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and
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International Human Rights and Democratic Sovereignty: The Contemporary Debates

CHRIJ Featured Lecture by Dr. Seyla Benhabib

On February 24, 2011 the Center hosted Dr. Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, for its spring semester Featured Lecture. Dr. Benhabib spoke about the modern challenges to sovereignty posed by international human rights accords and shared her perspectives on the issue.

Dr. Benhabib has been at Yale since 2002, where she started as the Director of its Program in Ethics, Politics, and Economics, and was the recipient of the prestigious Ernst Bloch prize in 2009. She has written on a variety of topics ranging from communicative ethics, to democracy and difference, to identities, allegiances and affinities, and to gender, citizenship and immigration.

International law has sparked controversy over the future of democracies in a world that demands growing interdependence among nations. Democratic “sovereignitists” worry that cosmopolitan norms, such as international human rights law, will undermine democratic self-rule. Dr. Benhabib pointed out that those universal norms, specifically human rights, have a large impact in empowering local movements, not discouraging them. She also criticized global constitutionalists who minimize the extent to which cosmopolitan norms require local contextualization and interpretation by free, self-governing people. In her argument, Dr. Benhabib maintained that both of these groups of critics fail to see the “jurisgenerativity” aspect of law.

Dr. Benhabib believes that human rights discourse occupies an important space in domestic and international politics because it allows for the global civil participation of new groups of citizens. Her lecture challenged the state-centric view of human rights proposed by Professor Charles Beitz of Princeton University. “It is widely accepted that since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” Dr. Benhabib stated, “we have entered a phase in the evolution of

global civil society which is characterized by a transition from international to cosmopolitan norms of justice.” As a result of this transition, limits on state sovereignty are enormous, and continue to increase as more international treaties are signed into law.

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Photos courtesy of Chris Soldt

AT A GLANCE

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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 Director is David Hollenbach, SJ, University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice. Associate Directors are Law School professor Daniel Kanstroom and Lynch School of Education professor of Community-Cultural Psychology M. Brinton Lykes. Mr. Tim Karcz is the Assistant Director.

CHRIJ Review Contributor: Ms. Erica Meninno

Center Notes & Events

Selected stories and events the Center hosted in collaboration with other Boston College departments and groups in the spring 2011 semester.

Notes:

- The BC CHRIJ and the Institute for the Study and Promotion of Race and Culture (ISPRC) will co-host *Participatory Action Research and PhotoVoice with Community Health Workers in Post-Katrina New Orleans*. This exhibit of photographs and stories was crafted through an action-research project, a collaboration among *walkers and talkers* of Kingsley House, *promotoras* of the Latino Health Access Network of Catholic Charities – both non-profits in New Orleans – and the Center for Human Rights and International Justice. Professor and Associate Director of the CHRIJ, M. Brinton Lykes, will be joined by two community health workers from New Orleans to speak about their collaborative work. The bilingual exhibit will be available for viewing at its opening, Thursday, October 27, at 7:00PM in the Murray Room of the Yawkey Center through Saturday, October 29 at 5:00PM. The PhotoVoice team will also present an invited workshop as part of the ISPRC Annual Diversity Challenge Conference on Friday or Saturday of that weekend.
- From October 7 to 9, 2011, the Center will convene a group of theologians and ethicists, along with staff of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) from around the globe, at Boston College for a consultation on the Theological, Spiritual, and Ethical Bases of the Work of JRS. JRS is a world-wide relief agency sponsored by the Jesuit order that accompanies, serves and advocates on behalf of the human rights of the 67 million forced migrants throughout the world. This consultation will help clarify the deeper values that define JRS's identity as a Christian agency working in a multireligious context with a considerable number of staff from religious traditions other than Christianity. This consultation continues the developing partnership between the Center and JRS. Future issues of the CHRIJ Review will provide further updates on this multifaceted collaboration.
- The Center welcomed new Staff Assistant **Adrienne Leslie** this past semester. Adrienne is a graduate of BC with a B.A. in Psychology and Communications. As an undergraduate, she participated in the PULSE Program for Service Learning and was a member of several student groups regarding faith, peace and diversity. She was also the recipient of the 2008 Baldwin Awards for excellence in filmmaking.
- From June 18-23, 2011, Center Director David Hollenbach, S.J., attended a meeting of the Ignatian Advocacy Network in Loyola, Spain. He joined thirty-five representatives of other Jesuit-related social research and action centers from around the world to seek new ways of linking Jesuit grassroots organizations working with low-income and marginalized people with Jesuit research facilities that are in contact with those in decision-making positions. The meeting is the beginning of an effort to tap the transnational reach of Jesuit institutions to influence public policy in favor of the global common good and of those who are weak and voiceless in our world. It was sponsored by the Social Justice Secretariat of the Jesuit order. While in Bilbao he also met with representatives of several Jesuit Universities in Spain to explore collaborative links in work on human rights, migration, and refugees.

