On April 8, 2016 the Center’s Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (PDHRP) hosted a conference to discuss the implementation of a Declaration on the Rights of Expelled and Deported Persons (“the Declaration”). Scholars, activists, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and diplomats attended and offered valuable insights regarding the Declaration and its way forward. The conference built on the work done during two earlier working conferences hosted by Boston College in November 2012 and May 2014, at which participants worked on drafting and refining the document.

The text of the Declaration addresses the rights of people who are deported or expelled by various coercive mechanisms. It seeks to define basic procedural and substantive rights for such persons who, in many cases, are left with no recourse and who face a wide variety of human rights violations, including harsh treatment during deportation, loss of personal belongings and documents, lack of proper medical care, family separation, lack of counsel, etc. The current version of the text and basic information about the purpose of the project and the drafting process are available on the PDHRP’s website (www.bc.edu/postdeportation).

The aim of this April 2016 conference was to discuss the implementation of the Declaration. Participants discussed litigation strategies for advancing the Declaration, engaging academic institutions, media strategies, mobilizing non-governmental organizations, and strategies for pushing the Declaration through various international systems.

As a result of the insights shared at the conference, the PDHRP plans to start by drafting a statement of principles, which will be circulated to non-profit organizations that work with people who have been deported, and to organizations comprised of people who have been deported. The project will invite these groups to sign on to this statement of principles and to get involved in a campaign to protect the rights of people who have been deported. The PDHRP also plans to transform its webpage so that it is a “one-stop shop” for information regarding deportations and what happens to people post-deportation around the world. The project further hopes to gather information specific to a variety of countries, including academic writing, research, news articles, and more. The goal of these actions will be to raise awareness of deportation-related issues and to build a movement that can push for the implementation of this Declaration.
Center bids farewell to David Hollenbach, S.J.; Daniel Kanstroom and Brinton Lykes named Center Co-Directors

The Center wishes a fond farewell and expresses deep gratitude to David Hollenbach, S.J., who has served as director of the Center since its founding in 2006. This summer, Hollenbach has moved on to Georgetown University, where he has accepted a new position as the Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Research Professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and Senior Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and Global Affairs. Hollenbach’s dedication to the Center’s teaching and research programs, as well as his extensive knowledge and experience in ethics and forced migration, have propelled the Center these last ten years into one with a unique interdisciplinary scope, working transnationally with scholars and practitioners to engage in applied research and training to advance issues of human rights locally and globally.

The Center is pleased to announce that longtime, and founding, Center Associate Directors Daniel Kanstroom and M. Brinton Lykes will continue their leadership of the Center, now in the expanded role of Co-Directors. Kanstroom also serves as a Boston College Professor of Law, and is the Thomas F. Carney Distinguished Scholar and Director of the International Human Rights Program at BC, while Lykes also serves as Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology at the Lynch School of Education at BC.

The Center gratefully wishes David Hollenbach all the best in his new endeavors and looks forward to continuing to work to fulfill the Center’s mission he helped conceive in the years to come. We also look forward to seeing David again when he returns to BC on October 14 and 15 for a conference celebrating his academic career, “Public Theology and the Global Common Good: The Contribution of David Hollenbach, S.J.” See the back panel of the newsletter for details.

Center Notes & Events

Selected stories and events the Center hosted in collaboration with other Boston College departments and groups in the Spring 2016 semester.

Notes:

» The Center welcomes its new undergraduate interns this summer, Hanaa Khan LSOE ’17 and Liam Maguire MCAS ’17.

» In the first year of a five-year commitment to being the institutional home of the International Journal of Transitional Justice (IJTJ), the Center hosted the journal’s editors at BC for its annual meetings in March 2016. Center Co-Director Brinton Lykes was named Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal earlier this year. The IJTJ has also issued a call for papers for the theme, “Transitional Justice from the Margins: Intersections of Identities, Power and Human Rights.” The deadline for submission is July 1, 2017. See Center website for details.

» The Center helped sponsor a delegation from BC’s chapter of Amnesty International to attend the Amnesty International USA Annual General Meeting held in Miami, FL from April 1–3. The group attended panels on issues such as the Cuba–US relations, the global refugee crisis, responses to terrorism, gun violence, and protecting human rights advocates, as well as many others.

Events:

» On April 6, 2016, the Center co-sponsored an event, “The Tsarnaev and Mehanna Trials: Reflections from the Presiding Judge, George A. O’Toole.” Judge O’Toole and a panel of BC Law professors discussed the Boston Marathon bombing case and judicial responses to other acts of terror in the US and abroad.

