



## **Center for International Human Rights (CIHR)** **Activities for 2012-2013**

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) 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 at John Jay College 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, 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.

Here is a list of our activities for the 2012-2013 academic year:

### **Research Workshops**

- April 26 & 27, 2012 – *Migration and Security II*

The CIHR, in collaboration with the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection, organized a second research workshop with the purpose of critically examining key political, economic and security developments influenced by migratory flows. The workshop built on the work of an earlier workshop that we held on this topic (December 2011) in which participants were asked to address the following issue areas: the causes of migratory flows; the international and regional legal frameworks for managing migration and for strengthening border security ; the challenges of devising migratory policies that are consistent with international rules and standards; and the challenges confronting effective cross-border cooperation in dealing with the impact of migratory flows. The second workshop focused on the following: (1) a critical assessment of the European Internal Security Strategy's prospects, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the deployment of Rapid Border Intervention Teams and FRONTEX; (2) How can we collect better data and knowledge on migrant populations, more specifically, on location, profile and potential vulnerabilities? How can better data help us address such vulnerabilities? (3) How can we develop better coordination, both intra-state as well as inter-state, among the different agencies dealing with migration issues? and (4) what are some of the key challenges in managing migration in times of economic and social crisis?

#### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:**

1. Mr. Luigino Amorosa, Italian State Police, Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police, Ministry of Interior.
2. Mr. George Andreopoulos, Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.
3. Mr. Panagiotis Arnaoutidis, Police Major, KEMEA.
4. Ms. Jana Arsovska, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York.

5. Mr. Paolo Boccagni, PhD, Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento
6. Mr. Vassilis Grizis, Executive Director, KEMEA, Greece.
7. Ms. Maki Haberfeld, Professor of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.
8. Ms. Aferdita Hakaj, Assistant Director, CIHR.
9. Mr. Nicholas Hernanz, Research Assistant, Justice and Home Affairs Section, Centre for European Policy Studies.
10. Ms. Yumna Khan, Research Assistant, CIHR.
11. Mr. Spyros Koletsis, Police Major, KEMEA.
12. Ms. Sarah Leonard, University of Dundee, United Kingdom.
13. Ms. Adriana Michilli, Research Assistant, CIHR.
14. Mr. Spyridon Nanos, Senior Analyst at KEMEA.
15. Ms. Nikolaos Petropoulos, PhD Candidate, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.
16. Ms. Shelby Prue, Research Assistant, CIHR.
17. Mr. Michael Tsinisizelis, Dean of the University of Athens Law School, and President of the Board of Directors, KEMEA.
18. Ms. Kristina Zammit, Assistant Director and Psychosocial Team Coordinator at Jesuit Refugee Service in Malta.

### **Seminars, Panel Discussions and Lectures**

- Fall 2012 – Spring 2013: CIHR holds an annual Human Rights Seminar Series in co-sponsorship with the CUNY Ph.D./ M.A. Program in Political Science, which takes place at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The seminar meets approximately once a month throughout the school year. Each academic year the Center for International Human Rights invites five to six renowned scholars and/or practitioners to address cutting-edge human rights topics that have included humanitarian law, economic rights, women’s rights, and immigration.
    - The theme for the 2012-2013 series was on *the Human Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) People*.
    - The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:
  - Thursday, October 4, 2012 – Graeme Reid, Director of the LGBT Program at Human Rights Watch, gave a talk on ‘Homosexuality is Un-African and Un-Christian’: Culture, Religion and Human Rights;’
  - Monday, December 10, 2012 – Human Rights for All? LGBT People and the Continuing Quest for Dignity;
    - Co-sponsored by CIHR, the BA Major in International Criminal Justice and the Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice.
    - This event was held in commemoration of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
      - Moderator: Professor George Andreopoulos – Director of CIHR
- Panelists:
- Prof. Amy Adamczyk – Department of Sociology, John Jay College and Doctoral Faculty in Sociology and Criminal Justice, Graduate Center.
  - Prof. Rebecca Kern – Assistant Professor of Communication, Manhattan College.
  - Mr. Kyle Knight – Human Rights Watch Researcher and 2013 Visiting International Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.
  - Mr. Kamal Fizazi – Independent consultant. Previously worked as a program officer for Africa and the Middle East for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

- Thursday February 21, 2013 – Prof. Dan Pinello, Political Science Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, “Flight or Fight? Same-Sex Couples Living Under Super-DOMAS in the USA.”
  - Thursday April 11, 2013 – Taboo Yardies: A Documentary and Panel Discussion Event.
    - This event was organized by CIHR and cosponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Program, Human Rights Watch; the Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice; The Minor in Human Rights Studies; and the CUNY PHR/MA Program in Political Science at the Graduate Center.
    - Moderator: Professor George Andreopoulos – Director, CIHR.
- Panelists:
- Ms. Selena Blake – Director & Producer of Taboo Yardies.
  - Mr. Graeme Reid – Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program, Human Rights Watch.
  - Mr. Maurice A. Tomlinson – Legal Advisor, Marginalized Groups, AIDS-Free World.
  - Mr. Stephen Silva – Immigration Equality.

