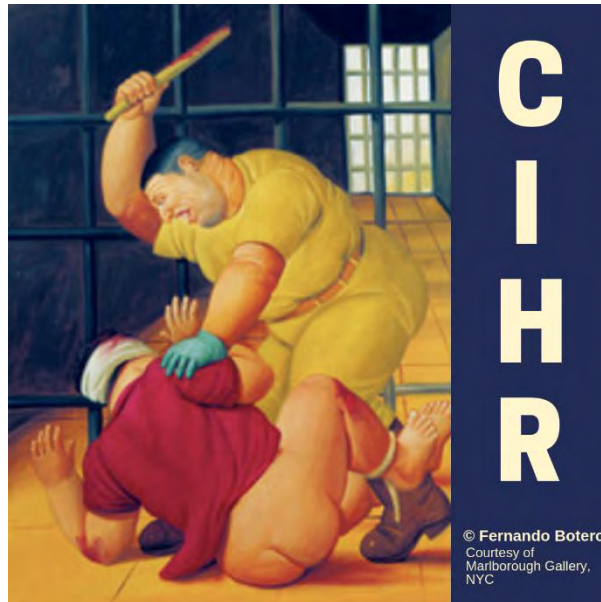


Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) Annual Report 2022-2023



The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, was established with a mandate to study the main challenges to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms; analyze and assess the interactions between human rights violations and international crimes; investigate genocide historically and in the contemporary world; and devise educational programs aimed at increasing public awareness of these norms. The CIHR focuses on a critical examination of long-standing and emerging issues on the human rights agenda, as well as on equipping our students with the necessary background and experience to pursue their interests in human rights scholarship and advocacy. The Center regularly conducts research workshops, seminars (including panel discussions and lectures) and develops outreach programs. The workshops focus on cutting edge issues and bring together experts in the field to present and discuss their work and usually result in publications as books or special issues in scholarly journals. In addition, the CIHR is consistently looking for innovative outreach/awareness activities to actively involve the college community, as well as the broader public, on important human rights issues.

The following report outlines our activities for the 2022– 2023 academic year.

Annual Theme

Each academic year, the CIHR identifies a theme around which we design research projects and organize events. For this academic year, the Center has decided to turn its attention to the *Security Sector*. The term Security Sector refers to all institutions and structures whose mission is to protect society, and their nations' populations, from crime, disorder and other forms of violence. It includes law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and the armed forces, as well as their civilian staff, training establishments and logistical services. While performing their task of enforcing laws and regulations, these agencies are expected to be held accountable to their chain of command, as well as to the people whom they are supposed to serve. Respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law constitutes a key component in the effort to ensure that the security sector is responsive to public needs and provides security as a public good. When security sector institutions perform poorly, societal trust erodes with adverse repercussions for the well-being of societies and their populations.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the Center for International Human Rights has critically examined some of the main challenges facing the security sector, challenges associated with governance, transparency and conduct-related issues that undermine the quest for human dignity and weaken the prospect for inclusive social orders.

Research and Initiatives

The CIHR continued its collaboration with the Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law - Department of Law at the Free University of Berlin that began in 2020, and organized a research workshop on the Transatlantic Forum theme "New Challenges-New Rights?" during the academic year 2022-2023. For the second time, experts from around the world were invited to critically discuss new human rights challenges, and the capacity of the human rights discourse to provide effective and sustainable responses. The accompanying papers and the recordings for this event can be found on our website (and are also linked in the event listings within this report). Moreover, at some point during the 2023-2024 academic year, we plan to publish a book containing all papers presented. A description of the initiative, and the program of the research workshop, can be found in the following section.

Project Description: *Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the rights universe has grown exponentially and the rights discourse has been mainstreamed into key issue areas of social and political life to such an extent that several*

analysts have argued that human rights “have attained the status of a lingua franca of global moral discourse” (Beitz and Goodin, 2009). Yet, despite their discursive success, human rights have been confronted with a series of challenges. Some of these challenges are the result of the widely held belief that human rights are part and parcel of the liberal international order. The end of the cold war was to signal the triumph of liberal democracy, human rights, and international cooperation to address common threats. Yet, as subsequent developments were to demonstrate, the Cold War was not replaced by some neat, consistent new world order: civil strife and ethnic cleansing erupted in several states; the structural adjustment programs of international financial institutions failed and some semi-peripheral and poor states pushed back against neoliberal policy strictures; speculative crises in finance deepened inequality both within and among states; religious fundamentalism attained global reach; climate change raised critical questions about the viability of our planet; growing numbers of people, displaced by war, climate change, political corruption, and the overall erosion of decent life prospects, sought a better life through migration; and, not least, new political coalitions and activisms, partly enabled by the internet and digital communications, promised a renewed era of populist energy and an alternative “promised path” to those left behind by the forces and processes of globalization. This is by no means an exhaustive list. This is part though of the human rights predicament. The human rights community has been rather slow in addressing the challenges posed by new developments in the Biosciences and in Artificial Intelligence (AI); developments that have raised the stakes for effective responses to their potentially adverse human rights implications. For example, when biotechnology can alter the genetic code, whose rights are being violated, and what are the possible remedies? Likewise, taking into consideration that AI systems are increasingly used in a variety of critical areas that include hiring decisions, identification of suspects in the criminal justice system and target selection in military operations, how do these developments impact privacy, digital identity, right to understanding of decision-making in computer programming and due process?

