms. Elizabeth Lira, Director of the Center for Ethics at the University Alberto Hurtado, in Santiago, Chile. Father Monan described the unforgettable moment when he heard of the murders in El Salvador, and told how this atrocity sounded an alarm in him. His words mark the importance of how, when tragedies such as this occur, we must take action to prevent them from happening again. Father Cardenal, who lived with the martyrs at the UCA, reflected on their legacy and on the continued struggles, poverty, and injustices that endure in Central America. He also spoke of our constant need to reach out and play an active role in change. Ms. Lira recognized not only the the Jesuit priests, but also the women who lived and were murdered with them. She raised the gendered aspects of the violence, and the fact that women in El Salvador had been victimized in very particular ways.

Other scholars and supporters who knew the Jesuit martyrs commemorated the anniversary in a second presentation titled co-hosted by the Jesuit Institute, “Memory and Its Strength: The Martyrs of El Salvador.” There, Father Monan, Professor Noam Chomsky, professor emeritus of linguistics at MIT, and liberation theologian Father Jon Sobrino, SJ, recollected their memories of the martyrs, and shared their views regarding the ongoing injustices. Father Sobrino, discussed the grave poverty still widespread in Latin America. He argued that the solutions being offered by the powerful governments of the world were not helping people in poverty, in situations compromised by economic globalization.

Professor Chomsky highlighted the pervasive culture of imperialism in the U.S., and the accompanying hypocrisy of exposing the sins of other nations, while hiding our own. The murder of the Jesuits happened within a matter of weeks of the fall of the Berlin wall, and Chomsky called attention to the intensive media coverage commemorating the fall of that wall, and utter lack of coverage remembering the murder of the Jesuits.

EVENTS

The Center hosted or sponsored more than 15 events in 2009-10, on topics ranging from the role of women in peacekeeping to the legacies of the Jesuit priests assassinated in El Salvador in 1989.
DEPORTATION, MIGRATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
INTERDISCIPLINARY THEORY AND PRACTICE

PDHRP hosted an interdisciplinary working conference Deportation, Migration, and Human Rights: Interdisciplinary Theory and Practice from March 18-20, 2010.

The conference brought together more than 30 scholars, community organizers, and practitioners from the fields of law, psychology, anthropology, education, social work, and immigrants’ rights. Together, the participants addressed problems faced by immigrants as a result of the deportation system in the United States.

The conference opened on March 18 with keynote addresses by Mr. Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, and Dr. Dora Schriro, the commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction and the former director of the Office of Detention Policy and Planning for the Department of Homeland Security. Noorani spoke about the policies of immigration in the United States and the changes that are currently underway in Washington DC. He spoke with hope, noting recent progress in immigration reform and ended by stating that the fights for immigrant rights must continue because “immigration reform is in the interest of America.”

Schriro spoke next about the state of corrections for migrants who have been deported. She emphasized the need for change within the immigration system. Currently, after an arrest, a migrant is held by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for an average of 30 days. Schriro seeks to change this policy in her role as the head of Corrections in New York.

The conference opening also featured a screening of the documentary, abUSed: The Postville Raid, which tells the story of one of the largest ICE raids in the history of the U.S. The film puts a human face to the issue of deportation policy by weaving together the interviews of deportees and their families. After the screening, the filmmaker, Mr. Luis Argueta, talked about the on-going situation in Postville, Iowa. “The documentary serves as a cautionary tale against abuses of constitutional human rights,” Argueta stated.

On March 19 and 20, participants continued with the working section of the conference which generated a fascinating discussion on topics including challenges for mixed-status families facing deportation of a family member from the U.S., immigrants’ mental health, and immigration law and policy.

Each panelist was asked to respond to one of three hypothetical case studies involving immigrant families. The case studies reflected tensions in practice and raised theoretical issues from the perspectives of law, psychology, and community organizing. Following each multi-disciplinary panel presentation, participants and panelists engaged in short, open discussion sessions in response to the issues that were raised by the case studies and the panelists’ presentations.

At the conclusion of the discussions, all participants broke into multi-disciplinary groups to examine salient issues across the cases. Participants also brainstormed “action steps” related to themes that had been developed in the conference dialogue. It is anticipated that an interdisciplinary book detailing the discussions and recommendations from the conference will be published. Further details regarding in depth outcomes of the working conference will be available on the Center for Human Rights and International Justice’s website (http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights).
COSPONSORED EVENTS

Man on Fire
From Sept. 24 to Oct. 15, 2009 the Center and the Graduate School of Social Work hosted the “Man on Fire” exhibit to honor the legacy of Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ, founder of the Jesuit Refugee Service. The exhibit offered a window into the experiences of displaced people worldwide featuring photos and testimonials on the organization’s work, ranging from food security programs in Burundi to centers for children of war in the Democratic Congo.

My Prison My Home
On Sept. 30, 2009 the Center and the Political Science Department hosted a talk by Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Esfandiari spoke about her 2009 memoir My Prison, My Home, based on her time in Tehran’s Evin Prison where she was placed in solitary confinement and routinely interrogated for more than 100 days.

Contextualizing Crisis in Haiti
On Feb. 15, 2010 the Center and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program welcomed Profs. Marc Prou, and Erica Caple James to discuss the implications of the earthquake in Haiti. James, associate professor of Anthropology at MIT, stressed the need for more effective relief administration, explaining that during times of need food, not lawyers, is needed. Prou, associate professor and chair of the Africana Studies Department and director of the Haitian Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, claimed Haiti has a chance of establishing an effective government and a Social Contract, something it was unable to do in 1804.