CIHR is currently in the process of publishing a report on LGBT issues that would focus on religious traditions and the rights of sexual minorities.

### Other Public Events

- February 25, 2013 – *UNICEF’s Work in Child Protection & the End of Trafficking Event*
    - This event was organized by CIHR and Cosponsored by the Association of Greek American Professional Women (AGAPW).
    - UNICEF film: Not My Life (30 min.)
    - Moderator: Katerina Stefanatou – UNICEF Global Citizenship fellow at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF
- Panelists:
- Prof. George Andreopoulos – Political Science and Criminal Justice, CUNY; Director, CIHR.
  - Ms. Jennifer Chan, M.Ed. – Program Officer, End Trafficking, US Fund for UNICEF.
  - Ms. Dorota Gierycz, Ph.D. – Visiting Scholar, Center for International Human Rights, John Jay College.
- March 7, 2013 – *International Women’s Day Event Celebration – A Promise is a Promise: Time for Action to End Violence Against Women*
    - International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality, and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security. The UN designated theme for this year’s IWD was: “A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women.” Participants were asked to address the following focal issues and questions: What are the main challenges that victims of violence confront? What are some of the key initiatives that have been undertaken to combat violence against women? Who are the key stakeholders in these undertakings and how effective are they? How can access to justice for women be ensured? What can be done to enable women to advance to the maximum of their potential, and contribute more effectively to public life?
    - Welcoming Remarks: Ms. Aferdita Hakaj – Assistant Director, CIHR
    - Chair: Prof. Rosemary Barberet – Associate Professor of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Panelists:
- Dr. Lacey Sloan – Professor in the Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work Department at the College of Staten Island, CUNY.
  - Ms. Sethu Nair – Manager of Community Education & Media Relations at Sakhi for South Asian Women, an anti-domestic violence agency in New York City.

- Ms. Hannah Pennington – Executive Director at Mayor Bloomberg’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, specifically the Manhattan Family Justice Center scheduled to open in Fall 2013.
  - Mr. Quentin Walcott – Co-Executive Director at Connect. Mr. Walcott has extensive experience facilitating groups for young and adult males on masculinity, manhood development, fathering, batterer’s intervention and accountability.
  - Ms. Corey Anne Calabrese – Program Officer for Sexual Violence, Trafficking & FGM at Equality Now.
- March 14, 2013 – *Expressing the Social Conscious: Art Prints and Human Rights*
    - Cosponsored by CIHR and John Jay College’s Art & Music Department.
    - Panel Discussion on Art and Human Rights
      - Moderator: Dr. Thalia Vrachopoulos – Professor and Curator, Art & Music Department.
    - Panelists:
      - Prof. George Andreopoulos – Political Science and Criminal Justice, CUNY; Director, CIHR.
      - Mr. William Pangburn – Director, Andrew and Anya Shiva Gallery.
      - Professor Lisa Farrington – Chair, Art & Music Department.
      - Mr. Tony Kirk – Artist.
      - Ms. Despina Meimaroglou – Artist.
- April 18, 2013 – *Dr. Beulah Shekhar: “Dimensions of the Victimisation of Transgenders - A Study in Tamil Nadu, India”*
    - Cosponsored by the Gender Studies Program, the B.A. in International Criminal Justice, the Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime and Justice, CIHR, the Human Rights Minor, The LGBT Task Force, Spectrum, the Center for Career and Professional Development Center and the Pre-Law Institute.
    - Dr. Beulah Shekhar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University (India) and also Co-ordinator of the UGC sponsored program, Victimology & Victim Assistance/Human Rights & Duties Education. She conducts basic and applied research and evaluation in victimology, crime, criminology, law and justice.
- April 24, 2013 – *Birth Control Clinic and Sexual Health Fair*
    - Cosponsored by the John Jay Women’s Center, CIHR, the Institute for Family Health, and the Reproductive Health Access Project.
    - This was an event supporting the idea that reproductive rights can and must be understood as human rights.
- April 25, 2013 – *Citizen Security and the Rule of Law: Mr. Nikos Dendias, Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection, Hellenic Republic*
    - This lecture was sponsored by the Office of the President and CIHR with reception that followed in the Shiva Gallery.
    - Mr. Nikos Dendias has been serving as Minister of Public Order and Citizen Protection since June 2012. He has served as a member of the Greek delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the EPP Party since 2004, being active in the Committees on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.
- May 1, 2013 – *Research Week: Panel on the Politics of Human Rights*
    - Chair:
      - Dr. George Andreopoulos – Director and Professor, CIHR at John Jay College.
    - Panelists:
      - Mr. Daniel Golebiewski – Undergraduate Student and Research Assistant, CIHR.
      - Ms. Yumna Khan – Undergraduate Student and Research Assistant, CIHR.
      - Ms. Taniya Dewan – Undergraduate Student and Research Assistant, CIHR.