The purpose of this forum is to examine these challenges, their growing intersections, and critically discuss the capacity of the human rights discourse to provide effective and sustainable responses. Some of the key focal issues and questions to be addressed include:

- *What are the strengths and weaknesses of human rights advocacy approaches in addressing security and subsistence-related violations?*
- *What can the human rights discourse learn from other social justice-related discourses, whether secular or religious?*
- *What are the main human rights issues that developments in the Biosciences and AI raise?*
- *Does the rising interference of private entities (software companies et al) in governmental decision-making processes require a new adjustment of human rights addressees?*
- *Do we need new rights, or a reconceptualization of existing rights?*
- *If new rights are needed, in which areas are they needed and why?*

The second research initiative of the CIHR is an ongoing project initiated during the 2020-2021 academic year that focuses on human rights abuses in the Philippines. Working in conjunction with local human rights NGO Karapatan, our team of research assistants led by visiting scholar Dr. Nerve V. Macaspac and Dr. George Andreopoulos, has been working on building a comprehensive literature review on civic space in the Philippines, that focuses specifically on the years of the Duterte Administration. There are three guiding principles that underpin this project: (1) a commitment to upholding the international legal framework; (2) an emphasis on the experiences of and lessons learnt by human rights defenders; and (3) the centrality of democratic civic space.

We continue to seek grants fundings for this project, and we are looking to complete and publish this research in the next academic year.

Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Lectures : Transatlantic Forum

Research Workshop schedule for February 17 and February 18, 2023

Session I

Chair: Dr. Carsten Momsen

Presenter: Dr. Alexander Heinze, University of Göttingen Law School

Paper: Making a Rioter: Social Media’s Role in Planning and Inciting Civil Unrest and Violent Protests

Discussant: Dr. Stephanie Alice Baker, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at City, University of London

Session II

Chair: Dr. George Andreopoulos

Presenter: Dr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) at the National University of Río Negro; former UN Independent Expert on Debt and Human Rights

Paper: "Accountability for Financial Complicity : Why is it so hard?"

Discussant: Dr. Daniel Bradlow , University of Pretoria

Session III

Chair: Dr. Carsten Momsen

Presenter: Dr. Anneke Petzsche Humboldt University Law School, Berlin

Paper: “Providing Security in the 21st Century: A Human Rights Challenge?”

Discussant: Dr. Lucia Zedner, All Souls College, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, Faculty of Law, UNSW, Sydney

Session IV

Chair: Dr. George Andreopoulos

Presenters: Dr. Laura Alexander and Dr. Brady DeSanti, University of Nebraska-Omaha

Paper: “Indigenous Student Activism toward Community and Sacred Spaces: Implications for Human Rights Thought and Practice”

Discussant: Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren, Associate Vice President of Research and Professor and the Figge Chair of Catholic Studies at The University of Iowa.

Session V

Chair: Dr. Carsten Momsen

Presenter: Dr. Matthias Wienroth, University of Northumbria, Newcastle, UK

Paper: “(Un)knowing the Human in Biometric Surveillance: Thoughts on Uncertainty, Ignorance, and Rights.”

Discussant: Dr. Tino Plümecke, Project «Human Diversity in the New Life Sciences», University of Freiburg

Session VI

Chair: Dr. George Andreopoulos

Presenter: Dr. Alejandra Ancheita Executive Director and founder of ProDESCD

Paper: "Transnational collaboration to defend indigenous rights towards a truly "just" energy transition"

Discussant: Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß Legal Director, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, Berlin

Session VII

Chair: Dr. Carsten Momsen

Presenter: Dr. Jelena Pia-Comella , John Jay College of Criminal Justice-City University of New York

Paper: “Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and crimes as an example of the constant erosion of gender equality and women’s rights: challenges and opportunities.”

Discussant: Akila Radhakrishnan , President, Global Justice Center.