Events:

- On February 10, the Center co-sponsored with the Owen M. Kupferschmid Holocaust and Human Rights Project a screening of the documentary film *Out of the Ashes: 9/11*, about the 9/11 Victims' Compensation Fund and the myriad ethical, legal and moral issues surrounding the creation of the fund and its administration. Film director Marilyn Berger and attorney and 9/11 victim advocate Debra Brown Steinberg presented the film and answered audience questions that arose about it.
- On February 16, the Center co-sponsored with the Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights a screening of the documentary *Call and Response*, which investigates the issue of modern-day slavery and human trafficking. The film features activists, musical performers, political figures and journalists commenting on this global problem and proposing actions to take to help stem the global tide of enslaved people. Julie Dahlstrom, an immigration attorney with Lutheran Social Services and a BC Law alumna, introduced the film and moderated a question and answer session following it.
- On March 3, the Center co-sponsored a presentation by Joshua Rubenstein from Amnesty International with the Owen M. Kupferschmid Holocaust and Human Rights Project at Boston College on March 3. Based on his book, *The Unknown Black Book: The Holocaust in the German-Occupied Soviet Territories*, Mr. Rubenstein shared chilling first-hand accounts of German atrocities committed against Jewish people on Soviet-occupied territories during World War II.

The Challenges in Women's Health in Resource Poor Countries: The Case of Armenia

On April 13, the Center co-sponsored an event with the Armenian Club of Boston College inviting representatives from the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) and the organization Our Bodies Ourselves to make a panel presentation entitled "The Challenges in Women's Health in Resource Poor Countries: The Case of Armenia." AIWA is an organization that maintains the goal of uniting Armenian women worldwide and addressing the critical issues facing them. Our Bodies Ourselves is a nonprofit organization focused on women's health education and advocacy worldwide. The two organizations gathered three panelists to speak about a range of women's health issues as they pertain to Armenia: Lusine Poghosyan, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Public Health at Northeastern University; Tigran Avetisyan, doctoral student in International Health at Boston University; and Maro Matosian, Country Director for the Tufenkian Foundation.

Ms. Poghosyan began by noting the difference in development between urban and rural areas of Armenia. This disparity causes limited access to reproductive health care for rural women especially since this population tends to live in poverty. Women whose husbands travel to Russia in search of employment are subsequently exposed to heightened risks of contracting HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and often women are unable to receive medical care for such illnesses. More than 50% of the population has not visited a gynecologist in more than five years or never in their lives. Ms. Poghosyan argues that the well-being of Armenian society depends on gender equality and added that unhealthy women will also have negative economic effects on the country since the majority of agricultural workers there are women.

Mr. Avetisyan presented on the topic of maternity care and the successes and weaknesses of a recent government program to increase access to this type of care, the Obstetric Care State Certificate Program. Recognizing that financial concerns are the most common barriers for women in need of maternal care, the government has responded by issuing state-funded health care vouchers for these services. As a result of the program, the number of mothers receiving care has risen significantly. A parallel issue is the disproportionate demand for care at urban hospitals, which overwhelms their capacity and causes delays in receiving care. Mr. Avetisyan believes that in order to improve the quality and access to care, the program ought to look to invest in rural hospitals and clinics to decrease the demand put on these urban facilities.