- May 23, 2013 – *Memory and Transitional Justice in Argentina and Uruguay: Book Launch Event and Panel Discussion*
    - This event was organized by the CIHR and cosponsored by the Master of Arts in International Crime & Justice, the BA Major in International Criminal Justice, the Human Rights Minor, and the Historical Memory Project.
    - Chair: Dr. Veronica Michel – Professor, John Jay College.
- Panelists:
- Dr. Francesca Lessa – Junior Research Fellow, St Anne's College and Post-Doctoral Research Officer, Latin American Centre, University of Oxford, UK.
  - Dr. George Andreopoulos – Director and Professor, CIHR at John Jay College.
  - Dr. Jo Marie Burt – Professor, George Mason University.
- June 13, 2013 – *Turning Point: End of U. S. Colonialism in Puerto Rico? How we got here and where we are going, after the November 6, 2012 referendum.*
    - Cosponsored by the Human Rights Seminar, Ph.D./MA Program in Political Science, Graduate Center, CIHR, Hostos Community College, Bronx Transformation Project Inc. IF-MC-CA-DI.
- Panelists:
- Mr. Ismael Betancourt Jr. – President and CEO Institute for Multicultural Communications Cooperation and Development, Inc. (IF-MC-CA-DI), NGO in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
  - Ms. Olga Zanabria – Executive Secretary and Committee for Puerto Rico’s representative at the United Nations, and Adjunct Professor of Puerto Rican Studies and History of the Dominican Republic, Borough of Manhattan Community College
  - Mr. Antonio Nadal – Professor and Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies and co-coordinator of the Caribbean Studies Program at Brooklyn College.

### Outreach

- *Spotlight Human Rights* is a new initiative by Epic Theatre Ensemble and CIHR, in partnership with the Lark Play Development Center. The overarching goal is to bring together practitioners in the field of human rights with theatre artists, scholars, and students from NYC colleges and high schools, to collaborate on new plays and new scholarship that raises public awareness about the lives of international aid workers. This initiative is premised on the belief that art, and more specifically, theater is a powerful tool both for expressing the quest for human dignity and for advancing civic empowerment. As part of this project, four teams comprised of playwrights, practitioners, scholars, and students were assigned a priority question in the human rights field to explore and discuss. The playwrights were commissioned to create new work that tackles these questions, sharing their efforts throughout the creative process with their team. Four plays were presented to the public, all followed by interactive sessions with the audience.
    - October 25, 2012 – *Dominique Morisseau’s Play ‘Mend’ & Panel Discussion Event*
      - Created with partner: Sanctuary for Families
      - The performance’s opening act sets the thematic focus of the play as the actors’ dialogue emphasized how cultural traditions are not meant to be rigid and static; instead they are supposed to evolve with the passage of time. The other two scenes tackled issues focusing on how social workers strive to ensure the safety of Haitian women who are victims of domestic violence, forced prostitution and sex trafficking.
- Moderator: George Andreopoulos, Professor and Director, CIHR
- Participants:
- Ms. Archana Pyati – Staff Attorney, Immigration Intervention Project Sanctuary for Families.
  - Ms. Margot Baruch – Program Coordinator for Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Rutgers University.
  - Dr. Jean D’Cunha – Adviser on Employment, Social Protection and Migration, UN Women.
  - Ms. Dominique Morisseau – the playwright.