About the Speakers



Dr. Laura Alexander is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Goldstein Family Community Chair in Human Rights at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her primary areas of research and teaching are religion and human rights, comparative and global religious ethics, migration and borders, and conflict and peacebuilding. She is co-editor of the volume *The Meaning of My Neighbor's Faith: Interreligious Reflections on Immigration* and author of peer-reviewed articles on Sikh and Christian ethics of hospitality to refugees, Islamic and Christian perspectives on human rights, and Christian realism and idolatry of the nation-state.



Alejandra Ancheita is Founder and Executive Director of ProDESC. Since 2005 she has led processes aimed at the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, achieving unprecedented results such as the application of accountability mechanisms to major transnational corporations. Due to the impact of the work she has done, in 2014 she was awarded with the Martin Ennals Award by the International Human Rights Community. She has a Law Degree from the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) and Master in International Law and Global Justice from Fordham University School of Law (USA). In 2019, she received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Paris Nanterre (France).



Dr. Stephanie Alice Baker is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at City, University of London. Her research investigates how mis/disinformation and conspiracy theories spread online with particular emphasis on health and wellness communities. In 2021, she was invited by the UK Parliament to provide oral and written evidence on these issues in relation to radicalisation, terrorism and extremism. She continues to work with the government and policymakers in their efforts to reduce and respond to mis/disinformation online.



Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky is a Researcher at the Argentine National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET) and UNRN-CIEDIS (Interdisciplinary Centre on Rights, Inclusion and Society Studies, Universidad Nacional de Río Negro, Patagonia). The author was United Nations Independent Expert on Debt and Human Rights from 2014 to 2020. Ph.D. in Law



Daniel D. Bradlow is Professor/Senior Fellow in the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship, University Pretoria and Professor Emeritus, American University Washington College of Law. He is also a Compliance Officer in UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Unit He was previously SARCHI Professor of International Development Law and African Economic Relations, in the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria; Head, International Economic Relations and Policy Department, South African Reserve Bank; and Chair, Roster of Experts, Independent Review Mechanism, African Development Bank.

He has published on topics including the international law applicable to international financial institutions, finance and human rights, global economic governance and international development law.



Brady DeSanti is Associate Professor of Religious Studies & Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is the Director of UNO's Native American Studies program, and his work focuses on North American Indigenous history, religious traditions, and popular culture. He is an enrolled citizen of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Tribe of Wisconsin and co-editor with Dr. Kristofer Ray on, *Understanding and Teaching Native American History* (The Harvey Goldberg Series for Understanding and Teaching History, University of Wisconsin Press, 2022)



Alexander Heinze is an Assistant Professor at the University of Göttingen School of Law. He obtained his doctorate in International Criminal Law from the University of Göttingen, was awarded the Trinity College Alumni scholarship and received his Magister in *Utroque Jure* (LLM) from Trinity College, Dublin with distinction. His research and publications (in English and German) deal with various aspects of comparative law, media law, international criminal procedure, legal theory, philosophy and sociology of law. Alexander Heinze is an elected member of the International Law Association Committee on Complementarity in International Criminal Law, Co-Editor of the German Law Journal and Book Review Editor of the Criminal Law Forum.



Kristy Nabhan-Warren is Associate Vice President of Research and is Professor and the Figge Chair of Catholic Studies at The University of Iowa. Her research focuses on U.S. Latinx Catholics in the United States, and her books include *The Virgin of El Barrio: Marian Apparitions, Catholic Evangelizing, and Mexican-American Activism* (NYU Press, 2005); *Cursillos in America: Catholics, Protestants, and Fourth-Day Spirituality* (UNC Press, 2013); *América Woman: The Virgin of Guadalupe, Latinos/as and Accompaniment* (Loyola Marymount U Press, 2018) and most recently, *Meatpacking America: How Migration, Work and Faith*

Unite and Divide the Heartland (UNC, 2021) and *The Handbook of Latina/x/o Christianities* (Oxford U Press, 2022). She has published numerous articles, book chapters, and book reviews, and is a regular reviewer and blurb writer for new books. She is creator of and acquisition editor for the book series *Where Religion Lives*, with UNC Press.



Anneke Petzsche is a Lecturer in Law and Senior Researcher at Humboldt-University, Berlin. She holds a law degree from Humboldt-University where she also obtained her Doctorate in comparative criminal law. She received a Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice from Oxford University with distinction. Her research interests and publications lie within criminal law, criminal procedural law, European criminal law and comparative criminal law. She is a registered legal expert of the European Fundamental Rights Agency and a Co-editor of the *GDSStZ* (German-Georgian Criminal Law Journal).



