



BOSTON COLLEGE

CHRIJ

Center for  
Human Rights  
and  
International Justice[www.bc.edu/humanrights](http://www.bc.edu/humanrights)

## Center issues statement on 2016 US elections; Launches resources website

Following the 2016 US elections, the Center issued a statement on the election and established a section of its website dedicated to useful resources for advocates. Included are sections on advocacy initiatives and events; BC and local university resources; education; legal resources; resources on sanctuary schools and universities; and statements by institutions of higher education, among others. The Center's statement is below, and the post-election site may be found at: [www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/resources/post-2016\\_election.html](http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/resources/post-2016_election.html).

CENTER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

In the wake of one of the most contentious elections in US history, we now face the prospect of major, harsh new federal deportation efforts, calls for the exclusion, registry, interrogation, and detention of people on grounds of religion and national origin; and, a dangerous expansion and legitimizing of xenophobic and racist sentiment and actions. The Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College remains more committed than ever to its mission of advancing human rights, nurturing a new generation of 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. In this most challenging moment, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and advocacy. We declare our unequivocal opposition to racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia and similar forms of negative identity-based discourse and action. We stand in solidarity with migrant communities, communities of color, and all affected by armed conflict and forced migration here in the United States and around the world. We affirm the moral and legal imperative to protect people from anticipated assaults on their dignity and their basic human rights. We also recommit to our ongoing actions to preserve the most precious, hard won aspects of constitutional democracy, civil rights, and international human rights. We will continue both our interdisciplinary work with immigrants and their families to defend human dignity, family unity, due process, equality, and proportionality and our accompaniment of communities beyond U.S. borders who are emerging from armed conflicts and genocidal violence in their struggles for truth, justice, and reparations. We heed President Obama's call to "guard against a crude nationalism, ethnic identity, or tribalism, that is built around an 'us' and a 'them'" and invite those within the Boston College community and beyond to join us in these actions.

### AT A GLANCE

Statement on the 2016 US Election	1
Events and Notes: Winter 2016-17	2
"After Obama" Event Series	3
Summer Research Grant Reports	5
Medea Benjamin Event	6
<i>Indivisible</i> Film Screening	6
Immigration Workshop	7
JUHAN Conference	7

### ABOUT US

The Center for Human Rights and International Justice addresses the increasingly interdisciplinary needs of human rights work through academic programs, applied research, and the interaction of scholars with practitioners. The Center's Co-directors are Law School professor Daniel Kanstroom and Lynch School of Education professor of Community-Cultural Psychology M. Brinton Lykes. Mr. Timothy Karcz is the Assistant Director.

CHRIJ Review Contributors: Hanaa Khan and Liam Maguire

## Center Notes & Events

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

### Events:

- » On August 30, the Center co-sponsored a presentation by Maryknoll Lay Missioner Liz Mach on “Issues Affecting Young Women in Tanzania Today: Female Mutilation, Child Marriages and Trafficking.”
- » On October 11, the Center co-sponsored a talk by Phyllis Bennis, author of *Understanding ISIS and the New Global War on Terror*, on “Ending the Many Wars in Syria.” Bennis, director of the New Internationalism Project at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-founder of the United for Peace and Justice and the U.S. Campaign to End Israeli Occupation, analyzed the nature of the war in Syria, the roles of the United States and other nations in the conflict, and the future of ISIS.
- » On October 14-15, the Center co-sponsored a conference entitled “Public Theology and the Global Common Good: The Contribution of David Hollenbach, S.J.” The keynote lecture was given by US Ambassador to the Holy See, Ken Hackett, and later presentations were given by many of former Center director Hollenbach’s former students and colleagues, who organized the conference. The conference, which marked the 30th anniversary of the pastoral letter “Economic Justice for All,” which Hollenbach played a key role in writing, opened a conversation with a new generation of theologians on the future of public theology and the common good.
- » On October 19, the Center welcomed Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez of the United Nations Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala to discuss the Commission’s efforts to strengthen national judicial institutions, confront illegal groups, and prevent organized crime in Guatemala.
- » On October 28, the Center participated in a series of discussions along with the Boston College Law School Immigration Clinic, the School of Social Work Immigration Integration Lab, and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office. The discussions focused on topics including the types of potential fraud, scams, and financial threats that threaten to exploit immigrants, as well as resources for lawyers and social workers. Center co-director Daniel Kanstroom and Affiliated Faculty member Mary Holper, and other experts in relevant fields, presented at the event.
- » On November 7, the Center co-sponsored a screening of the film *Nazi Law: Legally Blind*. The documentary, produced by Boston College professors John and Susan Michalczyk, who were present for the screening, explores the ways in which the Nazis manipulated German laws in existence at the time to serve their agenda. Specifically, the documentary examines the way the National Socialist government dismantled constitutional law and imposed on the people a lethal totalitarian system that asserted its ideology over all aspects of German life.