CONVERSATIONS AT LUNCH

Gerald Neuman
On October 2, 2009, Professor Gerald Neuman spoke at the Center’s first Conversations at Lunch event for 2009-2010. Neuman is Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law at Harvard Law School. Neuman focused on the extraterritoriality of rights using the case of Boumediene v. Bush. He explained how deep questions about the universality of human rights standards relate to the more specific legal question of who has rights under the U.S. constitution?

Susan Akram
On November 20, 2009, the Center welcomed Professor Susan Akram at the Conversations at Lunch series. Akram teaches at Boston University Law School’s Clinical Program. Debunking several notions surrounding the status of Palestinian refugees, she contrasted the myths with legal frameworks and precedents which might offer robust solutions for the refugees.

Carol Cohn
On January 29, 2010, the Center’s Conversations at Lunch series returned for the Spring semester with a discussion led by Dr. Carol Cohn. Cohn is the Director and co-founder of the Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights. Her talk focused on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 which highlight the role of women in peacekeeping efforts and U.N. negotiations.

Chris Jochnick
On March 26, 2010, Chris Jochnick spoke at the last installment of the 2009–10 Conversations at Lunch series. Jochnick is the Director of the Private Sector Department at Oxfam America. His talk indicated the struggle businesses continue to have while incorporating just human rights policies in their work how that must be continuously addressed to ensure companies are not violating the rights of the communities they inhabit.
In May 2010, the volume edited by director, David Hollenbach, SJ Driven from Home: Protecting the Rights of Forced Migrants was published by Georgetown University Press. The book is a result of a conference on the deeper causes of migration hosted by the Center in November 2008 and provides a human rights framework with which to address the challenge of growing number of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide.

Contributors include Center’s associate directors:
Lykes, M. Brinton, “No Easy Road to Freedom: Engendering and Enculturating Forced Migration.”

ACADEMIC JOURNALS
Hollenbach, David


Lykes, M. Brinton
“Silence(ing), memory(ies) and voice (s): feminist participatory action research and photo-narratives in the wake of gross violations of human rights.” Visual Studies. 2010.


ARTICLES
Hollenbach, David
“Corruption and Inaction Leave Kenya on the Brink.” America, September 28, 2009:

“U.S. Walks Tightrope on Sudan and Uganda,” America, November 2, 2009

Kanstroom, Daniel
“Should There be Any Change to the Existing Rules on Access in Immigration Cases.” Fordham Law Review 104. 2010


PRESS RELEASE
Kanstroom, Daniel + Lykes, M. Brinton
“Keeping Families Connected/ Mantiendo a las Familias Conectadas” Post-Deportation Human Rights Project Report, February, 2010

BOOK CHAPTERS
Hollenbach, David

Lykes, M. Brinton

MEDIA AND ADVOCACY
The Center’s projects, directors and staff were regularly featured in the media in 2009-10. Below is a sample of the media outlets and topics covered.

Lykes, M. Brinton, Spherio, August 2009, Transnational families.


Kanstroom, Daniel, Bureau of National Affairs; March 2010, Habeaus corpus case on behalf of Uighurs from China


Hollenbach, David, New England Cable News, May 2010, Response to Bomb scare in Portsmouth, NH

Other media outlets: The Boston Globe Catholic News Service Daily Comet LA Dallas Morning News Huffington Post
SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS
The Center’s Summer Research Grant program helps Boston College students in various disciplines pursue research in the fields of human rights and international justice.

The 2009-2010 Research Grants went to two undergraduates and two graduate students.

Sophia Moradian, A&S ‘12 researched the role of women in microfinance at the Women’s Federation of World Peace in Amman, Jordan.

Amanda Rothschild, A&S ‘11 spent her summer at the United Nations Archives in Geneva, Switzerland exploring why the Geneva Convention has failed to prevent genocide.

Rachel Hershberg, Ph.D. Psychology student traveled to Zacualpa, Guatemala to study the new transnational family model.

Fatima Sattar, Ph.D. Sociology student used her grant to work at the International Institute of Boston conducting research on immigrants’ integration processes in their host society.

SEMINAR
The Center’s interdisciplinary graduate seminar in human rights includes students from various disciplines across the university, including law, psychology, social work, history, theology, philosophy and education. Center Associate Director, Professor M. Brinton Lykes was the faculty coordinator of the seminar for the 2009-2010 school year. 20 students attended. Director, David Hollenbach, SJ will lead the Seminar in 2011.

CERTIFICATE
The Center continued to administer the Graduate Certificate in Interdisciplinary Human Rights. We have seen an increase in enrollment over the last few years. In 2009-2010 the Certificate was awarded to: Ahjane Billingsley (MA Counseling), Adam Saltsman (Ph.D. Sociology), Nadia Ben Youssef (J.D.), and Christopher Waltrous (Arts and Sciences, 2010)

AFFILIATED FACULTY
The Center was pleased to welcome the following affiliated faculty in 2009.

Mary Holper is Director of the Immigration Law Clinic and Associate Professor at Roger Williams University School of Law. She was Visiting Assistant Professor at the Boston College immigration clinic where she co-taught advanced immigration law and participated in federal court litigation on detention issues. Prior to her academic career, Holper worked for several public interest groups including the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. She is in Spanish and French.

Rachel Rosenbloom is Associate Professor at Northeastern University School of Law. Her research interests focus on deportation, citizenship, and the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Prior to Northeastern, Rosenbloom was at the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College, where she was the supervising attorney for the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project. She testified on the wrongful detention and deportation of US citizens and permanent residents at a 2008 congressional hearing before the House Subcommittee on Immigration.
The Center for Human Rights and International Justice is grateful for the generous grants and gifts of our donors both named and anonymous. Your commitment to human rights makes it possible for us to continue our work through educational programs, research and advocacy.

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- Debra B Steinberg
- Karen Vejseli

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- The Funding Exchange
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