Ms. Jelena Pia-Comella is an adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; an adjunct assistant professor at Hofstra University, as well as a faculty member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). She is also consulting with the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC). Starting her career in 1996 as a diplomat representing Andorra at the United Nations, Canada, and the United States, she was part of the team that created the foreign policy of her country. She served in different capacities for civil society organizations as well as an adviser on gender, peace, and security issues for the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Ms. Pia-Comella is the President of the Board of Directors of SOS-Torture/Burundi and board member and treasurer of Global Justice Center.



Tino Plümeck is a postdoctoral researcher and co-investigator at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Freiburg, Germany within the project "Human Diversity in the New Life Sciences: Social and Scientific Effects of Biological Differentiations". His research interests are in science and technology studies, theories of discrimination and critical race studies with a specific focus on the history and the recent developments in genetics and post/genomics.



Akila Radhakrishnan is the President of the Global Justice Center, where she leads its work to achieve gender equality and human rights. Akila has led the development of groundbreaking legal work on both abortion access in conflict and the role that gender plays in genocide. Akila is a globally-recognized voice on issues of reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and justice and accountability. Her unique expertise as a feminist international lawyer is sought by policymakers, academics, media, and grassroots actors around the world.



Dr. Miriam Saage-Maaß is a qualified lawyer and Legal Director at ECCHR, where she had built up the Business and Human Rights Program. She has worked on various cases against corporations relating to exploitation of workers in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Furthermore, she is engaged in criminal proceedings against high-ranking managers for their involvement in international crimes, e.g. arms exports from Europe to Saudi Arabia. Miriam regularly publishes articles on the subject of legal liability of corporations regarding human rights violations in the global supply chain, and is internationally consulted as an expert in the topic of corporate responsibility and human rights. In October 2016, the Association of Democratic Lawyers (Vereinigung Demokratischer Juristinnen und Juristen – VDJ) in Germany awarded Saage-Maaß and ECCHR's General Secretary with the Hans Litten Prize. VDJ made the award in acknowledgment of Kaleck and Saage-Maaß's role in the strategic approach of ECCHR's work. She joined Stiftung Forum Recht's advisory board in 2020.



DDr. Matthias Wienroth is Vice-Chancellor’s Senior Fellow at the Northumbria University Centre for Crime and Policing. He studies biosciences and biometric technologies in justice, security, and health contexts, analysing them as social practices. In doing so, his work attends to the question of how (mostly forensic and surveillance) technologies are imagined as contributing to a 'good society'.

Applying sociological and ethical analysis, and engaging with scientists, practitioners, civil society organisations, and policymakers, Matthias researches the ways in which different types of knowledges and values contribute to the (un-)knowing of human beings (e.g., identification for crime and migration control) and the (re-)production of social orders to govern them, as well as the implications for technology use and governance



Lucia Zedner is Senior Research Fellow in Law, All Souls College and Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford, and Conjoint Professor, School of Law & Justice, UNSW Sydney. She works on criminal justice, security, human rights, counter-terrorism, and citizenship. Her books include *Security* (2009); *Preventive Justice* (2014, with Andrew Ashworth); *Changing Contours of Criminal Justice*

(2016, co-edited); and *Privatising Border Control: Law at the Limits of the Sovereign State* (2022, co-edited).

About the Chairs:



George Andreopoulos is Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and at the Graduate Center, CUNY, and the founding Director of the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College. Before coming to CUNY, he taught for several years at Yale University where he was also the Founding Associate Director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights. He has written extensively on international organizations, international human rights, and international humanitarian law

issues. He is past President of the Interdisciplinary Studies Section (IDSS) of the International Studies Association (ISA) and past President of the Human Rights Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA). His most recent book is *Reconfigurations of Authority, Power and Territoriality* (co-authored and co-edited with Stephen Rosow), Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022



Carsten Momsen, PhD heads the Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, White Collar/ Economic and Environmental Criminal Law at Freie Universität Berlin. He is an ongoing visiting scholar at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College and holds a position as scholar in residence at New York Law School. He was also a visiting professor at the University of Toronto in 2016 and 2019. Dr. Momsen is a Founding Member and PI of the Berlin based “Einstein Center Digital Future” and a permanent

member of the Program Committee of the international conference series "SADFE - Systematic Approaches on Digital Forensic Engineering". In addition to various compliance issues, his projects are focused on corporate responsibility for human rights violations. His research also includes data protection issues, digital evidence, digital forensics, and the discriminatory effects of predictive policing based on the use of 'Big Data' and 'AI' and the subsequent impact on human rights. He is the Co-Founder and Director of the first nationwide German Wrongful-Conviction Project (<https://www.wiederaufnahme.com/>).