### Notes:

- » The Center is offering summer research grants to BC undergraduate and graduate students once again this summer. Application deadline **February 28**. More details and how to apply on the Center’s website: <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/academics/summergrant.html>
- » Are you a BC undergrad who would like to intern with the Center this summer? If so, apply by **February 23**! Details and how to apply on the Center’s website here: <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/about/employment.html>

### Announcing New Deportation Global Information Project Website



DEPORTATION  
GLOBAL INFORMATION  
PROJECT

The Center is proud to announce the launch of our new website dedicated to global information about deportation, at [www.postdeportation.org](http://www.postdeportation.org).

On this new site, we are gathering, curating, and organizing scholarship, social science data, government and NGO reports, and legal materials regarding the evolving global phenomenon of deportation. The site will also contain deportation statistics and information about the challenges faced by deported individuals, as well as the text of the Declaration on the Rights of Deported and Expelled Persons, along with opportunities to comment on the document.

The portal is a work in progress, and we welcome feedback and suggestions at [pdhrp@bc.edu](mailto:pdhrp@bc.edu). If you would like to submit your own scholarship or research for inclusion, you may do so in the Submit Info tab on the site.

# Center Hosts “After Obama: What is the Future of Our ‘Nation of Immigrants?’” Luncheon Series

The Center hosted a very well-attended series of luncheon events in the Fall 2016 semester entitled “After Obama: What is the Future of Our ‘Nation of Immigrants?’” Here are recaps of selected events:

## The Influence of Immigrant Parent Legal Status on Immigrant Families and Developmental Outcomes for US-born Middle Childhood Children

On October 6, Kalina Brabeck, Associate Professor of Counseling at Rhode Island College, came to BC to present on her research on the effects that parents with unauthorized immigrant status have on their children’s development. Her study focused primarily on the immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Central America—with most of the latter group being Guatemalans. She chose this demographic because they make up both the highest proportion of immigrants in Rhode Island and account for differing waves of migration to the area, with the well-established Dominican presence dating back several decades and Guatemalans and Mexicans arriving more recently.



Accounting for many variables, such as parental age, social context, and familial history, Brabeck’s project explored three questions and the implications they hold for young persons aged 7-10 with a parent who is undocumented. Working closely with schools and immigrant families across the board, she discovered that, while some issues like limited English proficiency, disparate parental education levels, and low incomes were consistent stressors across immigrant families, there were particular struggles that disproportionately affected “mixed status families,” or those with children who are US citizens and parents who are undocumented immigrants. Mixed families were significantly more likely to experience food scarcity and have parents with occupational stress or anxiety about legal status. They were also less likely to access social services or social support—even if it is available to their children—such as Medicaid or federally supported Head Start preschools.



Next, Brabeck explored the social and emotional outcomes mixed family status has on children. She discovered that at the age where social comparison begins, children are more likely to internalize their anxiety and place the “worst case scenario” at the forefront of their thinking. She also found that in larger populations, mixed-status family children finished on average 1.5 fewer years of school, had lower reading, math, and spelling scores than their peers and were sometimes behind by margins of 30-40%.