The final panelist, Ms. Matosian, began her presentation with a moving documentary that delved into the problem of sexual and domestic abuse in a small, rural Armenian village. After the film, Ms. Matosian spoke about how widespread the problem of violence has become in Armenian society, noting that 40% of women experience violence from their husbands or sons. However, the problem goes unaddressed by the government and is considered taboo to talk about among Armenians. Since there is no discussion or education about the issue, the cyclic pattern of violence has continued. Ms. Matosian ended optimistically by highlighting the recent activism by women seeking to attract the government's attention, and noting that as difficult as it may be, it only takes one woman to raise her voice, and begin a fight for change.

After the panelists' presentations, there was lively debate among audience members about the problems, challenges, and potential solutions. The event was a wonderful way to bring to the forefront the issues that face women in Armenia to raise awareness among the Armenian diaspora community and interested members of the Boston College community.

Featured Lecture continued from page 1

Human rights norms, as well as laws concerning war between states, constitute the foundation of the international system. The problem arises when cosmopolitan critics assume that the international order is a completely top-down implementation process and in doing so fail to recognize the jurisgenerative power of universal norms. This power of cosmopolitan norms, specifically human rights, involves the interpretation of law by local communities to bring meaning to the abstract concept in a specific context. Dr. Benhabib argued that these norms cannot be transformed from concepts into realizations without self-government and democracy and the local "contextualization" of these norms.

In closing, Dr. Benhabib noted a dichotomy in that while international human rights norms have generally been increasing, a phenomenon of "dejuridification" could be discerned in the extra-ordinary renditions of enemy combatants to unknown locations by US and European governments in recent years, and in the creation of "free-trade zones" in Central and South America and in China, where factories capitalized by foreign direct investment operate and workers' rights to organize are denied, often contrary to the existing laws of the state in which they are located. She sees these as attempts by some to create undemocratic enclaves in the world where denials of rights cannot be subject to rule of law. However, she feels that the instruments of cosmopolitan norms she espouses are useful in combating these trends and working toward global justice, since they serve to stimulate local democratic claims to rights across the globe.

Catholic Peacebuilding Initiatives in Sudan and Eastern Africa

On March 16, 2011 the Center hosted a panel entitled “Catholic Peacebuilding Initiatives in Sudan and Eastern Africa,” which brought together featured guest John Katunga, Regional Technical Advisor for Peacebuilding and Justice for Catholic Relief Services in East Africa, and BC Professors of Theology Stephen Pope and Lisa Cahill. The three panelists discussed the crucial role of the Catholic Church and its teachings in the peacebuilding process.

Mr. Katunga is a former Acting Director of the Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI-Africa), a peace resource organization specialized in peacemaking and peacebuilding in Africa. For the last 15 years, Mr. Katunga has been involved in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, serving as a trainer, mediator, facilitator and accompanier in the area.

Mr. Katunga outlined the three major objectives of peacebuilding in Africa which include church action, equality, and social cohesion. In his work, he relies on two important frameworks to bring about peace. These frameworks are Catholic social teaching, which emphasizes human dignity, solidarity, equality, service, and justice; and integral human development, which focuses on human capacity and the empowerment of individuals and communities. Mr. Katunga talked specifically about the ongoing violence in Sudan and the concerns surrounding the recent referendum in the south. The most contentious area is the border region between the northern and southern parts of Sudan, including the still-disputed province of Abyei. Fighting continues here, displacing 50,000 Sudanese thus far, with oil reserves present in the area exacerbating a primarily ethnic conflict. Mr. Katunga also noted that most instances of violence in East Africa stem from an unequal distribution of resources and Sudan provides a clear example of this situation.

Professor Stephen Pope spoke next about the interconnectedness of violence in the Great Lakes region of Africa, where he has traveled, worked, and studied extensively. Most recently, Prof. Pope was a guest speaker last October at a conference in Burundi on peacebuilding for the Catholic bishops of the region. In his travels and work, he observed and was moved by the overwhelming desire for peace demonstrated by the African people and the role of the church as a community of peace for them. He proposed four different ways that peace can be established in the region, including peace and human rights education, non-violent conflict resolution, collaboration and networking within and among churches, and advocacy and lobbying for justice.

