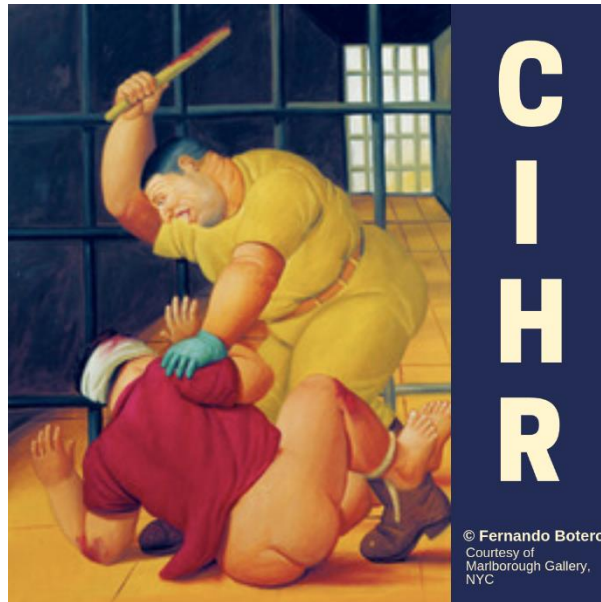


Center for International Human Rights (CIHR)

Annual Report 2021-2022



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 2021 – 2022 academic year.

Annual Theme

Each academic year, the CIHR identifies a theme around which we design research projects and organize events. Our theme for this year was “Religion, Secularism, and Human Rights,” the relationship between which constitutes a highly complex and controversial topic. On the one hand, religion has always posed a challenge to claims that human rights constitute a universal discourse of human emancipation; the global reach of religious fundamentalism, especially, but not exclusively, in the context of the 'global war on terror' has accentuated this challenge in many issue areas, including women's rights, minority rights, freedom to choose one's own religion, civic participation, the debate on non-traditional family values, and demands for social justice. On the other hand, there is a growing contingent of people who argue that the realm of human rights has been dominated by western ideas and concepts. Some analysts have even argued that the human rights discourse is reflective of 'secular fundamentalism' and, as a result, it has sought to marginalize religious-based alternative discourses seeking justice and inclusive social orders. In selecting this as our theme for the 2021-2022 academic year, the CIHR sought to explore this complex topic from a variety of angles ranging from looking at country-specific case studies, to comparing regional perspectives on religion/secularism, and to taking a more philosophical approach in addressing the nature and use/abuse of religious discourses and their potential effects on the adherence to human rights norms and standards.

Research and Initiatives

The CIHR kicked off the 2020-2021 academic year with the launch of the Transatlantic Forum, a joint undertaking with the Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin. As part of this initiative, we hosted a series of events with experts from around the world focusing on the human rights challenges catalyzed by new technological and societal developments. The accompanying papers for each of these events can be found on our website (and are also linked in the event listings within this report), and at some point during the 2022-2023 academic year we plan to hold a research workshop wherein these issues can be explored in further depth. A description of the initiative itself can be found below, and the list of all Transatlantic Forum events 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:

- How has the erosion of the liberal international order affected human rights?*
- Advantages and shortcomings of current models of human rights advocacy.*
- What can the human rights discourse learn from 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 have been developing training modules on digital literacy, international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) that will be used to train Filipino human rights advocates and activists working in the field. 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 are

currently in the process of seeking grant funding for this endeavor and will continue this project into the next academic year. This grant initiative builds on the Center's earlier work on the subject; more specifically, on last year's report on the [Closing of Civic Space in the Philippines](#) co-authored by Prof. George Andreopoulos, Prof. Nerve Macaspac and Efim Galkin which was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council, and on an article entitled "[Whole-of-Nation Approach to Counterinsurgency and the Closing of Civic Space in the Philippines](#)" (by the same authors), published in *global-e*.

Finally, the members of our AI team—led by visiting scholars Dr. Marie-Michelle Strah and Dr. Carsten Momsen—continued performing research and hosting events centered on the intersection of human rights and artificial intelligence, which was our theme from the prior academic year. Dr. Momsen authored and published the following two white papers on the topic:

[Implications and Limitations of the Use of AI in Criminal Justice in Germany](#). November 2021. Carsten Momsen, Ph.D. Freie Universität Berlin and Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

[Digital Evidence and Criminal Defense: How International Standards Apply in German Criminal Proceedings](#). January 2022. Carsten Momsen, Ph.D. Freie Universität Berlin and Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Our AI team also published a series of posts on our Medium [blog](#), which serves as an interactive platform for CIHR research assistants, visiting scholars, and guest writers to explore emerging digital threats and other relevant human rights issues. The topics covered included privacy issues concerning the use of encrypted messaging in police investigations, an analysis of a humanoid robot's announcement that she wants to procreate, and the human rights implications of the current and potential future uses of autonomous robot dogs as surveillance tools.

Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Lectures

Transatlantic Forum Series Events

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

October 26th, 2021

Violent protests and riots are as old as their causes. And yet, the violent protests of today's world have evolved and adapted to new technologies: boundaries between the public and private are elastic, distance is relative, hierarchy can be established quickly and movements coordinated effectively. Contagion is the fuel. In his presentation, Alexander Heinze investigates whether the criminal law and human rights protections are appropriately equipped to deal with mob violence. He focuses especially on those who encourage mob violence or coordinate it, by

answering two questions: First, whether the laws in three selected jurisdictions – the USA (both on the federal and the state level), England and Wales, and Germany – are suitable de lege lata to address violent riots that are incited, supported and organised through social media. It will become apparent that the freedom of speech and assembly – constitutionally protected in all three jurisdictions – pose very noticeable restraints on every attempt by legislators to regulate speech acts that lead to rioting and other collective violence. The second question concerns the organisation and planning of riots and examines whether a person who does not take part in the riot but provides detailed instructions as to its planning and organisation can be criminally liable. In essence, Alexander Heinze will argue that criminal laws regulating speech that encourages or even directs mob violence must be tailored to the peculiarities of group violence. The accompanying paper can be accessed [here](#).

Speaker:

- **Dr. Alexander Heinze, LL.M.**, Assistant Professor at the Georg-August-University of Göttingen

Discussant:

- **Marie-Michelle Strah, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of International Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

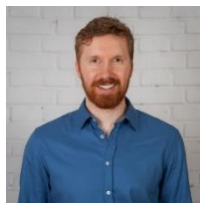
Co-Organizer:

- The Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin

Co-Sponsors:

- Doctoral Program in Criminal Justice at John Jay College
- International Crime and Justice M.A. Program at John Jay College

About the Speaker



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.

About the Discussant



Dr. Marie-Michelle Strah is an adjunct professor teaching in the International Criminal Justice program at CUNY John Jay College. She is also currently a Visiting Scholar in the John Jay Center for International Human Rights in artificial intelligence. Dr. Strah is a US Army veteran and holds a PhD from Cornell University as well as an MA and Advanced Certificate in Transnational Organized Crime from John Jay College. She has over 20 years' experience in cybersecurity, cybercrime, digital transformation, data security, governance and compliance for public and private sector entities worldwide. After her military service, Dr. Strah held global leadership roles specializing in highly regulated industries with General Dynamics, Microsoft and NBCUniversal and has provided executive and cabinet level advisory services on cybersecurity and cybercrime prevention. She is a recognized expert in the field of disinformation and the terror-crime nexus. Her current research covers disinformation and financial fraud, cyber-enabled crimes, and the ethics of artificial intelligence in international crime and justice. In 2021, Dr. Strah won a Digital Innovation Faculty Award for novel coursework on Disinformation and Cybercrime, emphasizing the role of international human rights law in computational propaganda and political violence. In addition, she was named John Jay College's Online Faculty Fellow for 2021-2022 working with faculty across the college to drive innovative learning opportunities and accessibility for student retention, engagement and success.

Freedom from Systemic Official Corruption: A Human Right?

November 10th, 2021

Corruption has long been understood as a means by which other, widely-recognized rights are violated. But should we understand corruption as itself a free-standing rights violation? Might the freedom from systemic corruption be best understood as a human right? Prof. Spalding will argue that the freedom from systemic corruption is indeed among the very strongest candidates for a truly cross-cultural human right, and that recognizing it as such would significantly alter global anti-corruption enforcement.

The accompanying paper can be accessed [here](#)

Speaker:

- **Professor Andy Spalding**, University of Richmond School of Law

Discussant:

- **Yuliya Zabyelina, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of International Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Co-Organizer:

- The Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin

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About the Speaker



Professor Andy Spalding teaches and writes in the area of international anti-corruption law. He is a member of the Frequent Visiting Faculty at the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in Austria, Senior Editor of the FCPA Blog, and was the founding president of the American Society of International Law's Anti-Corruption Interest Group. As Chair of the Olympics Compliance Task Force, Professor Spalding collaborates with a team of international academics and practitioners, and with the International Olympic Committee, to design and promote Olympic host-country anti-corruption and human rights measures.

About the Discussant



Yuliya Zabyelina is an Associate Professor with teaching and service in the BA program in International Criminal Justice (ICJ), MA program in International Crime & Justice (IC&J), and the Advanced Certificate in Transnational Organized Crime Studies (ACTOCS). She holds a Ph.D. degree in International Studies/*Transcrime* from the University of Trento, Italy, where she studied the role of state failure in furthering opportunities for transnational organized crime. Dr. Zabyelina's research covers various forms of transnational organized crime and corruption and the existing domestic, regional and global mechanisms for their prevention and control. Despite her research predominantly focusing on topics of global importance, Dr. Zabyelina is also interested in politics and security in countries of the former Soviet Union, mainly Ukraine and Russia. Before moving to the United States, Dr. Zabyelina held a postdoctoral position at the University of Edinburgh School of Law and lectured at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. She has also worked as a consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the E4J teaching modules on organized crime and E4J teaching modules on anti-corruption and has taught at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (Germany). In April 2021, she started her two-year tenure as Chair of the International Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS IS). She has also served as the ACJS Alternate Representative to the United Nations since 2019.