Still, Brabeck highlighted the positive as well in that close family ties, motivation for academic success, bilingual status, and remarkable resilience can be key factors that poise these families for success despite adversity.



## Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America

On November 3, Roberto Gonzales, Assistant Professor of Education at Harvard University and author of *Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America* spoke about his research and findings from his book. He spent time working with children in families in Chicago and California, where Gonzales began to see that youth were hitting “dead ends” at around age 15, as they transitioned from being protected as an undocumented child to being unprotected as they transitioned to adulthood.

As described in *Lives in Limbo*, Gonzales went on to complete a comprehensive, 12-year study of 150 unauthorized migrants, seeking to answer the question of  
(continued on page 4)

## “After Obama” Luncheon Series (continued from pg. 3)

what happens to them as they make critical transitions from adolescence to adulthood. He argues that the undocumented status is a “master status” for those with it, meaning that it overwhelms other traits, identities, and characteristics. During the transition to adulthood, many either learned about their undocumented status for the first time, or were finally confronted by the reality of it. They struggled to obtain jobs, and found themselves given the same limited options for work as their parents, despite their education and fluency in English. One important aspect of this transition, Gonzales argued, is stigma management, as many realized for the first time that they were a part of a targeted group. They described keeping their status a secret from friends and even romantic partners. They suffered from strained well-being, increased stress, mental health problems, and lacked personal connections. Lastly, some of the migrants completed college and even more advanced degrees, but Gonzales found that none of them were in a career path that matched their academic credentials.

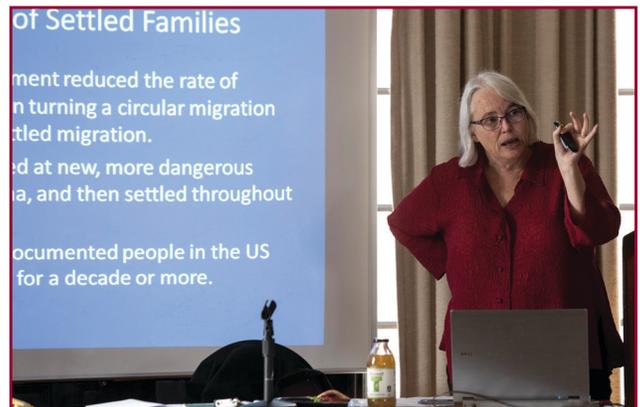
To wrap up, Gonzales discussed policy narratives surrounding immigration. These narratives often stress that undocumented children who were brought here by their parents require protection, while those same children are seen as no longer deserving of protection upon becoming adults. Gonzales argues that these narratives that revolve around “deservedness” constitute a slippery moral slope that should be reexamined, and that changes in policy, while incremental, are important.

### The War on Crime and the War on Immigrants: Racial and Legal Exclusion in the 21st Century United States

On November 17, M.E. Zukerman Professor of Sociology at Harvard University Mary Waters came to campus to present her research on US racial and legal exclusion in the 21st century. She began by explaining that social scientists have too long utilized an exclusive focus on race to understand the changes in mass incarceration and immigration since the 1980s. She says that while legal exclusion is still racially rooted, it disproportionately affects persons of lower classes. Since blacks and Latinos in the US have been shown to successfully integrate into the upper levels of society, excessive focus on race issues can obscure the growth of widespread legal discrimination, Waters maintains.