Lastly, Professor Lisa Cahill discussed the influential role of women in peacemaking processes. She argued that women are essential players in social rehabilitation and education, and as a result have an important function in generating long-term peace and preventing violence. Prof. Cahill commended the unwavering hope of many of the women she has encountered in her peacebuilding work around the globe, citing as an example the documentary “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” about Liberian women who demonstrated peacefully to help reach a peace accord in 2003 after the Second Liberian Civil War.

The resounding message of this engaging and challenging discussion is that peace is a life-long commitment that people must be dedicated to at all times from grassroots movements to diplomacy. Similarly, peacebuilding does not just occur during or after a conflict, but constantly since preventing violence is the most effective way to assure peace.

To see video of this event, go to <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/Videos.html>

CHRIJ Certificate recipients (see story page 5)



(left): Christina Cipriano & Rachel Hershberg, (right): Meghan Commins

Photo courtesy of Adrienne Leslie

2011 CHRIJ Certificate Recipients

On May 19, the Center recognized this year's recipients of the Center's Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice. The certificate is earned by graduate students who complete coursework, both inside and outside of their discipline, related to human rights and international justice topics; complete the graduate Seminar in Human Rights and International Justice; and undertake an independent study on a relevant issue. Students from several of BC's graduate and professional schools have completed the certificate. Below are this year's recipients and their research topics. Congratulations to them all.

Rachel Hershberg - Lynch School of Education, Psychology - *Human Rights and Immigration Project: A Model for International University - Community-based Human Rights Collaborations?*

Sarah Kim - Lynch School of Education, Psychology - *Religious Repression in China: The Psychological Effects and the Example of Christianity*

Christina Cipriano - Lynch School of Education, Psychology - *Translating Liberation Psychology to Praxis Within Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology*

Meghan Commins - Lynch School of Education, Psychology - *Working the Hyphen: Responding to Homeless Women Through the Lens of Liberation and Feminist Psychologies*

Verena Niederhoefer - Lynch School of Education, Psychology - *Critical Analyses of Residential Programming for Street Children in Venezuela: Transforming Past Experiences into Recommended Practice*

Cristina Dimengo - Lynch School of Education, Higher Education - *Translating Ideology to Practice: The Influence of Jesuit University Mission on Education and Admission Practices towards Undocumented Immigration*

Ashley Werner - Law - *Feminist Theory and Women's Human Rights*

Summer 2011 Research Grant Awards

Each year, the Center gives grants to graduate and undergraduate students 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 finding on campus events in the following academic year. Here are this year's recipients and the research topics they are investigating:

Paul Kozak - MDiv candidate, Graduate School of Theology and Ministry - *The Right to Heal: Interpersonal Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Colombia*

Diana Baker - PhD candidate, Lynch School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction - *Unsettling the Resettled: Autism, Education and Culture in Lewiston, Maine*

Saliha Kozan - PhD candidate, Lynch School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction - *Headscarf Ban as a Human Rights Violation: A Qualitative Investigation into the Experiences of Turkish Headscarf-wearing Students in the US*

Alison Wawrzynek - Arts & Sciences '14, International Studies and French - *Globalism in the Classroom: Transcending Cultures through Education (to be conducted in Morocco)*

Matthew Alonsozana - Arts & Sciences '14, Economics and Biology - *Philippine Perspectives on Public Policy and Poverty Reduction: Examining the Social Context of Economic and Health Initiatives in Metro Manila*



Photo courtesy of Adrienne Leslie

Summer Research Grantee Paul Kozak
with CHRIJ Associate Director Brinton Lykes

Conversations at Lunch

Each semester the center hosts luncheon conversations with leading human rights scholars and practitioners. Visit www.bc.edu/humanrights for more information.