Theme events

Human Dignity in the Security Sector: Challenges and Prospects

A conversation with Lt. Col. Nadia Riffi

Recognizing the leadership role that women play in peace and security, we examined how can tensions between human rights law and humanitarian law be addressed, how can governments learn from good practices in advancing security sector reform and integrating a protection of civilians approach into UN peacekeeping operations.

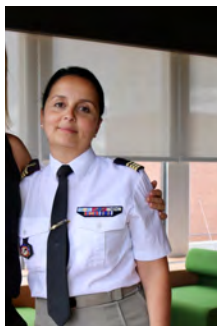
Moderator:

- Dr. George Andreopoulos

Co-sponsors:

- Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice
- Master of Arts in Human Rights
- Minor in Human Rights Studies

About the speaker



Lieutenant-colonel Riffi signed a contract with the French Army in 2001 as a human resources officer. She holds a Master degree in foreign languages and a Master 2 in Human Resources (HR) from the University of Nice / Sophia-Antipolis. Lieutenant-colonel Riffi began her career as an officer in 2001, and started as deputy of the Human Resources Director (2002-2007) in an Infantry regiment in the South of France. She was deployed in former Yugoslavia (Macedonia) in 2004 within the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) as military observer. She was then posted to the Joint

Staff of the Armed Forces, at the Planning and Current Operations Center in Paris (2007-2010) where she was J1 Desk Officer for Afghanistan and Lebanon. After being posted in Norfolk, Virginia from 2010 to 2014, as the head of the French National Support Element to Allied Command Transformation (ACT), she moved to Paris, to the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy.

She was the chief of the HR unit, especially responsible for the selection of the military personnel to work abroad and HR policy for the French military assigned abroad. From August 2018 to August 2022, lieutenant-colonel Riffi was the deputy military adviser at the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. She was in charge of specific topics such as peacekeepers trainings, Women Peace and Security agenda, military recruitment, Francophonie. Since September, she is the head of section in charge of employment policy, at the army's human resources department in Paris.

Human Dignity in the Security Sector: Challenges and Prospects: Integrating a Human Rights Lens in the Security Sector in Cote D'Ivoire.

A conversation with Mr. Diaby Bakari
February 27, 2023

Côte d'Ivoire has been the scene of numerous human rights violations following the 2002 crisis. With the post-electoral crisis of 2011, there were numerous violations of the right to life and physical integrity and the destruction of private and public property. Since 2011, the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces (CADHA) has trained and sensitized the armed and security forces on international human rights and international humanitarian law. Among other efforts, these trainings resulted in a change of culture within the armed and security forces and allowed Côte d'Ivoire to be removed in 2017 from the so-called "list of shame" of countries where sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war. Under the constant threat of terrorism and since the ending of the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017, there is a need to continue sensitizing and equipping the security sector of Côte d'Ivoire so there are "zero cases of human rights violations". Also, raising awareness of respect for human rights and international humanitarian law within the security sector is key to preventing the commission of mass atrocities, the event will feature the work and track record of the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces in this respect.

Moderator:

- Dr. Jelena Pia-Comella

Co-sponsors:

- Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice
- Master of Arts in Human Rights
- Minor in Human Rights Studies
- The Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes



About the speaker

Bakari Sidiki Diaby serves as Vice-Chair of the Africa Working Group of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) since April 2021. He is also the General Coordinator of the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces (CADHA). Mr. Diaby has an extensive expertise in human rights and in the prevention of mass atrocities. From 2013 to 2018 he served as Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI). Since 2016, he is the Permanent Secretary of the Network of National Human Rights Institutions of the Member States of the West African Monetary and Economic Union.

Since 2018, he is a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

Human Dignity and Autonomous Weapons

March 22, 2023

A conversation with Dr. Peter Asaro, and Dr. John Kleinig

A discussion about the connection between autonomous weapons systems and robotic police with human rights and international law frameworks.

Moderator:

- Dr. George Andreopoulos

Co-sponsors

- The Institute of Criminal Justice Ethics
- Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice

About the speaker:



Professor Peter Asaro is a philosopher of science, technology and media. He is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Media Studies at The New School, in New York City, and an Affiliate Scholar at Stanford Law School’s Center for Internet and Society. His research focuses on the social, cultural, political, legal and ethical dimensions of automation and autonomous technologies, from a

perspective that combines philosophy, media theory and science and technology studies. He is the co-editor of *Machine Ethics* and *Robot Ethics* (2017), and has written widely-cited papers on autonomous weapons from the perspective of just war theory and human rights, and the legal and moral issues raised by law enforcement robots and predictive policing. He has also developed technologies in the areas of virtual reality, data visualization, human-computer interaction, computer-supported cooperative work, artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, and robotics at the National Center for Supercomputer Applications (NCSA), the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and Iguana Robotics, Inc., and was involved in the design of the natural language interface for the Wolfram|Alpha computational knowledge engine for Wolfram Research. In 2009, Prof. Asaro co-founded the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), which in 2012 joined a coalition of NGOs in the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, where he serves on the steering committee.