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

December 1st, 2021

There is no doubt that a state has the duty to protect its citizens. The question is whether the citizens can demand the provision of security from the state based on a right to security. This presentation addresses the question by examining the existence of a (universal) right to security (of person) from a European and German perspective. In analysing the German Constitution, the European Convention of Human Rights, and the EU Charter of Fundamental Freedoms it is found that only in the interpretation of the European Court of Justice of the latter the development of a right to security is suggested. Based on this, the (possible) content of a

universal right to security anchored in European human rights law is depicted and the consequences are critically evaluated to answer the question whether providing security is or should be a human rights challenge.

The accompanying paper can be accessed [here](#).

Speaker:

- **Anneke Petzsche, Ph.D.**, Lecturer in Law and Senior Researcher at Humboldt-University, Berlin

Discussant:

- **Lucia Zedner, Ph.D.**, Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, and Professor of Criminal Justice in the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford

Co-Organizer:

- The Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin

Co-Sponsors:

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- International Crime and Justice M.A. Program at John Jay College

About the Speaker



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).

About the Discussant



Lucia Zedner is a Senior Research Fellow in Law at All Souls College, Oxford, Professor of Criminal Justice in the Faculty of Law, and a member of the Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford. She is a Fellow of The British Academy and an Overseas Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She took her DPhil and held a Prize Research Fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford. From 1989-1994, she was a Lecturer in Law at the London School of Economics and, from 1994-2016, she was a Law Fellow at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where she became a professor in 2005. Her research interests lie primarily in the fields of criminal law and criminal justice, security, counter-terrorism, immigration control, and citizenship. She has published many articles and chapters in these fields. More recent books include *Security* (Routledge Key Ideas in Criminology, 2009); *Preventive Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2014, ppb. 2015) with Andrew

Ashworth; and *Changing Contours of Criminal Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2016), edited with Mary Bosworth & Carolyn Hoyle. Her current research examines the state-citizen relationship to ask what grounds state authority to exercise police power over citizens and non-citizens? What protections are due to individuals against coercive state power? And in what ways is citizenship rendered conditional on compliance?

(Un-)knowing the Human in Biometric Surveillance: Thoughts on Uncertainty, Ignorance, and Rights

March 23rd, 2022

Biometric technologies, measuring physical and behavioural traits of individuals and groups, are increasingly central to safety and security in society, impacting on people and public life. These technologies produce, define, and prioritise certain knowledge about humans. As surveillance technologies, they collect data from individuals, but agglomerate and analyse these data by creating categories of characteristics. These abstracted data are then re-applied to individuals. However, the underlying processes of making identities (knowable) – and what remains/becomes unknown – are not well understood by users, publics, policy makers, and thus remain heavily contested. This scoping talk reflects on knowledge-making processes in biometric surveillance, and explores themes of uncertainty, expectations, and ignorance in such processes. The talk aims to present one epistemological starting point for the discussion and development of biometric human rights.

Speaker:

- **Matthias Wienroth, Ph.D.**, Senior Fellow in Social Studies of Crime and Policing, Northumbria University

Discussant:

- **Marie-Michelle Strah, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of International Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Co-Organizer:

- The Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin

Co-Sponsors:

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About the Speaker



Dr. Wienroth is a Senior Fellow at Northumbria University, where his work on studying science and technology as social practices seeks to answer the questions of “*how can technology contribute to the 'good society'?*” and “*what does 'good society' even mean?*” He is particularly interested in how technologies shape the ways we know and (un)know human beings and relationships, individuals, communities and society. The fields he primarily studies this in are security & justice (forensics and biometrics), and human health. His work has been published in many peer-reviewed journals, including *BioSocieties*, the *British Journal for the History of Science*, *Forensic Science Review*, *Minerva*, *Leonardo*, *New Genetics & Society*, *Sociology of Health & Illness*, and others. He has edited books for Routledge and IOS Press, and regularly peer-review journal articles and grant proposals. He was part of the multi-national FP7 Network of Excellence EUROFORGEN, and is a founding member of the interdisciplinary scientific initiative on new and emerging forensic genetics technologies WIE-DNA (Germany) and of the global network STS MIGTEC (Science and Technology Studies of Migration and Technologies). He is also a member of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for Studies of Science and Technology (EASST). Since 2015, Dr. Wienroth has been building an interdisciplinary and international network for the Social Studies of Forensic Science. Prior to joining the Centre for Crime and Policing, he was a Senior Research Associate at the Policy, Ethics & Life Sciences Research Centre, Newcastle University, and previously also worked as researcher at the Universities of Durham and Edinburgh, and King's College London.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: A Threat to Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