» On April 21, 2016, the Center co-sponsored a Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy event, “A Conversation with Heisoo Shin on Gender, Poverty and Human Rights.” Dr. Shin is a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.
Center’s Guatemala-based staff visit Boston; present on ongoing work accompanying migrants and their families

On April 12, Luisa Hernández Simaj and José Daniel Chich González, staff members of the Office for Research and Promotion of the Rights of the Migrant in the Parish of Holy Spirit in Zacualpa, El Quiché, Guatemala, shared their experiences during a seven-year Center project working with local families affected by migration North. Their office is a key part of the Center’s Human Rights of Migrants project based in Guatemala. Hernández and Chich counsel, support, and help connect to legal services individuals who have been deported from, or are detained in, the United States, and their families. The majority of these are young men, upwards of 75% of whom were deported at the border and never even entered the US. Some who had entered the country had only been in the United States for a short time, but others had stayed for periods up to ten years.

Hernández and Chich work to understand the effects of harsh deportation policies, both on the individuals and on their families and communities. They engage with community-based immigrant organizations in Zacualpa, El Quiché, Guatemala, from where 60% of the individuals they represented in deportation cases originated. The population in this area is highly indigenous, and the census revealed that almost half of the families who responded had a family member who had emigrated to the US.

Following the census, Hernández and Chich sought to accompany the people they worked with. The method of accompaniment required creating an authentic relationship with the women through sharing their lives with them, and engaging in solidarity with their suffering of poverty, exclusion, and oppression. In the village of Tablón, they accompanied twelve women who were left as the head of their households as a result of migration North. Their objective was to help them unlock their potential to live up to their capabilities and make good decisions for their families and communities. Many of the people in these villages are illiterate, and lack financial skills. As a result of the lack of resources and opportunities for them in their context, the women struggled to envision the future and plan ahead.

They aided the women by focusing on both their psychosocial wellbeing as well as their economic prosperity. The women learned how to weave baskets from pine needles that they can find in the countryside. They reflected in groups, which gave them an opportunity to support each other and develop relationships. They were also able to sell the baskets, and this revenue had a substantial impact on their community. In the future, they hope more women engage in this program and are able to overcome their lack of confidence in their own abilities.

Hernández and Chich concluded their presentation by highlighting some of the lessons they learned through their research, including the importance of being able to communicate with, listen to, and understand the women in their native language. Finally, they presented two manuals they created to aid other organizations that are looking to do similar work. Produced in Spanish, their titles in English are “Tools and reflections for working with youth: from our experiences in communities and educational centers in Zacualpa,” and “Manual for accompanying family members who are ‘left behind’ after a migration.” These manuals can be accessed through the Resources section of Center’s website.

Transnational Participatory Action Research: A Pilot Project towards Constructing Jesuit University Collaborations

By Dr. M. Brinton Lykes @ Dr. Ursula Roldán Andrade

The Research Institute on Global Dynamics and Territories (IDGT, in Spanish) of the Rafael Landívar Jesuit University in Guatemala City and the Center recently completed an 18 month pilot project coordinated by Ursula Roldán, IDGT Director, and Center Co-Director M. Brinton Lykes. Both groups have longstanding research seeking to better understand and respond more effectively to the large numbers of Guatemalans being “forced North” while others are “returning home” either voluntarily or by US detention and deportation policies and practices, only to find extreme poverty, ongoing violence, and/or multinational corporations seeking to occupy their lands for mineral extraction, among other challenges. Despite little previous experience with participatory action research (PAR), the IDGT team embraced the project because of a conviction that PAR’s horizontal and participatory strategies for constructing knowledge and generating reflection and action processes collectively was the best way to address some of these deeply rooted challenges. Drawing on the Center’s decade of experiences with interdisciplinary and transnational PAR and the IDGT’s research trajectory on migration, a team including four staff at the IDGT and two from the Center partnered with teams of students and faculty from three Jesuit rural campuses in Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango and El Quiché. The work was supported by Project Counseling Services/PCS in Guatemala, Trócaire and by a Center grant from an anonymous foundation.

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BC Alumna continues work to eliminate nuclear weapons after receiving Center Summer Research Grant in 2013

The Center recently sat down with Mary Popeo, MCAS ’14, recipient of a 2013 Center summer research grant, to talk about how the grant and her subsequent work in Japan have influenced her global perspective and postgraduate path.