Waters points out that despite having no official national integration policy, we in the US are quite effectively able to integrate non-white, poor immigrants with significant social mobility between first and second generation immigrants - a demographic which combined makes up an estimated 25% of the total US population. By contrast, she says that we actually have a non-integration policy marked by deportation and de jure inequality in place to prevent undocumented immigrants or their families from achieving mobility and which prevents their children from achieving full cognitive development or finishing school at rates of their peers. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also mandates numbers of people they must detain every day—resulting in a total of 441,000 detained in 2013, for example—that helps create long-term anxiety and unsafe neighborhoods for families of undocumented immigrants. She reiterates that to analyze such issues with a strictly racial lens results in conclusions such as the success of some Mexican immigrants can be equated to the success of all Latino immigrants, regardless of legal status or country of origin, which is misleading.

Next, she pointed out that 6.5% of all adults and 25% of the African American male population in the US have been charged with a felony. These felons lose rights to housing, public office, jobs, and even voting with nearly 5.85 million people disenfranchised, but only a quarter of these are currently in prison. Mass incarceration of African Americans is also concentrated among the least educated and the poor. Finally, Waters endorsed a focus on fighting for human rights as being more critical at his time than struggles for civil rights as the means to combat the systemic ways in which African Americans and undocumented immigrants are increasingly marginalized in the US.



## Summer Research Grant Reports

The following are summaries of research findings from last summer's undergraduate recipients of Center summer research grants. These students will present these findings at the BC Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 10 or at our end of year gathering in mid-May. The application deadline for summer 2017 grants, for both graduate and undergraduate students, is **February 28**. See Center website for details.

### **Omeed Alidadi, Political Science & Islamic Civilization and Societies, MCAS '18** **"Stateless in Kuwait: The Bidun and Their Right to Education"**



Alidadi's research focuses on activism to improve educational experiences of the Bidun people of Kuwait. The Bidun are stateless "illegal residents" who claim Kuwaiti nationality, but suffer immensely with a lack of access to quality education due to government discrimination, despite the nation's involvement in the United Nations and their acceptance of the Convention Against Discrimination in Education. Alidadi found that the coveted nature of the Kuwaiti citizenship and a sense of apathy perpetuated by the segregated educational system in the nation contribute to the continued injustices perpetuated against the Bidun. Further, Alidadi examined the role of various non-profit organizations in leading the fight to foster tolerance in Kuwaiti youth and decrease stigma, including the Protégés, a mentorship program he worked closely

with during his time in Kuwait. To conclude, Alidadi examines the role that the international community can play in increasing justice in Kuwait. He stresses the importance of helping to spread the voices of Kuwaiti activists through their social media platforms, and highlights the leverage international agencies can bring to bear through the threat and implementation of economic sanctions in order to increase Kuwait's accountability to uphold human rights. He calls for further research examining the role of foreign workers and their right to education within the Gulf nations, specifically within the context of falling oil prices and the need for these nations to invest in human capital.

### **Colleen Melaugh, School of Theology & Ministry '18** **"The Liberative Impact of Small Business Ownership in Rural Ecuador"**



Melaugh investigated small businesses in the rural community of Mount Sinai outside of Guayaquil, Ecuador, in order to assess the ability of business operation to serve as a way to lift one out of poverty and help owners support their families. Her research was conducted under the assumption that access to microcredit loans and the ability to operate one's own business is a human right, and plays an important role in the fight for economic justice. She sought to determine whether liberation theology could find application within a capitalist economy, as many liberation theologians believe an end to capitalism is necessary for true economic justice. Melaugh surveyed 100 business owners in the Mount Sinai region, and her findings suggest that new businesses are on the rise in the region. Most notably, Melaugh found the empowerment of owning

a business to be of particular importance, as 31% of those surveyed reported being able to feed their family three times per day since owning a business. She asserts the need for a local Jesuit development non-profit, Hogar de Cristo, which provides loans and business advice in the community, to become more visible. Based on her findings of empowerment and increased well-being in Ecuadorean business owners, Melaugh concludes the practical, lived experience foundations of liberation theology are ultimately well reflected in microloan programs that help provide agency to the poor in the context of the reality of the capitalist economy they live in.