April 27th, 2022

Sexual and gender-based violence against women is rooted in systematic and systemic discrimination of women’s human rights. It is a direct consequence of gross violations of women’s rights and these violations are further exacerbated during times of armed conflict. This erosion, violation of women’s rights, and gender inequality are clear precursors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as mass atrocity crimes: genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. While key landmark normative benchmarks have been accomplished over the decades to equip international law to promote women’s rights and gender justice, the prevalence of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence calls for a recalibration of gender-power dynamics and an elimination of the impunity gap for these heinous crimes. It is time to join forces and advocate for leadership that has the will to move from commitments and declarations to real action towards gender justice. A gender justice framework rooted in a feminist and human-rights-based prevention approach.

The accompanying paper can be accessed [here](#).

Speaker:

- **Jelena Pia-Comella**, Adjunct Lecturer, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Discussant:

- **Akila Radhakrishnan**, President of the Global Justice Center

Co-Organizer:

- The Department of Comparative Criminal Law, Criminal Procedural Law and Corporate Criminal Law at the Free University of Berlin

Co-Sponsors:

- Doctoral Program in Criminal Justice at John Jay College
- International Crime and Justice M.A. Program at John Jay College

About the Speaker



Jelena Pia-Comella is a senior consultant with 25 years of experience in international relations and a deep knowledge of the United Nations system. Throughout her career, Ms. Pia-Comella has been true to her feminist principles by promoting women's rights, strengthening women's leadership, and supporting the work of activists in the fields of mass atrocities prevention and gender justice. 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. Ms. Pia-Comella participated in the Conferences and negotiations that set new standards in international human rights, international humanitarian law and international criminal law such as the Rome Statute and the Responsibility to Protect norm. Ms. Pia-Comella was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative of Andorra to the United Nations in 2002 and served as chargé d'affaires a.i./Chief of Mission to Canada and the United States from 2001 to 2007. Upon leaving the Andorran diplomatic service, Ms. Pia-Comella shifted her career to transfer her knowledge and skills to the service of activism. From January to June 2008, she was a consultant for the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Women's Environment and Development Organization to coordinate the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign (GEAR) which led to the creation of UNWomen. Until July 2018, she was the Deputy Executive Director of the World Federalist Movement – Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) setting the strategy and overseeing the work of the Organization including the secretariats of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Ms. Pia-Comella served as adviser on gender, peace and security issues for the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie from June 2019 to August 2021. Currently, Ms. Pia-Comella is the Managing Coordinator of the Support Office of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC), adjunct lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and faculty member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). 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, Ms. Pia-Comella is a member of the African Coordination of Human Rights for the Armed Forces (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. Ms. Pia-Comella is fluent in English, French, Catalan, and Spanish.

About the Discussant



Akila Radhakrishnan is the President of the Global Justice Center, where she leads its work to achieve gender equality and human rights. In her time at GJC, 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. She has briefed the United Nations Security Council and the United Kingdom and European Parliaments, and regularly advises governments and multilateral institutions on issues of gender equality and human rights. Akila's expert analysis can also be seen across popular media, including in The New York Times, The Washington Post, BBC, The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, CNN, and more. Prior to the Global Justice Center, she worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, DPK Consulting, and Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP. Akila received her J.D. with a concentration in international law from the University of California, Hastings and holds a B.A. in Political Science and Art History from the University of California, Davis. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, serves on the Board of Directors of Reprieve US, is a member of the Oxford Group of Practitioners on Fact-Finding and Accountability, and an expert on the International Bar Association Human Rights Law Committee.

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.

Climate Change and Displacement: Issues and Responses

December 7th, 2021

In honor of the UDHR, the CIHR hosted a panel discussion on climate change and the global effects of climate-driven displacement and migration. The questions that our speakers addressed included:

- What are the causes/drivers of climate change?*
- Which populations/groups of people and areas are or will be most affected by climate change?*
- How does climate change affect the notion of statehood and citizenship?*
- What are the roles of different sectors (public, private, etc.) in addressing climate change and displacement?*
- What are the sustainable and durable solutions for people displaced as a result of climate change?*
- What can a human rights perspective offer to this issue?*

Speakers:

- **Alex de Sherbinin, Ph.D.**, Associate Director for Science Applications and a Senior Research at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)
- **Pia Oberoi, Ph.D.**, Senior Advisor on Migration and Human Rights for the Asia Pacific Region, OHCHR
- **Scott Leckie**, International Human Rights Lawyer and Director and Founder of Displacement Solutions
- **Susan F. Martin, Ph.D.**, Donald G. Herzberg Professor Emerita of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University
- **Duygu Çiçek**, Legal Consultant at the World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency, Environment & International Law Practice Group

Moderator:

- **George Andreopoulos, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York and Director of the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

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About the Speakers



Alex de Sherbinin is the Associate Director for Science Applications and a Senior Research Scientist at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), an environmental data and analysis center within the Climate School at Columbia University. Dr. de Sherbinin is an expert on climate vulnerability mapping and climate-related mobility (migration, displacement, and resettlement). He leads the Climate School's

Climate Mobility Network and the modeling team for the World Bank's Groundswell report series, and has led authored articles in Science, Scientific American, Climatic Change, WIRES Climate Change, The Geographical Review, and Environmental Research Letters. He holds a master's degree in geography from Syracuse University (USA) and a PhD in geo-information science from ITC-University of Twente (Netherlands).



