



Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) **Activities for Academic Year 2017– 2018**

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) was established in 2001 with a mandate to study the main challenges to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms; analyze and assess the intersections 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 Center 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. CIHR 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 Center 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.

Below is a list of our activities for the 2017-2018 academic year:

Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Lectures

Fall 2017-Spring 2018: Each academic year, CIHR identifies a theme and organizes a series of events in which scholars and/or practitioners address key focal issues and questions relating to the selected theme. This year, the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) focused on human rights crises that are commonly overlooked. In an effort to raise public awareness to protracted crises that have not received enough attention and a proper response, CIHR shed light on situations both here and abroad. We critically examined the role of state actors and of intergovernmental, as well as non-governmental, organizations in these crises and the way in which they have attempted to address the challenges posed by them. Particular attention was given to (1) governance deficits and non-traditional security threats and challenges as contributing factors to these crises; and (2) an understanding of the reasons for their relegation to the periphery of responsive action.

The following events were part of our Human Rights Seminar Series:

- **November 16th, 2017: Human Security in the Horn of Africa**

Panel discussion organized by CIHR and co-sponsored by the BA in International Criminal Justice, the MA in International Crime and Justice, the Minor in Human Rights Studies, the Minor in Africana Studies, Students Without Borders, and the United Nations Student Association.

Moderator:

- Maria Victoria Perez-Rios: Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science, John Jay College

Panelists:

- Sakura Atsumi: Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Keefe Murren: Executive Director, FilmAid International
- James de Lorenzi: Associate Professor of History, John Jay College
- Rahma Hussein: International Human Rights Lawyer and Legal Fellow, Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute

- **December 11th, 2017: Natural Disasters – Risk Reduction and Emergency Response Techniques (Human Rights Day)**

Panel discussion organized by CIHR and co-sponsored by the BA in International Criminal Justice, the MA in International Crime and Justice, the Minor in Human Rights Studies, the Community Outreach and Service Learning Center, Students Without Borders, and the United Nations Student Association.

Moderator:

- George Andreopoulos: Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights

Panelists:

- Jo Scheuer: Director, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Melissa Umberger: Manager, Recovery and Mitigation Program, NYC Emergency Management Department
- Angel Munoz: Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Princeton University
- Lisa Orloff: Founder and Director, World Cares Center

- **April 26th, 2018: Forgotten Atrocities: The Ovaherero and Nama Genocide**

Panel discussion organized by CIHR and co-sponsored by the BA in International Criminal Justice, the Minor in Human Rights Studies, Students Without Borders, and the International Students Association.

Welcoming Remarks:

- George Andreopoulos: Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights

Moderator:

- Charlotte Walker-Said: Assistant Professor of Africana Studies, John Jay College

Panelists:

- Barnabas Veraa Katuuu: Co-founder, Association of the Ovaherero Genocide in the USA
- Fortune A. Muningandu Kuverua: Ovaherero Descendant and MA student, John Jay College
- Howard Rechavia Taylor: Ph.D. Candidate, Columbia University
- Kate Schoenbach: Photojournalist

Other Public Events

- **October 27th, 2017: Counterterrorism After 9/11: Security Imperative or Rogue Superpower?**

Lecture organized by the Center on Terrorism and sponsored by the Center for International Human Rights.

Introduction:

- Charles Strozier: Founding Director, Center on Terrorism

Speaker:

- Richard Falk: Professor of International Law and Practice Emeritus at Princeton University and author of “Failures of Militarism in Countering Mega-Terrorism” and “Contradictions in the Terrorist Discourse and Constraints on the Political Imagination of Violence”. Professor Falk spoke about those two papers.

- **November 28th, 2017: Criminal Discovery Forum**

Forum organized by Discovery for Justice and co-sponsored by the Center for International Human Rights, Africana Department, the Law Society, Students Without Borders, ISA, ASA, SJP, Jamaica Yahso, and Desi Society.

Moderators:

- Saad Ahmed
- Kenny Agosto

Panelists (three panel discussions):

- Robert E. Torres: Administrative Judge
- Eric Gonzalez: District Attorney
- Gurbir Grewal: Chief Prosecutor of Bergen County NJ
- Louis Acevedo: Deputy Public Defender
- Stan A. German: Executive Director of NYCDS

- Tony Avella: New York State Senator
- Jamaal Bailey: New York State Senator
- Joseph R. Lentol: Assemblyman
- Andy King: New York City Councilmember

- Angel De La Cruz: Community Leader
- Darryl Herring: Community Leader
- Annette Lockart: Community Leader

- **March 8th, 2018: Women in STEM (International Women’s Day Event)**

Panel discussion organized by CIHR and co-sponsored by the BA in International Criminal Justice, the Minor in Human Rights Studies, Students Without Borders, the United Nations Students Association, and the International Students Association.

Welcoming Remarks:

- George Andreopoulos: Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights

Moderator:

- Edgardo Sanabria-Valentin: Associate Director of PRISM, John Jay College

Panelists:

- Florence Hudson: Special Advisor for the Next Generation Internet, Northeast Big Data Innovation Hub
- Gabriella Sanguineti: Research and Outreach Coordinator of PRISM, John Jay College
- Jin Kim Montclare: Associate Professor in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department, NYU
- Kelly O’Donnell: Director of Science Forward, Macaulay Honors College
- Susanne Cappendijk: Founder and President of EDsnaps

- **April 12th, 2018: Rohingya Crisis: Issues and Responses**

Lecture organized by Students Without Borders and co-sponsored by the Center for International Human Rights and the International Students Association.

Speakers:

- Adem Carroll: Program Director, Burma Task Force
- Mohiuddin Yusof: Founder, World Rohingya Organization

- **May 2nd, 2018: Censorship in Schools – Its Impact on Citizenship, Juvenile Justice, and Higher Education**

Panel discussion organized by CIHR and co-sponsored by Students Without Borders, the Political Science Students Association, and John Jay College Republican Club.

Welcoming Remarks:

- George Andreopoulos: Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Human Rights

Moderator:

- Maria Victoria Pérez-Ríos: Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science, John Jay College

Panelists:

- Catherine J. Ross: Fred C. Stevenson Research Professor, George Washington University School of Law
- Leslie Guissela Castillo: International Criminal Justice and Forensic Accounting, Junior, John Jay College
- Dillon James Epperson: International Criminal Justice, Junior, John Jay College
- Diana Rivera: Legal Studies, Sophomore, John Jay College

Curricular Developments

- **April 23rd, 2018: Human Rights Minor Pizza Lunch**
Lunch organized by Charlotte Walker-Said, Human Rights Minor Coordinator

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the following individuals who were part of the CIHR team during the 2017-2018 academic year and whose contribution made all of the above possible:

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