### **Maya Perlmann, School of Social Work '17** **"Sudanese Refugees in Jordan: Assessment of Psychosocial Needs and Available Resources"**



Perlmann examined Sudanese refugees and asylees living in Jordan in regards to their psychosocial well-being, access to psychosocial support, and coping strategies. She conducted a series of interviews with Sudanese adults and service providers, and used the World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale to determine their perception of their own well-being. During the interviews, she found that the refugees undoubtedly experience social exclusion based on their race and cultural background. Further, she explains that the Sudanese often struggle to meet basic needs, as assistance is hard to come by and working is illegal. Specifically, Perlmann mentions that Syrian refugees in Jordan are prioritized for assistance, leaving many of those resources less available to the Sudanese. Further, she explores the impact of the unprecedented

2015 mass deportation, during which more than 600 Sudanese refugees were deported from Jordan. The mass deportation resulted in families being broken up and created a sense of fear and caution that has plagued the Sudanese as well as their aid and service providers. However, despite challenges they face, Perlmann discovered that the Sudanese community finds comfort and solidarity in each other. To conclude, she argues for the importance of documenting the Sudanese experience, especially given the dearth of research on this population, in order to be able to better advocate for their well-being.

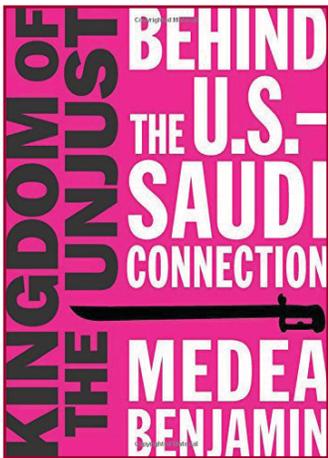
## Kingdom of the Unjust: Behind the US-Saudi Connection



On October 20, the Center hosted Medea Benjamin, a political activist and founder of the organization Code Pink, to discuss her book *Kingdom of the Unjust: Behind the US-Saudi Connection*. Benjamin first commented on the pervasive Saudi influence permeating the Middle East, which favors gaining influence through funding mosques in the region with a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam called Wahhabism, over assisting their neighbors with more basic economic assistance they are in need of. She was intrigued that the US had rarely condemned Saudi human rights abuses—including beheadings; the lack of freedom of speech, assembly, or association; and their backing of fundamentalist groups, all in the interest of maintaining a relationship based on oil supply that dates back to the Franklin Roosevelt administration.

She went on to highlight the three most marginalized groups in Saudi society: women, foreign workers, and religious minorities. Beyond not being able to drive, women must always be accompanied by a legal guardian and, despite being the most university-educated demographic in the country, can rarely find employment after completing their degree. Foreign workers must be given a sponsor to come work and pay off their “recruitment fee” before asking their sponsor to sign an exit visa if they want to leave, and are often subjected to horrible working conditions. Finally, religious minorities are often squashed by the military in uprisings, or, like Christians, are not allowed to build places to worship.

Still, despite ties to extremism, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and human rights violations, the US steadfastly sells military weapons to Saudi Arabia, buys its oil, and allows for trillions of dollars of Saudi investments in the American treasury, Ivy League universities, communication systems and more. Benjamin calls for a more critical assessment of US-Saudi relations and says we must hold leaders accountable for questionable investments, political ties, and human rights abuses.



## Screening of the documentary *Indivisible*

On November 9, the Center hosted a screening of the documentary film *Indivisible* as a part of International Education Week, with Renata Teodoro, one of the people featured in the film, on hand to offer commentary and Q&A after the screening. The film follows three undocumented young people, Renata, Evelyn, and Antonio, so-called “DREAMers” seeking a pathway to citizenship in the US and to be reunited with their families who have been deported from the country. These young people were brought to the US illegally as children by undocumented parents, and subsequently saw their parents deported back to their countries of origin, namely Colombia, Brazil and Mexico, while they stayed behind in the US.