Dr. Pia Oberoi is Senior Advisor on Migration and Human Rights for the Asia Pacific Region based in the Bangkok office of the United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR) where she is responsible for developing and implementing research and policy on migration and human rights in the region. Previous to this function, she was the head of the migration team at UN Human Rights headquarters in Geneva, where she led the Office's global

work on policy and legal issues related to the human rights of migrants and the intersections between migration and human rights. Before that, she headed the migrants' rights work of Amnesty International's International Secretariat, and has been an expert consultant on migration, refugee and human rights issues for NGOs and policy think tanks around the world.

Pia has published and lectured extensively on migration and human rights and holds a DPhil in International Relations from St Antony's College, Oxford University.



Scott A. Leckie is an international human rights lawyer and Director and Founder of Displacement Solutions a global not-for-profit NGO dedicated to resolving displacement generated by global warming and climate change. (<http://www.displacementsolutions.org>). He also founded Oneness World Foundation (<http://www.onenessworld.org>), a research think tank exploring questions of world-centric political evolution and new forms of global governance and world citizenship. He manages the One House, One Family

initiative, a project in Bangladesh building homes for climate displaced families. His interventions have helped to protect 100,000s of people against planned forced evictions in popular communities in the Dominican Republic, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Zambia and elsewhere, restore the HLP restitution rights to tens of thousands of refugees and IDPs in Kosovo, Georgia, Timor Leste, Myanmar, Albania and beyond, led to the recognition of the HLP rights of communities threatened with displacement due to climate change, generated the creation of numerous new UN institutions, standards and Special Rapporteurs and assisted in the fundamentally reshaping and strengthening of HLP rights under human rights law. He has established several international human rights organizations and institutions and worked on human rights projects in more than 80 countries. He is a world citizen, grows 50+ varieties of vegetables and herbs, plants at least ten trees a year, tries to travel somewhere monthly not by plane, cooks daily, and loves, lives on and is entirely dependent upon planet Earth - just like you.



Susan Martin is the Donald G. Herzberg Professor Emerita of International Migration in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She also serves as a non-resident fellow at the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at the New School. She was the founder and director of Georgetown's Institute for the Study of International Migration and chaired the Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration for the Knowledge Partnership in Migration and Development (KNOMAD) at the World Bank. Prior to joining

Georgetown's faculty, Dr. Martin was the Executive Director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, which was mandated by statute to advise the President and Congress on U.S. immigration and refugee policy. She received her PhD in the History of American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Martin has authored or edited a dozen books and numerous articles and book chapters. She serves on the boards of Jesuit Refugee Service USA and the Center for Migration Studies.



Duygu Çiçek is a Turkish lawyer and currently works as a legal consultant at the World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency, Environment & International Law Practice Group. As part of her role, she provides legal and operational advice to address environmental, social, and international law issues pertaining to World Bank projects. Her areas of focus include climate change, environment, labor and work conditions, gender and non-discrimination, and projects on international waterways. Previously, she worked with Advocates Abroad, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe. She has a B.A. in Law from Koç University (2015), LL.M. in Human Rights from the University of Edinburgh (2016), and an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from the George Washington University (2018). She serves as a member of the International Law Association International Law and Sea Level Rise Committee. Her scholarly work covers issues including the legal aspects of climate change and sea level rise, forced displacement and migration, development, and human rights.

Women and Witchcraft: The Gendered Nature of Witchcraft-Related Violence

March 10th, 2022

A panel discussion in honor of International Women's Day and addressing the gendered effects caused by witchcraft-related violence and accusations both in historical and modern-day contexts. Some of the focal questions addressed by the speakers included:

- What makes this a women's issue? Has this changed over time?*
- How are witchcraft and human rights related? How does the international legal framework address this issue? What are the challenges that cultural relativism poses?*
- Many people think of witchcraft accusations and subsequent witch trials as a relic of the past, but it is obviously still a major issue in the modern-day. In which locales/cultures is this most prevalent and why? Which populations/demographics/minority groups are typically targeted by accusations of witchcraft?*
- Are accusations of witchcraft in the modern-day more often sincere/in good faith or a tool for ostracization/scapegoating/persecution? In the case of the latter, are there contexts in which this is used more frequently?*
- What actually happens to a person once they have been accused of practicing witchcraft? What are the long-term effects for someone who has been accused?*