About the Discussant



John Kleinig is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Criminal Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and in the PhD Program in Philosophy, Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York. After a year at John Jay on a Fulbright Fellowship (1984-85), he moved to New York from Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia). His broadest interests are in social and moral philosophy, though, since coming to John Jay, he focussed particularly on police ethics and criminal justice ethics. At the Graduate Center he taught courses in social and political philosophy. He retired in 2013, but continues to write.

From 1987- 2011 he was the Director of the Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics (CUNY) and editor of *Criminal Justice Ethics*.

Conversation Series and the CIHR Annual Events

An Ally's Observations on Emerging Indigenous Rights: A conversation with Senator Marilou McPhedran

A conversation series event featuring Senator Marilou McPhedran, human rights lawyer, educator, and activist. A pioneer in human rights education, she was the founding Principal of the University of Winnipeg Global College, and a founding board member of the Global Network of Women Peace builders

Moderator:

- Dr. George Andreopoulos

Co-sponsors

- Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice
- Master of Arts in Human Rights
- Minor in Human Rights Studies

About the speaker



The Honorable Marilou McPhedran is a human rights lawyer, educator, and activist, appointed an independent senator, recommended by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in November 2016. Marilou was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1985 for her contributions as a young lawyer to Canada's constitution-building through her co-leadership in the 1980s of the Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Women on the Constitution - the grassroots social and political movement of women across Canada resulting in stronger equality rights in the constitution. In 1985, to enable

strategic impact litigation for constitutional intersectional equality rights, she co-founded LEAF, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund. A pioneer in human rights education, she was the founding Principal of the University of Winnipeg Global College. A founding board member of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, she facilitates student access to UN sessions to provide practical skill- building in multilateralism.

Is Iran on the Verge of a Revolution?

A conversation with Professor Ervand Abrahamian

November 8th, 2022

A conversation with Professor Ervand Abrahamian, about the widespread protests that have broken out in Iran. These protests are not only widespread and spontaneous, but are also often led by young women—young women who have been raised under the Islamic Republic and have gone through Islamic primary schools, islamic secondary schools, and Islamic colleges and universities.

The crisis raises the obvious question whether these widespread protests will lead to another revolution comparable to that of 1977- 79. The talk focused on similarities and dissimilarities between now and 1977-79.



About the Speaker

Ervand Abrahamian was Distinguished Professor of History at the City University of New York. He is now Professor Emeritus of History at Baruch College and the Graduate Center in the City University of New York. He is the author of: *Iran Between Two Revolutions* (Princeton University Press, 1982); *The Iranian Mojahedin* (Yale University Press, 1989); *Khomeinism* (University of California Press, 1993); *Tortured Confessions: Prisons and Public Recantations in Iran* (University of California Press, 2004);

A History of Modern Iran (Cambridge University Press, 2008); and *The Coup: 1953, The CIA and the Roots of Modern US Iranian Relations* (The New Press, 2013). His books have been translated and published in Persian, Turkish, Arabic, Italian, and Polish. He has recently completed *Oil Crisis in Iran: From Nationalism to Coup d' Etat* (Cambridge University Press, Summer 2021). He is now working on a book on the 1979 revolution. In 2011, he was elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Hope and Perseverance: How Human Rights Defenders Succeed

A conversation with UN Special Rapporteur Mary Lawlor on the situation of human rights defenders

March 29th, 2023

A discussion featuring the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor, during which she addressed her latest report to the UN Human Rights Council and the significance of this 25th anniversary year of the UN Declaration on HRDs, and how States and others can better support and protect the work of HRDs.

Co-sponsors:

- Master of Arts in International Crime and Justice

About the Speaker



Ms. Mary Lawlor, from Dublin, Ireland, has worked with human rights defenders for over twenty years, and has been engaged in human rights work for double that.