The three then became engaged in community activism to advocate for immigration reform, which included lobbying the US House of Representatives and asking them to support pathways to citizenship and to reunite families like their own, and made a trip down to the US-Mexico border in Arizona to meet their parents through an iron fence, the best they can do under the current circumstances.

**INDIVISIBLE**  
LOVE KNOWS NO BORDERS



## Center offers workshop to educate on immigration in Massachusetts

On November 1, the Center, collaborating with the PULSE and 4Boston programs, offered a workshop to BC students and the public to help educate on the topic of immigration and debunk commonly held myths surrounding it, with a focus on the US and in Massachusetts. Jessica Chicco, supervising attorney of the Center's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (PDHRP), presented and started with a news video clip that highlighted the struggles that immigrants deported from the US face, as well as the daunting challenges of seeking asylum in the US. She followed with a presentation in which she challenged the usage of term "illegal immigrant," saying we should instead refer to such people as "undocumented," stating that people inherently cannot be "illegal."

Participants then made their way through four stations, where they learned facts about the immigrant makeup of Massachusetts and the contributions they make; heard real immigrant stories explaining legal ramifications and consequences on their lives; and had a chance to "step into the shoes" of an immigrant and attempt to feel the struggles that they face with issues such as language, access to education and employment.

The Center is currently planning additional workshops on immigration-related topics this spring semester in conjunction with other Boston College groups, so check the Center's website or sign up for the email list there for updates.



## JUHAN Student Leadership Conference comes to Holy Cross in June

The Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) will be having its biannual Student Leadership Conference from June 27-29, 2017 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

This year's conference theme is "Principles in Crisis" with the conference focus topic being "Refugees and Responsibility." The conference will explore moral, ethical and practical aspects of humanitarian response, surveying efforts, from Syria to South Sudan to Central America, to respond to mass displacement emergencies. Tensions between political systems and humanitarian principles will also be explored.

The conference has also issued a Call for Proposals for student research, with a submission deadline of February 28, 2017. Submission details here: [www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/centers/humanrights/pdf/JUHAN%202017%20call%20for%20proposals.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/centers/humanrights/pdf/JUHAN%202017%20call%20for%20proposals.pdf)

A contingent of BC students is being organized to attend the conference. If you are a BC student interested in attending, contact Center Assistant Director Timothy Karcz at [karcz@bc.edu](mailto:karcz@bc.edu).

More information on the conference website here: <https://sites.google.com/a/holycross.edu/juhan-conference-2017/>





BOSTON COLLEGE

**CHRIJ**

Center for  
Human Rights  
and  
International Justice

140 Commonwealth Avenue  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467



Phone: 617.552.1968

Email: [humanrights@bc.edu](mailto:humanrights@bc.edu)

Web: [www.bc.edu/humanrights](http://www.bc.edu/humanrights)

## Upcoming Spring 2017 Events

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**Book talk: *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura***

4:30 PM • Boston College, McGuinn Hall, Room 121  
With author **Eileen Markey**

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**Book talk: *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good***

7:00 PM • Boston College, McGuinn Hall, Room 121  
With author **Chuck Collins**

### THURSDAY, MARCH 2

**Book talk: *Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History***

12:00 PM • Boston College, Devlin Hall, Room 026 (tentative)  
With author **Linda Rabben**

### TUESDAY, MARCH 21

**Screening of *Beyond the Wall***

6:00 PM • Boston College, Cushing Hall, Room 001  
With filmmaker **Bestor Cram** and men featured in the film

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

***Reimagining Refugee Law***

4:30 PM • Boston College Law School (Newton Campus),  
East Wing 115  
(With **Alex Aleinikoff**, Columbia Law School and former United  
Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 4

**Conference: *State/Federal Tensions in Immigration Enforcement: Looking Back and Looking Forward***

8:30 AM–4:00 PM • Boston College Law School, East Wing 120  
Sponsored by The Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy  
at BC Law School. Co-sponsored by the Center.



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) or scan the code on the left  
and simply enter your email address to join.