Popeo’s interest in the issue of nuclear disarmament was sparked by a summer spent researching Nagasaki’s historically Christian heritage and the effects that the World War II atomic bomb had on the community, made possible through a BC Advanced Study Grant in 2012. The following summer, with the Center’s grant, she traveled to Hiroshima, this time exploring the ways in which the Fukushima nuclear disaster of 2011 affected the city’s peace movement. Reasoning that the NGOs in Hiroshima may be adapting to stand in solidarity with victims of the Fukushima disaster, Popeo opted to work with several organizations, some committed to historical instruction, and others youth groups focused on promoting intergenerational peace. Her work was supplemented with ongoing library research and 25 interviews with key players in the Hiroshima peace movement—from activists to nuclear scientists, bomb victims to youth, religious leaders to Fukushima evacuees.

Upon her return, Popeo became a leader at the BC, and later the Boston/Cambridge, chapters of Global Zero, a youth-led international movement to eliminate nuclear weapons. Since graduation, she has worked in the Boston area and stayed active in anti-proliferation movements, including returning to Japan last year to take part in a cross-country peace march. Popeo will return to Japan this October to join the staff at the Peace Culture Village in Hiroshima, where she will work in the village farming, teaching English, helping to build a faculty and creating sustainable community resources such as energy and food. You may see their Facebook page by searching @PeaceCultureVillage.

Popeo is ineffably gracious to the Center for the grant, which captured her interest and helped her foster the connections and resources that have allowed her to continue to push towards a world free of nuclear weapons. As she stated, “I am forever indebted to the staff at the CHRIJ for allowing me the opportunity to conduct research in Hiroshima in 2013. Not only did that summer cement my interest in nuclear weapons issues and US-Japan relations, but it also equipped me with the experience, connections, and knowledge I would need to continue to explore these themes in my career.”

For more on the Center’s summer research grants, which are open to BC graduate and undergraduate students, see www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/academics/summergrant. The 2017 application deadline is March 7.

Summer Research Grant Highlight

Rose Miola, Master of Theological Studies, STM ’15 and Master of Social Work, SSW ’17

Remembering with Music: An Exploration for Maintaining Historical Memory in El Salvador

Rose Miola received the Kelsey Rennebohm Memorial Fellowship (see page 5 for more) in 2015. As part of the grant requirements, she presented her findings at a Center event on May 18.

Miola’s research explores the power of music in spreading truth and rewriting the narrative of amnesty following the Civil War in El Salvador, which lasted from 1979 to 1992. Her paper begins by addressing the historical context of her research, including that of the military government charged with 85% of the human rights abuses committed during the war. In the wake of the war, the National Assembly passed an amnesty law, which disallowed accountability for any of the perpetrators of these human rights abuses. Miola then explored the work of two influential theologians relevant to her research: Fr. Johann Baptist Metz, whose concept of the “dangerous memory” in war and violence calls one from indifference to actions that incite change, and Jon Sobrino SJ, whose work brought to light the process necessary for reconciliation, through the lens of poverty and injustice.

Her research consisted of interviews with musicians who understand their role as truth-tellers, consciousness providers, and reconciliation pioneers. Some explained the purpose that music has served as a method of exposing reality, or la realidad, throughout Salvadoran history, and the process of conscientization that music can awaken. Others spoke of the deep rooted history of music to encourage the revolution during the Civil War. One even regarded music as the “language of the soul.” Miola found a need for truth to be recognized before reconciliation can occur in El Salvador, and illuminated the influence that music plays in this process.
2016 CHRIJ Certificate Recipients

On May 18, the Center hosted its year-end event in which it presented the Center’s graduate Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice to its recipients. This year the certificate was earned by the following six students. Congratulations to them all.

Nicole Cardamone
JURIS DOCTOR, LAW SCHOOL

Alexandra Carroll
MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Kevin Ferreira
PH.D. CANDIDATE, APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL & EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Shaun Glaze
PH.D. CANDIDATE, APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL & EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Wend-Nongdo Justin Ilboudo SJ
LICENTIATE IN SACRED THEOLOGY, SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Léocadie Lushombo
PH.D. CANDIDATE, THEOLOGICAL ETHICS, MORRISSEY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Summer 2016 Research Grant Awards

The Center once again awarded summer research grants to both undergraduate and graduate students at Boston College this year. Here are this summer’s awardees and their research topics:

Omeed Alidadi, POLITICAL SCIENCE & ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION AND SOCIETIES, MCAS ’18
Stateless in Kuwait: The Bidun and Their Right to Educate