Dr. Janice Raymond discusses the global reality of human trafficking

On February 4th the Center kicked off its Spring 2011 Conversations at Lunch Series with a talk given by Dr. Janice Raymond about current issues in human trafficking, specifically sex trafficking of women. Dr. Raymond is Professor Emerita of Women's Studies and Bioethics at the University of Massachusetts and is currently on the executive board of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), an international NGO that provides a variety of services for victims of trafficking. Her advocacy work spans the globe; she served as co-executive director of CATW for 13 years, and has worked in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Venezuela, and the United States.

While most of Dr. Raymond's work centers around sex trafficking, she explained that human trafficking takes many forms, including for purposes of adoptions, labor, and bodily organs. However, the trafficking of women for prostitution is a transnational network that has become industrialized over the past 30 years. This reality is fueled by

consumer demand as evidenced by multiple online "sex guides" that provide detailed information about sex tourism. Dr. Raymond feels the most effective way to combat sex trafficking is to cut off this demand, an initiative that governments have been extremely hesitant to implement. The only country which has taken the step of penalizing buyers is Sweden, and consequently it is the only country where the sex industry has not grown since 1999. Dr. Raymond insists that separate from accountability measures, the best way to combat sex trafficking is through education that aims to change the social and cultural ideas about prostitution and gender equality. She also noted that in the Netherlands, where prostitution was legalized, an increase in sex trafficking soon followed there.

Dr. Raymond explained that women who are trafficked have been forced, coerced, deceived, subjected to abusive power, or have had their vulnerability abused. Many women believe that they are migrating for labor and will partake in domestic jobs or work as "entertainers". In the Philippines, 2,000 women leave the country per day in search of jobs, many as part of a state-sponsored economic and employment strategy, but many of these women soon find themselves in a vulnerable position for exploitation instead.

In 2004, Dr. Raymond completed a comparative study that explored the different factors of migration. She found that poverty, race and ethnicity, gender inequality, and military presence all play a role in migration and sex trafficking. Dr. Raymond argues that to simply call trafficking "irregular migration" misses the significance and true character of the issue. This holds true in the United States where, in spite of the 2000 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, many victims are arrested, detained, and deported, which often leads to re-trafficking from their country of origin. Dr. Raymond also highlighted problems in coordination between authorities in the U.S., such as when detained trafficked women are often deported before law enforcement officials can reach them and have a chance to question them about the network that brought them here.

Dr. Raymond also elucidated many of the complexities of the issue, such as whether to require victims to testify against their traffickers in court, and also the managing the subtlety of criminalizing "trafficking" without impinging upon a woman's right to migrate.

Hershberg wins grant

CHRIJ graduate certificate recipient **Rachel Hershberg** was awarded a \$20,000 grant by the American Association of University Women to help complete her dissertation entitled "Transnational Families in the 21st Century: A Grounded Theory Analysis of Familial Relationships under Threat of Immigration and Deportation Systems". This highly competitive national grant evaluates candidates "on the basis of scholarly excellence, the quality and originality of project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research". Rachel has worked with M. Brinton Lykes, Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology and Associate Director of the CHRIJ as a Graduate Research Assistant and has been supported by the Center's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project. During the past three years she has conducted significant research in Guatemala in preparation for and as part of her dissertation, which is being completed for a PhD in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology in the Lynch School of Education. Our congratulations and gratitude go out to Rachel.

Photo courtesy of Chris Soldt



Prof. Hope Lewis speaks of economic, social, and cultural rights

On April 1, as part of its Conversations at Lunch series, the Center hosted Hope Lewis, Professor of Law and Human Rights at Northeastern, to speak about “The Boston Principles on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens”, a 30-page document outlining how signers believe all people, including noncitizens, should be treated under United States jurisdiction.

