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Center for
Human Rights
and
International Justice

www.bc.edu/humanrights



Deportation, Migration, and Human Rights: Interdisciplinary Theory & Practice

A working conference hosted by the Post-Deportation
Human Rights Project

The Center's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (PDHRP) hosted an interdisciplinary working conference entitled *Deportation, Migration, and Human Rights: Interdisciplinary Theory and Practice* from March 18-20, 2010. The PDHRP, led by Center associate directors, Daniel Kanstroom and M. Brinton Lykes, aims to address the problem of unjust and harsh deportations from the United States. The project provides legal services to immigrants who have been wrongfully deported and advocates for their rights and those of their families through research, policy analysis, outreach, and training programs.

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."

Photos Courtesy Chris Soldt

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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 professor of Community-Cultural Psychology M. Brinton Lykes. Ms. Anjani Datla is the assistant director.

Contributors: Mr. Eric Carroll, Ms. Christine Glaser, Ms. Erica Meninno, Ms. Kaki Stamateris

Conversations at Lunch

Each semester the Center hosts luncheon conversations with leading human rights scholars and practitioners. Visit <http://www.bc.edu/humanrights/> for more.

Courtesy Chris Soldt



Carol Cohn

Dr. Carol Cohn, director of the Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights spoke at the Center's Conversations at Lunch event on January 28, 2010. Cohn is a leader in the scholarly community on gender and security. Her research focuses on the gender dimensions of armed conflicts and gender mainstreaming in international peace and security institutions.

Cohn's presentation began with a discussion of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, two groundbreaking resolutions passed in 2000 and 2008, respectively, that highlight the importance of protecting women and girls during armed conflict, identify sexual violence as

a weapon of war, and underscore the need to increase women's participation in post-conflict peace agreements, peacekeeping efforts, and UN negotiations. Cohn pointed out that these resolutions have been integral to the introduction of gender issues in peace and security negotiations, as they contain crucial recognitions made by the UN Security Council to which they can be held accountable.

Cohn went on to explain that while these resolutions were helpful, a lack of research surrounding the gender implications of peace and security issues has provided little precedent for future action. In response to this need, Cohn at the University of Massachusetts, in collaboration with four other universities (the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, the Kennedy School of Government, Wellesley College, and the Simmons School of Management), founded the Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights aimed at raising awareness about gender, armed conflict, and security through research, conferences, and workshops. The Consortium works to build bridges between field research and the policy community in order to address the needs of women's organizations and to ensure that new policies reflect their concerns.

Chris Jochnick

On March 26, 2010 the Center welcomed Mr. Chris Jochnick to speak at its final Conversations at Lunch event of the 2009-2010 academic year. Jochnick is the director of the Private Sector Department at Oxfam America, as well as the coordinator of the Private Sector Team at Oxfam International. He is the founder of the Center for Economic and Social Rights in New York and the Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales in Ecuador. Jochnick has extensive experience working on issues of human rights and corporate

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Courtesy Chris Soldt

Conversations at Lunch

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accountability and teaches business and human rights at Harvard Law School.

Jochnick's talk centered on the intersection of human rights and business in recent history. He noted the general absence of "economic rights" from mainstream human rights dialogue. He linked this trend to the former belief that governments would remain equipped to respond adequately to any human rights abuse. This proved false however, with the transformation of the world economy in the 1960s and 70s when the private sector rapidly turned into a powerful force in the form of giant multinational enterprises. "After this shift, governments were effectively placed on the

defensive," Jochnick elaborated. Private businesses began asserting corporate power over third world countries and committing multiple human rights violations. This caused NGOs and local human rights communities to push back against unfair corporate activity and highlighted the need for global human rights dialogue.

After several companies began receiving bad press for such violations, shareholders expressed concern for human rights and the importance of socially responsible investment grew. Codes of conduct and multi-stakeholder initiatives appeared in the private sector yet were heavily critiqued for their lack of legal responsibility. Consequently, Dr. John Ruggie, professor of international affairs at Harvard University and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Business and Human rights, submitted a report in 2008, entitled *Protect, Respect and Remedy: a Framework for Business and Human Rights*, which addressed the oversight gap between government power, international law, and the business sector. Despite the report, Jochnick indicated that human rights policies are still a novelty in the private sector and that companies must be continuously pressured to ensure that they are not violating the rights of the communities they inhabit.

Deportation, Migration, and Human Rights

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Schiro 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 United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement for an average of thirty days. Schiro seeks to change this policy in her role as the head of Corrections in New York. In closing, Schiro avowed that "there are many things that can be done, and we need to make these changes."

The conference opening also featured a showing of the documentary, *abUSed: The Postville Raid*, which tells the story of one of the largest Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids in the history of the US.