Colleen Melaugh, MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES, SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY ’17
The Liberative Impact of Microcredit Loans and Small Businesses

Gabriela Távara, PH.D. CANDIDATE, APPLIED DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, LYNCH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ’18
What is Left When You are ‘Left Behind’? Accompanying Mayan Women whose Family Members have Migrated North

This year marked the fourth annual award of the Kelsey Rennebohm Memorial Fellowship, to honor the memory of Kelsey Rennebohm, a student in the Lynch School of Education who passed away suddenly in 2012. To reflect Kelsey’s passions, the award goes to a student whose proposed research or activist scholarship is at the interface of psychology, mental health, gender, social justice, and human rights. This year’s recipient and her topic of study are:

Maya Perlmann
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK ’17
Sudanese Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Jordan: An Assessment of Needs and Resources
Book talk: The Catholic Church and Argentina’s Dirty War

On February 9, Gustavo Morello, S.J., Associate Professor of Sociology at Boston College, presented his book, The Catholic Church and Argentina’s Dirty War. His research was sparked by the actions of the military government that took power in Argentina in 1976. This government was responsible for the deaths and disappearances of more Catholics than any other Argentine government in what Morello describes as a “witch hunt.” The book focuses on the kidnapping of five Catholic seminarians, which Morello described as “almost movie like.” A mob kidnapped the seminarians who then disappeared for three days before being exiled from the country. He told their stories of harrowing, multi-country escape routes and the international attention they drew.

Morello framed his research by saying he used a sociological lens to look at a topic traditionally examined with a theological lens. He sought to situate the religious workers in not only their religious context, but also in their social context, including Argentina’s political climate, the media, and the governments of the surrounding Latin American nations. He explored the relationship between religion and violence in Argentina at this time, including the reaction in the Catholic community to what was happening. Morello saw Catholics in Argentinian society of the time as broadly fitting into three categories: Anti-secular, Institutional, and Committed Catholics, which each had very different views on the proper relationship between church and state. Ultimately, he saw the Catholic Church as an accomplice in the violence against their own people, maintaining that they essentially supported the military government. Morello reflected on how many good, honest people did nothing with these killings and disappearances happening in plain view, and brought up the question: “What is happening today that we are missing?”

Morello also outlined some of the challenges he faced in his research. First was separating, in the eyes of those he interviewed, his status as a priest from his purely sociological research, even though, for many, he was the first official member of the Church to ask in-depth questions about what happened. An additional challenge was representing the voice not only of the victims, but also that of the oppressors. He compared the experience to trying to do research on domestic violence, where the abused are often willing to talk, but not the abusers.

Morello described some of the social implications of his research, including the fact that the kidnappers of the seminarians are currently facing trial, and Morello actually had the opportunity to testify about his research in court. He ended his presentation with his conclusion from the research: that the way in which Catholics reacted to state terrorism in Argentina was ultimately influenced by the way in which these believers conceptualized Argentinian society and the ideal relationship between the Church and the state.

Center Researchers Co-author Policy Statement on Family Detention

Center researchers Prof. Brinton Lykes, Ph.D., student Kevin Ferreira, and former PDHRP Supervising Attorney Jessica Chicco helped co-author a policy statement on family detention for the Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA).

The statement argues strongly against the detention of undocumented migrant families, citing extensive research detailing psychological and other problems caused to both parents and children by such detention, and calls for effective alternatives to detention as a policy change to reduce these harmful effects.

A two page summary is available on the Center’s website, or read the full policy statement here: http://www.scra27.org/what-we-do/policy/policy-position-statements/statement-th
Human Rights and Judicial Independence in Guatemala

On January 27, Claudia Escobar, former Guatemalan judge and current Scholar at Risk at Harvard University’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, spoke about the corrupted processes that repress judicial independence and are responsible for many human rights violations in Guatemala. Her presentation focused on the legacy of war and peace agreements in Guatemala, the human rights violations that plague the nation, and the assault on the judicial system along with the challenges it faces currently.

Escobar began by telling her story of growing up in Guatemala. She lived through thirty-six years of civil war in the nation, culminating in a peace agreement signed in 1996. The Peace Accords included a promise to reform the administration of justice, and, as a response, the Law of Judicial Career was passed by Congress. Escobar was a judge in a lower court, and went through a rigorous election process under the Law of Judicial Career that was not extended to higher courts. Instead, judges of higher courts are elected by Congress every five years.