She took up the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defender on 1 May 2020, following the Human Rights Council decision 43/115. Ms. Lawlor is currently an Adjunct Professor of Business

and Human Rights in the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI), School of Business, Trinity College Dublin. She is a member of the Advisory Board of both the School of Business of Trinity and the Centre for Ethics in Public Life, School of Philosophy, University College Dublin. In 2001 she founded Front Line Defenders to concentrate on human rights defenders at risk. As Executive Director from 2001-2016, Ms. Lawlor represented Front Line Defenders and had a key role in its development. Ms. Lawlor was previously the Director of the Irish Section of Amnesty International from 1988 to 2000, after becoming a Board member in 1975 and being elected Chair from 1983 to 1987. She has a BA in Philosophy and postgraduate degrees in Montessori Teaching and Personnel Management. Among her awards are the French insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, the Franco-German Award for Human Rights and the Rule of Law and, more recently, the Irish Red Cross Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Mary Lawlor was also awarded Honorary Doctorates in Law from University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin.

Annual Events:

The CIHR continued its long-standing tradition of holding events in celebration of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December and International Women's Day in March.

The Post-Roe Era: What's Next for the Right to Privacy: Issues and Challenge December 8th, 2022

In honor of the UDHR, the CIHR hosted a panel discussion on the Post-Roe era, which is fraught with challenges for the protection and promotion of women's rights and human rights. Our panel critically examined some of the key issues and challenges emerging from the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe, and in particular its impact on sexual/reproductive rights and related rights both in the US and abroad. The questions that our speakers addressed included:

- *What is the impact that decisions such as overturning Roe can have on Foreign Aid?*
- *How are freedom of speech and association affected by this decision?*
- *How the overturn of a Constitutional right can set a precedent for overturning other Constitution rights, such as the right to marry? What are the global ramifications to the overturn of Roe v. Wade ?*

About the speakers



Katy Mayall is a human rights lawyer and the Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Legal Strategies, Innovation and Research Department at the Center for Reproductive Rights. Katherine works to develop guiding legal principles on key aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights; oversees research initiatives, such as the World Abortion Laws Map; and helps create innovations in using the power of the law towards the

realization of women’s and girls’ reproductive rights across the globe. From 2017-2019, Katherine served as the Center’s Director of Capacity Building, overseeing a \$3.5 million euro grant to advance legal networks, technical assistance, and capacity building. Katherine received her J.D. from Fordham Law School and has a B.S. in communications from Boston University. As a leading authority on abortion law and policy worldwide, she has been published in Harvard’s Health and Human Rights Journal, Reproductive Health, and International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health.



Kason Pierceson is Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois Springfield. His teaching and research focus on public law, the legal and political issues relating to sexuality and gender, and political and legal theory. He is the author or co-author of several books, mostly recently *Before Bostock: The Accidental LGBTQ Precedent of Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*. His commentary has appeared in such media outlets as NPR, Reuters, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Associated Press, and NBC News



Elena Sarver is a Senior Legal Advisor at the Global Justice Center (GJC), an international human rights organization that promotes gender equality with a focus on reproductive rights and justice for sexual and gender-based violence. Elena supports the legal program at GJC through research, analysis, and advocacy. Elena holds a J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she participated in the Human Rights and Atrocity Prevention Clinic and the Innocence Project. Elena received her B.A. in Political Science from Macalester College and studied abroad in Egypt at the American University in Cairo.

About the moderator



Jelena Pia-Comella is an Adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, member of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), and faculty member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Ms. Pia-Comella is the President of the Board of Directors of SOS-Torture/Burundi and board member and treasurer of Global Justice Center. Additionally, she is a member of the African Coordination of Human

Rights for the Armed Forces (CADHA) and the Women Network on the Responsibility (CADHA) and the Women Network on the Responsibility to Protect, Peace and Security of the British Academy for the humanities and social sciences of Leeds University. Ms. Pia-Comella holds a Master’s Degree in International Political Economy and Development from Fordham University, New York and a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from Fribourg University, Switzerland.

The Climate-Conflict Nexus and Gender- Based Violence

March 7th, 2022

To commemorate this year’s International Women’s Day, the Center for International Human Rights organized a panel discussion to analyze the nexus between climate change and conflict and its relation to sexual and gender-based violence. Some of the key focal issues to be addressed include:

- *How climate change exacerbates existing States’ economic and political fragilities as well as existing structural and systematic discrimination against women?*
- *How humanitarian aid needs to adapt to a conflict context where access to affected communities has been further restricted and women have been excluded from any post-conflict resolution*
- *What are some examples of frameworks and initiatives of female-led conflict resolution and post-conflict resilience highlighting the transformative potential of female agency.*

About the speakers



Richard Matthew (PhD Princeton) is a Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at the University of California at Irvine and Director of the Blum Center for Poverty Alleviation. He is also a Senior Fellow at the International Institute for Sustainable Development; a member of the United Nations Expert Group on Environment, Conflict and

Peacebuilding; a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy and co-chair of its Task Force on Conservation, Migration and Conflict; and Vice-President

of the Environmental Peacebuilding Association. He was recently appointed Research Director of Climate Change and Security for the University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. His research covers three areas: developing high resolution flood risk models; examining links among environmental change, violent conflict, public health and migration; and developing solutions to human trafficking. Over the past twenty-five years, he has done extensive fieldwork in conflict and disaster zones in Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone. He has served on UN humanitarian and peacebuilding missions in DR Congo, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.