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 ongoing situation in Postville, Iowa. "Individuals were left humiliated, families were torn apart, and a community of great diversity was left in ruin," he said. "The documentary serves as a cautionary tale against abuses of constitutional human rights," Argueta stated. "Postville was a wake up call to us all, and a blatant call for the need for reform." For more on the conference visit: <http://www.bc.edu/centers/humanrights/projects/deportation.html>.

Courtesy Chris Soldt



Courtesy Chris Soldt



Spring 2010 Events

Selected events the Center hosted in collaboration with other Boston College departments and groups in the spring 2010 semester.



Courtesy Ginger Johnson

Flying Kites

On March 10, 2010, the Center in collaboration with the Volunteer and Service Learning Center presented a film screening of *Flying Kites: Chasing Childhood*. This award winning documentary was made by Flying Kites: MyTurn, a non-profit organization and student-led movement working with orphaned children in Kenya. The film follows the students as they uncover the enormous obstacles preventing meaningful change in the lives of children living in an orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Following the documentary screening, Ms. Julianna Morrall, a recent Boston College graduate, gave a presentation outlining the students' activities since the documentary was filmed.



Courtesy Brenna McMahon

The Politics of Human Rights

The Department of Political Science Graduate Student Association in collaboration with the Center and several other Boston College departments hosted the Politics of Human Rights conference from March 11-12, 2010. The conference provided an opportunity for a multi-disciplinary conversation about human rights issues and focused on several topics including: foundations of human rights, the relationship between human rights and cultural differences, and the role of the state on questions of human rights.

The conference's three keynote speakers were Professor Susan Shell of the Boston College Department of Political Science, Professor Elizabeth Mayer from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and Sarah Sewall from the Harvard Kennedy School and Carr Center

for Human Rights Policy.

Center director, professor David Hollenbach, SJ responded to Shell's keynote speech and emphasized the responsibility to protect, states' rights as duties, as well as the validity of a person's rights beyond national borders. Professor Intisar Rabb from the Boston College Law School responded to Mayer's address and highlighted issues of the dynamic meaning of Islamic law and its openness to re-interpretation. The conference closed with a stimulating discussion between Sewall and professor Ward Thomas from Holy Cross University, on issues of human rights, ethics, and the use of force.



Courtesy ©istockphoto/chrij

Contextualizing the Crisis in Haiti

On February 15, 2010 the Center and the African and African Diaspora Studies Program welcomed professors Marc Prou and Erica Caple James to discuss the implications of the earthquake in Haiti. Prou, associate professor and chair of the African Studies Department and director of the Haitian Institute at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, focused on the sweeping effects of the disaster. He claimed that Haiti has experienced its second revolution, this time a "natural" one. Prou asserted that Haiti has a chance of establishing an effective government and a social contract, something it was unable to do in 1804. James, associate professor of Anthropology at MIT, stressed the need for more effective relief administration. She also warned that equal dispersal of relief must be a priority. The African and African Diaspora Studies Program's Focus on Haiti initiative will resume in

fall 2010 with more events addressing these themes.

Jesuit University Humanitarian Action Network



Courtesy Anjani Datla

The Jesuit University Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN) held its second biennial

conference at Georgetown University from June 4-6, 2010. JUHAN is a partnership of faculty, staff, and students at Jesuit universities and colleges in the United States. The network raises awareness on Jesuit campuses about humanitarian response and what it means to be “men and women for others.” The conference gathered undergraduate students and faculty from 28 Jesuit universities for an intensive immersion program into all facets of humanitarian emergencies. The Boston College student delegation of 11 undergraduates included Nick Aigner, Megan Krakowiak, Anne Libera, Max McGuire, Alison Miller, Megan Monahan, Patrick Mulkern, Megan Perez, Amanda Rothschild, Christina Wartski, and David Willner.

The students attended plenary addresses in the mornings including one by Center director, David Hollenbach, SJ on “Ethics and the Rights of Refugees: A Jesuit’s Perspective.” In the afternoons, participants broke into working groups to learn about issues such as climate change, aid camp logistics, trauma, health, and vulnerable populations. At the end of the conference, each university’s student delegation designed “action plans” to help address and prevent humanitarian crises in the future. The Boston College delegation will return to campus in fall 2010 and work on a three-pronged

approach akin to that at other Jesuit university campuses across the country. The students will conduct research, engage in service, and advocate for the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises around the world.