- November 08, 2012 – *Heather Raffo's Play 'The Lion's Roar' & Panel Discussion Event*
  - Created with partner: Catholic Relief Services
  - 'The Lion's Roar' explores how human rights and aid workers experience brutality, commonality and spirituality in their work and it asks what sustains and what breaks them. At every turn it challenges our fundamental belief in human equality as it explores our radical relatedness.

Panel discussion participants:

  - George Andreopoulos – Professor and Director, CIHR
  - Mr. Ron Russell – Executive Director of the Epic Theater Ensemble.
  - Ms. Heather Raffo – the playwright.
  
- November 29, 2012 – *Stefanie Zadavec's Play 'The Path' & Panel Discussion Event (3-5 p.m.)*
  - 'The Path' is a short play that explores a set of critical ethical dilemmas facing humanitarian practitioners in the field.

Panel discussion participants:

  - George Andreopoulos – Professor and Director, CIHR.
  - Mr. Ron Russell – Executive Director of the Epic Theater Ensemble.
  - Dr. Mark Levin – Medical Aid Worker, Doctor without Borders.
  - Ms. Stefanie Zadavec – the playwright.
  
- November 29, 2012 – *Ken Urban's Play 'A Guide for the Homesick' & Panel Discussion Event (5-8 p.m.)*
  - 'A Guide for the Homesick' explores “homecoming” challenges confronting gay humanitarian workers.

Panel discussion participants:

  - George Andreopoulos, Professor and Director, CIHR.
  - Mr. Graeme Reid, Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Program, Human Rights Watch.
  - Mr. Kyle Knight, Disability Rights Researcher, Human Rights Watch.
  - Mr. Gabriele Russo, Gender Adviser, United Nations Dept. of Peacekeeping Operations and the Dept. of Field Support and Vice President, UN-GLOBE.
  
- CIHR has published a brief Report on the above Spotlight Human Rights series of plays and discussions that can be found on our website mentioned at the end of this Report.

### **Curricular Developments**

- Fall 2012 Semester – *New Minor in Human Rights Studies*
  - The Human Rights Studies minor will introduce students to some of the key conceptual, ethical and methodological approaches to the study and practice of human rights. In particular, it will address key concepts, principles and norms, such as human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, due process, empowerment, human security, human development, and accountability; it will expose students to diverse disciplinary and methodological approaches to the study and practice of human rights from a domestic as well as an international perspective; it will familiarize students with the evolution of international human rights norms both in theory and in practice, the latter through the study of pivotal events in the history of human rights, such as the anti-slavery and anti-slave trade campaign, the Civil Rights Movement, the Campaign Against Apartheid, the transnational movement spawned by the Helsinki Final Act, and, more recently, the campaign to establish the International Criminal Court and the launching of the Millennium Development Goals; it will train students how to use the human rights framework in order to analyze and assess critical developments in key issue areas of global concern; and it will provide students with internship opportunities so as to hone their advocacy skills in addressing the challenges of an increasingly complex and interconnected world. This minor can be paired with all majors; examples would include Gender Studies, Global History, Humanities and Justice, International Criminal Justice, and Political Science.

- Total Credits Required: 18
- Required Course (1 – 3 credits): Political Science 320 International Human Rights
- Elective Courses (15 credits from a series of selected courses)
  
- October 02, 2012 – *Human Rights Minor Kick-Start Event*
  - This event was an introductory event, sponsored by CIHR, to discuss the newly established human rights minor at John Jay College in an interactive session with professors and students in the field.

### **Upcoming Event & Projects for 2013 -2014**

CIHR has a very active agenda for 2013-2014. In particular, we plan to produce a book on *Migration and Security* (in collaboration with the Center for Security Studies of the Hellenic Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection) and a Report on *Human Rights Issues Concerning the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*. We also plan on conducting research workshops on *United Nations Counterterrorism and Human Rights*, on the *Rule of Law in UN Peace Operations* and expect to produce monographs based on the presentations and deliberations resulting from these workshops. Moreover, we will continue our outreach/awareness initiatives by organizing public events on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day (December 2013), and on International Women’s Day (March 2014). In addition, the Center welcomes the establishment of a new club called the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at John Jay College and looks forward to working very closely with it in the upcoming academic year on mental health and human rights issues. Last, but not least, we intend to build on the momentum generated by our collaborative undertakings both within, as well as outside the College, with other research centers, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Please email Aferdita Hakaj at [afhakaj@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:afhakaj@jjay.cuny.edu) to be added to our list serve and to be kept posted of developments with periodic updates. Please also feel free to check our new website at: <http://johnjayresearch.org/cihr>