Speakers:

- **Allison Kavey, Ph.D.**, Professor of History at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
- **Maakor Quarmyne, J.D.**, Legal Advocate and Compliance Professional

Moderator:

- **Gohar Petrossian, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Program Director at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

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- Minor in Human Rights Studies at John Jay College

About the Speakers



Allison Kavey is a professor in the History Department at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center. She is also coordinator of the interdisciplinary program Humanities and Justice. She has a doctorate in early modern history of science and medicine from Johns Hopkins. Her research interests include natural magic, alchemy, the idea of secrecy in popular natural philosophy, Frankenstein, and Peter Pan. She is currently working on a book about Agrippa von Nettesheim's *De Occulta Philosophia Libri Tres* (1509/1531).



Maakor Quarmyne is a Ghanaian-American legal and compliance professional with over 15 years plus+ of extensive analytical, research and investigative skills in diverse public service roles across the United States. She is a Licensed Attorney with a Juris Doctor (JD) from the William and Mary School of Law and a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in International Business from James Madison University - Virginia. Her first incite and introduction to the subject of women and witchcraft accusations was through a casual

conversation with her mother sometime in 2010, regarding this gender-based violence problem happening across northern Ghana. This then led to the successful note publication, "Witchcraft: A Human Rights Conflict Between Customary/Traditional Laws and the Legal Protection of Women in Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa," while in law school for its Journal of Women and the Law. Ten years later, through another chance encounter with French-German photographer Ann-Christine Woerhl, she assisted with providing text for the 2021 portrait series book, *Witches in Exile*, highlighting and documenting information of accused women in so-called witch camps/shelters (Gushegu and Gambaga) in Ghana. Consequently, the "Witches" in exile project has ignited a passion not only to be a voice for the marginalized and vulnerable women of the witch camps, but also take concrete steps in finding a permanent solution to make this issue obsolete. As a result, apart from recent fund-raising efforts in visiting and supporting the women of Gushegu witch camp, Maakor Quarmyne is currently advocating for better legal and social policies with direct stakeholders on the ground such as the Sanneh Institute - Ghana, as well as assisting some Members of Parliament introduce a draft private bill to amend their criminal offence laws and include witchcraft accusations as a crime. She resides in Los Angeles, California and currently works as a Project Manager/Senior Consultant, assisting LA Metro with contracts compliance matters affecting disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) on its large-scale transportation projects.

Conversation Series and Panel Discussions

Promoting Human Rights in Closed, Isolated “Worst Case” Situations: The Case of North Korea

February 9th, 2022

North Korea (the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea) is the 21st century version of the 19th century "Hermit Kingdom" whose socio-political system is a unique fusion of Stalinist totalitarianism and Korean feudalism. While the DPRK has limited diplomatic relations, it has strenuously sought to isolate its population from the outside world. How is it possible to document the human rights situation there, and promote the acceptance and observance of international standards?

Speaker:

- **David Hawk**, Human Rights Activist and Adjunct Lecturer

Moderator:

- **George Andreopoulos, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York and Director of the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

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About the Speaker



David Hawk was a student leader in the opposition to the war in Vietnam, a former Executive Director of Amnesty International, USA, and a former UN human rights official, having been the Cambodia Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and director of the UN Human Rights Office in Cambodia. He has written path-breaking reports on human rights issues---most notably on genocide in Cambodia, massacres in Rwanda, and crimes against humanity in North Korea---and worked on humanitarian aid projects for Indochina refugees, and landmine/UXO survivors in Vietnam. Hawk has taught human rights and international affairs at Hunter College, CUNY and University of South Florida (Tampa). On North Korea, Hawk researched and authored *Hidden Gulag: Exposing Prison Camps in North Korea*, *The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's "An-jeon-bu" Prison Camps*, and several other prison camp reports for the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea. Other reports on Korea included *Concentrations of Inhumanity: An Analysis of the Phenomena of Repression Associated with North Korea's Political Prison Camps* (Freedom House) and *Pursuing Peace While Advancing Rights: The Untried Approach to North Korea* (U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS). His most recent report, *Human Rights in North Korea: The Role of the United Nations* was published in 2021.

Hope, History and Human Rights: Lessons from the Front Lines

March 16th, 2022

A conversation series event about lessons learned from a career spent working on the front lines of human rights advocacy and policy.