She proceeded by outlining a few of the most pronounced human rights violations that plague Guatemala today. The right to life, liberty and security of the person, the right to work, have free choice of employment, and safe work conditions, and the right to education are all frequently violated in the current state of the nation. Further, in 2006, a 98% rate of impunity prompted the United Nations to create an agency in Guatemala, the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG, in Spanish), to aid civilians in their fight against internal corruption. However, Escobar asserts that judicial independence is a fight that the international community cannot solve for Guatemala.

Escobar concluded her presentation with a personal anecdote to reflect the current state of the judicial system. Groups of organized crime, gangs, and drug dealing have taken over the judicial system in order to guarantee impunity for their actions. During her time as a lower court judge, a lawyer and government official attempted to bribe her to use her position as a judge to allow the Vice President to serve as a member of Congress in exchange for being elected to a higher court position. She refused, but was nevertheless appointed to the higher court in 2014. She declined the position, and when she spoke out about the corrupted process in electing higher court officials, she suffered threats against her and her family, and they were forced to leave the country. Escobar finished by stating she is essentially optimistic about Guatemala’s future, but emphasized that the fight for judicial independence in Guatemala will require that citizens unite and support reforms in the judicial system to make judges more independent of political influences in their decisions. She cited the example of the 2015 arrest of former Vice President Roxana Baldetti on corruption charges, and the resignation of President Otto Perez Molina in the face of corruption allegations as a hopeful example of this possibility.

Transnational Paticipatory Action Research

continued from page 3

The pilot project sought to:

- Develop local capacities in social research related to issues of forced migration, a situation that affects large numbers of people living near each of these three rural campuses;
- Develop a teaching-learning context through which we could critically engage in discussions about forced migration as it is experienced, narrated and understood by those living in three regions – and envision and mobilize towards possible alternatives to it; and,
- Design a participatory action-reflection process through which local teams could partner with local communities, with a particular focus on women, and learn PAR through doing, with site visits and consultations provided by the coordinating team.

Students and faculty from each campus formed a PAR team and negotiated a project with a local community, working over a 12-month period. The coordinating team planned and facilitated three training workshops with these local PAR teams and visited the work on-site. We held a final workshop after 18 months to evaluate preliminary reports on the three PAR processes on which a final report to be released this fall will be based.

**Preliminary Reflections:** The project was ambitious and faced challenges of time, scope and diversity of participants’ and facilitators’ backgrounds. Each institution had patterns of power, e.g. North/South, urban/rural, which were embedded in their dynamics and histories and which constrained participants and plans at times. Additionally, though the institutions demonstrated strong initial commitment to the project, external responsibilities such as teaching and research served to subtract from some participants’ ability and time to dedicate to the project. Ultimately, though each rural team was relatively successful, only Huehuetenango was able to complete several iterations of the PAR action-reflection process and develop a plan that has taken root in its community.

Despite the challenges, there was widespread agreement that PAR offers a set of methodological resources for beginning to meet the challenges of mobilizing processes to better understand local protagonists’ understandings and decision-making processes and to take actions with them towards transforming these social realities. It is also a resource that allows those of us based in Jesuit universities to respond to our mission by engaging with local communities in the co-construction of knowledge and in ongoing processes of transformative change.
Upcoming Fall 2016 Events

“After Obama: What is the future of our ‘Nation of Immigrants’?” Conversation Series

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
US Immigration Policy and Increased Threats to Central American Migrants
With Martha Guevara, Boston-area community activist
12:00 PM • Boston College, McGuinn Hall, Room 521

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6
The Influence of Immigrant Parent Legal Status on Immigrant Families and Developmental Outcomes for US-born Middle Childhood Children
With Kalina Brabeck, Rhode Island College
12:00 PM • Boston College, McGuinn Hall, Room 334

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America
With Roberto Gonzales, Harvard University
12:00 PM • Boston College, Campion Hall, Room 139

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17
The War on Crime and the War on Immigrants: Racial and Legal Exclusion in the 21st Century United States
With Mary Waters, Harvard University
12:00 PM • Boston College, Location to be announced

Other Events

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
Public Theology and the Global Common Good: The Contribution of David Hollenbach, S.J.
Boston College, Gasson Hall & Simboli Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
Book Discussion: “Kingdom of the Unjust: Behind the U.S.-Saudi Connection”
With author Medea Benjamin
7:00 PM • Gasson Hall, Room 305

Visit BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS for details and to register for these events.

Join the CHRIJ listserv to receive news and reminders of CHRIJ events via email.
Go to BC.EDU/HUMANRIGHTS/MAILINGLIST or scan the code on the left and simply enter your email address to join.