Photos Courtesy Paulina Maldonado

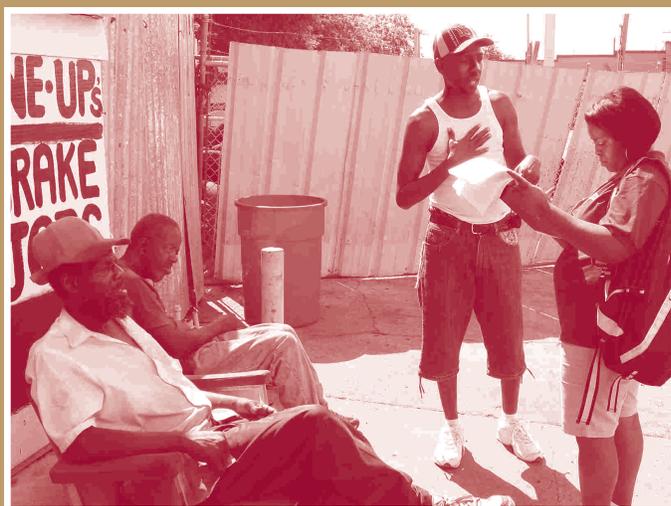
Women's PhotoVoices: Cross-community Dialogue and Organizing for Change

The Center's Participatory Action Research Project in Post-Katrina New Orleans has created a photo and story exhibit which is a culmination of more than two years of work. Center associate director, professor M. Brinton Lykes who coordinates the project and visiting scholar, Ms. Holly Scheib, Ph.D. candidate in the International Health and Development Department at Tulane School of Public Health, were involved in the creation of the exhibit in collaboration with two local NGOs, Kingsley House and the Latino Health Access Group.

This Participatory Action Research (PAR) project engaged a team of stakeholders in post-Katrina New Orleans to tell their stories and share their experiences as well as those of their community by doing their own research. As Scheib describes, "it doesn't take a Ph.D. to do research. We do

research in our everyday lives. The idea is to let those who previously had no voice do the talking." One of the research strategies used in this project incorporated resources from PhotoVoice, a method developed by professors Carolyn Wang and Mary Ann Burris when they provided illiterate farmers in rural China with cameras to document their lives and share their stories along with their photos. In Central City, New Orleans, where poverty related violent crime is very high, African American and Latina community-based health workers became active researchers when they participated in the project using a participatory research process that combined PhotoVoice as well as "talking pictures", a resource developed by Chilean anthropologist Ximena Bunster. The health workers took pictures over a period of eight months and often regrouped during that time

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Photos courtesy Post-Katrina Photo PAR Project Participants

In both the African American and Latino communities there is a great need for assistance after Hurricane Katrina. The Walkers-Talkers and Promotoras strive to link families to services and resources to meet their needs of the many low-income communities.

We complete health assessments to identify the services and resources that are needed and assist with Medicaid and Food Stamp applications. The pictures in the next poster highlight the importance of having a community outreach model where people from the community are working with their own communities. This process works due to trust, shared issues and concerns, and because it fosters neighbors helping neighbors.



Courtesy Post-Katrina Photo PAR Project Participants

Women's PhotoVoices:

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in several two-day workshops facilitated by Lykes and Scheib. The workshops provided the forum to share the photos and individually-authored stories about the pictures, re-analyze them, and create a collective narrative by putting the photographs and stories together. The result is an eight-piece, mobile photo and story exhibit which 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 this fall at Boston College.

One goal of the project has been to analyze and then 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. The project has received a lot of positive feedback from both those involved and those who have seen the photo and story exhibit. As Scheib concludes, "This is how we make change."

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

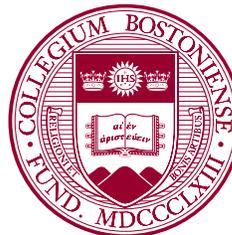
Each year the Center awards summer research grants to undergraduate and graduate students conducting research on important human rights issues. In 2010 the Center was pleased to support the following students:

Ms. Sophia Moradian, undergraduate student majoring in International Studies, will research the role of women in microfinance in Jordan.

Ms. Amanda Rothschild, undergraduate student majoring in International Studies, will explore why the Geneva Convention has failed to prevent genocide.

Ms. Rachel Hershberg, Ph.D. candidate in the Applied Developmental Psychology program, will travel to Zacualpa, Guatemala to research new models of transnational families.

Ms. Fatima Sattar, Ph.D. candidate in the department of Sociology will conduct research on immigrants' integration processes, concerns, and obstacles in Boston.



UPCOMING FALL 2010 EVENTS

September 24



**Conversations at lunch with
Mr. Michael Delaney, director of
humanitarian response,
Oxfam America**
12:30 p.m.
Room 328, 21 Campanella Way,
Boston College

November 3



**Natural Disasters & Human Rights:
Comparing Responses to Haiti and Pakistan**
**Dr. Elizabeth Ferris, co-director,
Brookings-Bern Project
The Brookings Institute**
7:00 p.m.
Murray Room, Yawkey Center,
Boston College

September 28



Adios Ayacucho
**Performance by Peruvian Theater
Troupe Yuyachkani**
8:00 p.m.
Bonn Studio, Robsham Theater,
Boston College

November 5



**Conversations at Lunch with
Ms. Iris Gomez, staff attorney,
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**
12:30 p.m.
Boston Room, Corcoran Common,
Boston College



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