Speaker:

- **William F. Schulz**, Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Moderator:

- **George Andreopoulos, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York and Director of the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

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- Human Rights M.A. Program, John Jay College
- Minor in Human Rights, John Jay College

About the Speaker



William F. Schulz served as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA for twelve years. After leaving Amnesty, he held the position of Senior Fellow for Human Rights at the Center for American Progress; taught human rights at NYU and served as President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. He is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister and is currently a Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is the author or editor of seven books on human rights, including his most recent from Harvard University Press (co-authored with Sushma Raman) entitled *The Coming Good Society: Why New Realities Demand New Rights*. A memoir of his Amnesty years will be published this fall by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Vaccine Mandates: The Balance Between State Responsibility and Human Rights

March 30th, 2022

Over the last couple of years, the introduction of the COVID vaccine has brought attention to the relationship between the freedom of choice and the common good. Where is the line drawn between issues of civil liberties and those of public health? While a mandate excludes freedom of choice, the policies have shown how it leads to more freedoms for the individual in the context of the ongoing pandemic. Given current circumstances, what is the role of the state and how can it navigate individual choice in the context of the common good?

Speakers:

- **Yaqiu Wang**, Senior Researcher on China at Human Rights Watch
- **Ines Stasa**, Ph.D. Candidate at Epoka University

Moderator:

- **Rosemary Barberet, Ph.D.**, Professor of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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About the Speakers



Yaqiu Wang (pronounced ya-cho) is a senior researcher on China at Human Rights Watch, working on issues including internet censorship, freedom of expression, protection of civil society and human rights defenders, and women's rights. Wang was born and grew up in China and has a MA degree in International Affairs from George Washington University. Her articles have appeared in Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, The Washington Post, and elsewhere. She has provided commentary to the BBC, CNN, the New York Times and others. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Wang worked for the Committee to Protect Journalists.



Ines Stasa is currently completing her Ph.D. thesis on transitional justice at Epoka University in Albania and has published and presented on transitional justice, the responsibility to protect, liberal international order, and the politics of gender justice.

About the Moderator



Dr. Rosemary Barberet is a professor in the John Jay Sociology Department with teaching and service in International Criminal Justice. A native of Connecticut and trained in criminology in the United States (PhD, University of Maryland, 1994), she commenced her academic career in Europe (Spain and England). Dr. Barberet's publications have dealt with self-reported youth crime, women and crime, crime indicators, comparative methodology and victimology. Her presentations and guest lectures span two continents, three languages and have been delivered to public service professionals (police officers, judges and court employees, women's associations) as well as to academic colleagues. From 2001-2005 she chaired the International Division of the American Society of Criminology. She is actively involved in a number of criminology associations around the world and is fluent in Spanish and French. In 2006 Dr. Barberet was awarded the Herbert Bloch Award of the American Society of Criminology for service to the society and to the professional interests of criminology, as well as the Rafael Salillas Award of the Sociedad Espanola de Investigación Criminológica. Her book, *Women, Crime and Criminal Justice: A Global Enquiry* (2014) won awards from both the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology and the International Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. From 2014-2018 she was the

editor of *Feminist Criminology*, and in 2017 she received the Saltzman Award for Practice and the Sarah Hall Award for Service Contributions from the Division on Women and Crime of the American Society of Criminology. Dr. Barberet represents the International Sociological Association (ISA) and Criminologists Without Borders at the United Nations. She has consulted for the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Colombian Government's Statistical Agency DANE, and the Puerto Rico Council on Higher Education. She was an invited expert to the Technical Consultative Expert Group Meeting on Making the United Nations Crime Prevention Guidelines Work.

Secular and Religious Fundamentalism in the Human Rights Discourse

May 5th, 2022

A panel discussion on the topic of fundamentalism and its effects on human rights, the established international framework for which is primarily Western and secular in nature. Some of the focal questions that the speakers addressed included:

- What is fundamentalism and why is it primarily associated with religion? What are some examples of religious fundamentalism infringing on human rights and how can the international human rights community respond to such situations?*
- Can secularism be considered a form of fundamentalism? If yes, what are some examples of secular fundamentalism infringing on human rights? How can the human rights community respond to such situations?*
- Does human rights advocacy contribute to/reinforce perceptions of secular fundamentalism? If yes, how? What can human rights advocates do to address challenges posed by such perceptions?*
- Is the international human rights legal framework able to co-exist with religion and especially with religious governance? Are there any changes that could be made to make religion and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) more compatible?*

Speakers:

- **Professor Abdullahi An-Naim**, Emory University School of Law
- **Janet Epp Buckingham**, Director of Global Advocacy for the World Evangelical Alliance and Professor of Political Studies at Trinity Western University
- **Richard Falk**, Professor of International Law Emeritus, Princeton University and Chair of Global Law, Law Faculty, Queen Mary University London
- **Dr. Steven Kettell**, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick, UK

Moderator:

- **Professor Avram Bornstein, Ph.D.**, Department of Anthropology, John Jay College, CUNY

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About the Speakers

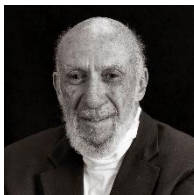


Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im (from Sudan) is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory Law, associated professor in the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and senior fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion of Emory University. His most recent book is *Decolonizing Human Rights*, Cambridge University Press, 2021.