Senator Rosa Galvez, is one of Canada’s leading experts in pollution control and its effect on human health. She has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from McGill University and has been a professor at Université Laval à Québec since 1994, heading the Civil and Water Engineering Department from 2010 to 2016. She specializes in water and soil decontamination, waste management and residues, and environmental impact and risk assessment. Senator Galvez is a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and Engineers Without Borders. Her research has led her around the world

to countries such as France, Italy, Belgium, Japan and China. Senator Galvez was appointed to the Senate on December 6, 2016, representing Québec.



Karen S. Gomez Dumpit is a Former Commissioner of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP). She has served the Philippine Government for 32 years with over 28 years in human rights advocacy. Karen has worked towards the passage and implementation of laws including the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, Law Prohibiting the imposition of the Death Penalty, International Humanitarian Law Bill, Anti-Torture Act, Human Security Act, and Recognition & Reparation of Martial Law Victims, Laws addressing Gender-based violence including the Safe

Spaces Act, among others. She continues her human rights work with civil society organizations such as the Coalition against the Death Penalty, the Philippine Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism, and the Human Rights People Empowerment Center. She currently serves as a Senior Professional Lecturer at the Political Science department of De La Salle University. Karen finished her AB Communication Arts degree at DLSU and earned Master in Public Management from the Development Academy of the Philippines and Master of Science in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Dr. Marisa O. Ensor is an environmental security specialist with a background in the human dimensions of Environmental Change (including Climate Change), Disasters, Conflict, and Displacement. Combining science and rights-based approaches, her work examines inter-sectional gender, youth, and Indigenous perspectives on human-nature interactions. Dr. Ensor is currently based at Georgetown University where she teaches

courses on Conflict Analysis and Transformation, Peace-building, and Research Methodologies. She is also the current Chair of the Gender Interest Working Group of the Environmental Peace building Association. As an international consultant and applied researcher, Dr. Ensor has lived and worked in over 25 conflict-affected and environmentally fragile countries of Africa, Asia, Europe, the MENA region, and Latin America. She has consulted with various UN agencies (UN Women, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR), the Economic and Social Research Council, USAID, and the United States Institute of Peace. She is currently co-leading a multi-disciplinary project on the gender-climate-security nexus in 5 countries across the world, focusing on the identification of context-specific solutions. Her research has resulted in numerous publications including five books, over 50 book chapters and journal articles, and dozens of technical and policy-oriented reports. She holds MA and PhD degrees in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Florida, a Graduate Certificate in Migration and Refugee Studies from the University of Oxford, UK, and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, UK.

About the moderator



Professor Patricia Tovar has a Ph.D. in Anthropology, an MA in Applied Anthropology from CCNY, and a BA from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. She was a Distinguished Fellow at the Advanced Research Collaborative at the CUNY GC (Fall 2014). She has been teaching anthropology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice since 2008, and at the Graduate Center since 2015. Before, she was a faculty member in the Political Science Department at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá. Until 2006 she was the head of the Social Anthropology Section and a researcher in the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History. She has

conducted research on women and armed conflict, human rights, displaced populations, and on the inequalities in gender and science; and published extensively on these topics. She is the author of the books: “The Widows of the Armed Conflict in Colombia” and “Family, Gender and Anthropology in Colombia.” Her current research is about women explorers and travelers during the Age of Discovery, and the role of women during the Spanish Conquest. She has conducted fieldwork in Colombia, Ecuador, Portugal, and the United States, and her anthropological work has taken her to many places around the world. Recently she ended her term as elected treasurer of the Latin American Studies Association, LASA.

Co-Hosted and Co-Sponsored Events

Book talk with Author Dr. Ani Manukyan

October 25th, 2022

Organized by the Master of Arts in International Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Speaker:

- **Dr. Ani Manukyan**, PhD in English Teaching Methodology

The law during armed conflict: Case studies and realities from the field

November 7th, 2022

Organized by the Master of Arts in International Crime and Justice

Speaker:

- **Paul L. Baker**, Senior Armed Force Delegate for the ICRC

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team during the 2022-2023 academic year and whose contribution made all the above possible:

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