Ms. Lewis is a leading expert on international public law. A human rights scholar and advocate for more than two decades, she co-founded Northeastern Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy. She co-authored *Human Rights and the Global Marketplace: Economic, Social, and Cultural Dimensions*, which received the 2008 US Human Rights Network Notable Contribution to Human Rights Scholarship Award. The two-day conference, entitled *Beyond National Security: Immigrant Communities and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, took place October 14-15, 2010 and gathered leading immigrants’ rights attorneys, human rights advocates, and scholars of law, political science, and sociology. The purpose was to discuss the impact of recent federal, state and local laws and policies on the human rights of noncitizens and to strategize ways that international human rights-based approaches to housing, healthcare, education and workers’ rights can support or strengthen existing social justice work. The outcome of this two-day seminar was “The Boston Principles”, whose final version is still undergoing revision.

Based on existing human rights doctrines, The Boston Principles aim to recognize the international legal obligations that the US already has, as well as raise the profile of current US issues regarding noncitizens to the international human rights level. The Principles emphasize the implications that transnational corporations, US foreign policy, and international treaties have on immigration and in doing so highlight the role that the US has in causing waves of migration. Lastly, the Boston Principles place significance on the multidimensionality of discrimination and the dehumanization of immigrants to draw attention to the violation of basic human rights which are guaranteed to all people regardless of citizenship status.

The seminar focused specifically on economic, social, and cultural rights, not because it believes that political rights are unimportant, but because the former group of rights has largely been ignored by US leaders since the Cold War era. Very recently, Michael Posner, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under the Obama administration, announced in a speech US support for the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, signifying a new approach towards what types of rights are recognized and supported by the US.

Ms. Lewis answers critics who argue that noncitizens do not deserve protection of these rights in the US that these are rights for all people, regardless of citizenship status, which encompasses those voicing objection as well. She calls for a change in moral thinking that reincorporates all people back into the human family, and hopes that the Boston Principles will provide a guideline for that transformation.

For more on The Boston Principles, please visit:

<http://www.northeastern.edu/law/academics/institutes/phrge/publications/boston-principles.html>



Photo courtesy of Chris Soldt

Post-Deportation Human Rights Project: Summer Update

The past winter edition of the CHRIJ Review reported on the Center’s Post-Deportation Human Rights Project assisting a Haitian man who had been deported and separated from his family to get a waiver to allow him to return to the US as a permanent resident. In January, “Mr. L” returned to the US to be reunited with his wife and young son after two and a half years away. His wife now reports, “When we were separated it’s like we had no life, but since he’s been back it’s like we’re living again. The kids are doing better and are so happy to have their father home.”

For more information on PDHRP, please visit:

www.bc.edu/postdeportation



Photo courtesy of Jessica Chicco

Mr. L and Family



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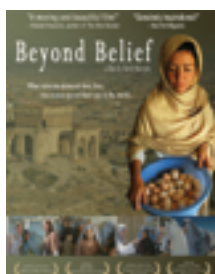
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Upcoming Fall 2011 Events



September 21

Screening of documentary Beyond Belief

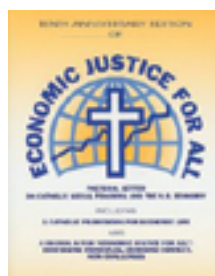
With film producer Beth Murphy
6:30pm - Boston College, Devlin 008



September 27 and November 1

**Migration Film Series: Screening of
abUSed: the Postville Raid, Sin Pais and
Letters from the Other Side**

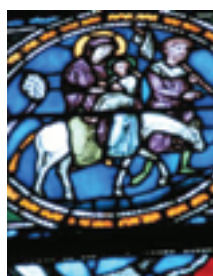
6:00pm - Boston College, see website
for locations



November 8

**25th Anniversary of Pastoral Letter on
Economic Justice for All**

John Donahue, SJ and Mary Jo
Bane, Professor of Public Policy and
Management, Harvard University
4:30pm - Boston College, Murray
Room, Yawkey Center



November 30

**Jesus as a Refugee: The Flight to Egypt
in Western Art**

Leo O'Donovan, President Emeritus,
Georgetown University
7:30pm - Boston College, Murray Room,
Yawkey Center

Join the CHRIJ listserv to receive news and reminders of CHRIJ events via email.
Visit <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/maillinglist.html> and simply enter your email address to join.