Janet Epp Buckingham lives in Ottawa, Canada and has served as the Director of Global Advocacy for the World Evangelical Alliance since July 2021. She is a Professor of Political Studies at Trinity Western University with a research focus on religious freedom law in Canada and internationally. She is also the Co-Director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (Vancouver).

Janet is the Executive Editor of the International Journal for Religious Freedom.



Richard Falk is Professor of International Law Emeritus, Princeton University and Chair of Global Law, Law Faculty, Queen Mary University London. His most recent books are *Power Shift* (2017) and *Public Intellectual: The Life of a Citizen Pilgrim* (2021).



Steven Kettell is an Associate Professor in Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. He is a founder and co-executive editor of *British Politics*. His research and teaching interests focus on the politics of religion, atheism, and secularism.

About the Moderator



Avram Bornstein has been a professor in the Department of Anthropology at John Jay since 1997. He has served the College as the Director of the Criminal Justice MA Program, co-Director of the NYPD Leadership Program, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, and Grievance Officer for the faculty union PSC-CUNY. He currently teaches in John Jay's undergraduate and graduate

programs. His research and teaching have focused on violence, ethnic/national identity and conflict. He has done extensive ethnographic research in Israel-Palestine and published on issues such as border enforcement, work, political prisoners, healthcare, international intervention and ethnographic reflexivity. In recent years, Bornstein has also focused on New York City, with particular attention to community policing, police ethnicity and police education.

Co-Hosted and Co-Sponsored Events

The International Day of the Girl Child: Gender-Based Violence

October 14th, 2021

Organized by the International Criminal Justice Club and the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Speakers:

- **Janet Chapman**, Chair at the Tanzania Development Trust and Founder of the Crowd2Map Tanzania Project
- **Popy Begum**, Professor of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University and John Jay College
- **Dawn Rowe**, Founder of Girl Vow
- **Arlinda Xhuveli**, Research Assistant at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Moderator:

- **Julia Bolotovskiy**, President of the International Criminal Justice Club at John Jay College and Research Assistant at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Equity, Accessibility and Artificial Intelligence in Global Education

March 24th, 2022

Organized by the John Jay College Teaching and Learning Center

Speakers:

- **Antonia Levy**, Associate Director of Faculty Development and Instructional Technology at CUNY School of Professional Studies
- **Victoria Pérez-Ríos, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science at John Jay College
- **Vanessa Spina**, International Crime and Justice Student at John Jay College

Moderator:

- **Marie-Michelle Strah, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of International Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Co-Sponsors:

- Center of International Human Rights at John Jay College (CIHR)

Human Rights Defenders and the Shrinking of Civic Spaces

March 31st, 2022

Organized by the CUNY Human Rights Hub, the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, the Columbian Studies Group, and the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College (CIHR)

Speakers:

- **Philippe Le Billon**, Professor at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) and the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia
- **Cristina “Tinay” Palabay**, Secretary General of Karapatan Alliance Philippines
- **Brian Dooley**, Senior Advisor at Human Rights First
- **Nikhil Dutta**, Legal Advisor on Global Programs at the International Center for Non-For-Profit Law (ICNL)

Moderator:

- **George Andreopoulos, Ph.D.**, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York and Director of the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Co-Sponsors:

- Human Rights Program at the Roosevelt House
- The Center for Human Rights and Peace Studies at Lehman College
- The Center for Global Ethics and Politics at the CUNY Graduate Center
- Human Rights Forum at the City College of New York
- Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic at the CUNY School of Law

Ashken Arakelyan Book Talk – *Sadistic Pleasures: Silent Crimes of Azerbaijan*

April 12th, 2022

Organized by the International Crime and Justice M.A. Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Co-Sponsors:

- Center of International Human Rights at John Jay College (CIHR)

Bacha Bazi: The Exploitation and Trafficking of Young Boys

April 13th, 2022

Organized by the International Criminal Justice Club and the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Speakers:

- **Pallavi Thakur, Ph.D.**, Professor at SHSS, Sharda University, Greater Noida
- **Samuel Vincent Jones**, Professor of Law and Associate Dean at University of Illinois at Chicago

Moderator:

- **Julia Bolotovskiy**, President of the International Criminal Justice Club at John Jay College and Research Assistant at the Center for International Human Rights at John Jay College

Conflict in Western Sahara: Africa's Last Colony

April 29th, 2022

Organized by the International Criminal Justice Club, the Department of Political Science, and the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Speakers:

- **Katlyn Thomas**, Licensed Attorney in International Law
- **Ambassador Sidi Omar**, Representative of the Frente POLISARIO at the United Nations in New York and Coordinator with the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Moderator:

- **Charlotte Walker-Said, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Africana Studies and Director, Human Rights M.A. Program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team during the 2021-2022 academic year and whose contribution made all the above possible:

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Director, CIHR