



2020 - 2021 Annual Report

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS

ISHR - Columbia University

Founded in 1978, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) at Columbia University brings together scholars and advocates to advance the field of human rights through education, capacity-building, research, and dialogue.

By bringing together scholars and advocates to teach and learn from each other, the Institute offers:

- Innovative degree programs to Columbia students
- Fora for critical debate and discussion about the opportunities and challenges of human rights theory and practice
- Training and capacity-building to human rights advocates, practitioners, and scholars from around the world
- Multi-disciplinary research useful to those who seek to apply human rights principles to their work

These elements are evident in each of our programs and many of our initiatives are the product of collaborations between our various programs. Below is a summary of key activities and contributions of our programs and projects.

Manhattan, New York City

LETTER FROM ISHR'S LEADERSHIP

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) brings together research, teaching, capacity-building, and public dialogue in a way that engages both theory and practice. It perceives these areas as reciprocal in nature. The idea of human rights -- as the legitimate claims to dignity and welfare of all persons without discrimination -- is a relatively new one. It informs global and local policies, and is expanding exponentially as increasing numbers and types of institutions and civil society advocates frame their own goals in a human rights framework. Simultaneously, it is under increasing pressure from authoritarian and majoritarian politicians. The institutions that have been put in place internationally and within societies to defend these rights are fragile. As an idea, as an international regime, and as a movement, human rights confronts powerful enemies everywhere, even as scholars and activists in the field constantly reflect on our own biases and shortcomings. Human rights is an uphill battle. The success - even the survival - of our movement is by no means assured.

But the subject is also filled with hope. The Institute enjoys the rare privilege of teaching talented students in our undergraduate and MA programs who believe in the human rights idea, and who are exploring or are already committed to careers in the field. No matter how intransigent the issues are, we believe we can influence the world by serving our students. Their energy and vision inspire us.

We are also privileged to host each year some of the most outstanding advocates who are doing the real work of human rights in many difficult environments. Members of our Human Rights Advocates program in 2020-2021 came from Mexico, Ghana, Jamaica, Nigeria, Georgia, and India, and worked on issues as wide-ranging as sexual and reproductive rights, disability rights, women's and children's rights, and the rights of indigenous peoples.

Members of our Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability program came from countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South and East Asia, and South and North America, and worked on issues as diverse as architectural preservation, museumology, film-making, archival work, and curriculum development - all in innovate ways designed to promote community reconciliation, historical memory, tolerance, and other values that are foundational to human rights.

The practitioners in both programs face difficulty and often danger in their work, as they strive creatively to advance peace and justice. In 2020-2021 they had to follow their Columbia programs online instead of on campus. Even so, they were an active presence for the university community, which was also working online.

By connecting our academic studies with real-world struggles, they, like our students, inspired us with their energy and commitment.

The Institute is equally proud of its many other programs and initiatives, including: Indigenous People's Rights, Peace-Building and Human Rights, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the African American Redress Network, and the University Human Rights Education in Myanmar project. Each is described in this report. Through a combination of teaching, research, public service, and advocacy, each program sustained hope and generated impact. Each program enriched the academic core of our teaching and research.

ISHR also seeks to foster critical dialogue and debate on human rights issues that engage practitioners and scholars and we are proud to have participated in over 50 events this academic year.

As Director and Chair of the Steering Committee of the Institute, we want to acknowledge the wise guidance of our faculty steering committee. Above all, we express our thanks and the thanks of our faculty and students for the Institute's hard-working and devoted staff, whose names and job titles are listed on the following page of the report.

Columbia University and New York City are excellent environments for the kind of work we do at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. We feel fortunate to be here, and blessed with the talent and creativity of the Institute community.

**Elazar Barkan, Director
Andrew J. Nathan, Chair, Faculty Steering
Committee**

New York, May 2021

BOARD OF ADVISERS

Elazar Barkan

Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights
International and Public Affairs

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Director
Gender & Public Policy Specialization
School of International and Public Affairs

Pamela Graham

Director
Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research

J. Paul Martin

Adjunct Professor/Former Director of Human Rights Studies
Barnard College

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Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science
Political Science

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Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities
Department of English & Comparative Literature

Joseph Slaughter

Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature
Department of English & Comparative Literature

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Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations
Department of Political Science

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Business Manager

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Deputy Director

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Director of Capacity Building (HRAP)

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Magdalena Medley

Communications and Outreach Coordinator

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Education Program Coordinator

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Director of Peace-building and Human Rights Program

Sandra Paunksniene

Director of the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability

Breandra R. Pichon

Finance and Administrative Coordinator

Elsa Stamatopoulou

Director of Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program

Inga Winkler

Lecturer in the Discipline of Human Rights in the Department of Political Science, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Director of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Program

ISHR SUPPORTERS

ISHR would like to thank organizational and individual supporters who generously contributed to ISHR in 2020-2021 and those who have historically supported our work. We would like to thank faculty, students, volunteers, mentors, and others who supported the efforts of ISHR this year.

2020-2021 Organizational Supporters:

American Jewish World Service
Anonymous
Anonymous Family Foundation
Arcus Foundation
Carnegie Corporation of New York/Harriman Institute, Columbia University
Columbia University
Google \$1,000
International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF/FIMI)
Ford Foundation Endowment
Foundation to Promote Open Society
Justice for Kurds
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
MADRE
Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Fund
National Endowment for Democracy
Saba Family Foundation
St. James Armenian Church
The Tides Foundation
Tribal Link Foundation
United Nations Office for Project Services
Washington Kurdish Institute

2020-2021 Individual Supporters:

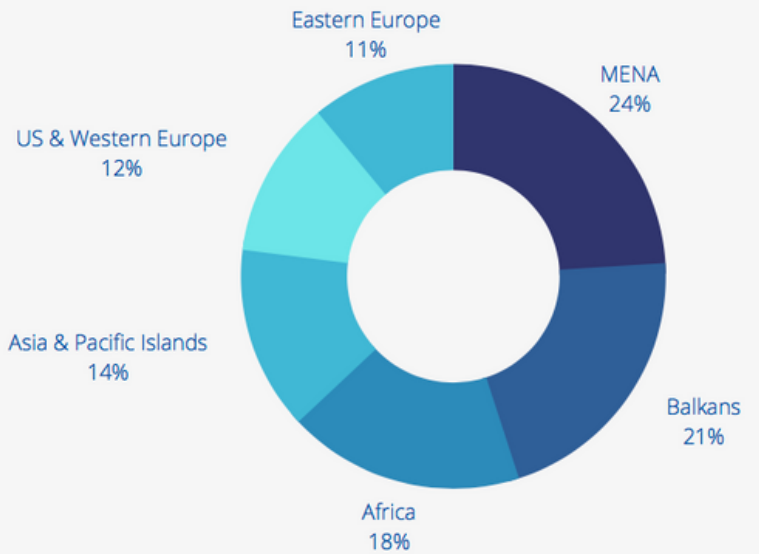
Anonymous individual contributions
Niel Das
Robert Kraft for the Myra Kraft Human Rights Prize
Shahzad Aziz Bhatti
Steven C. Miller
U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt in memory of his wife, Sheila Platt

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

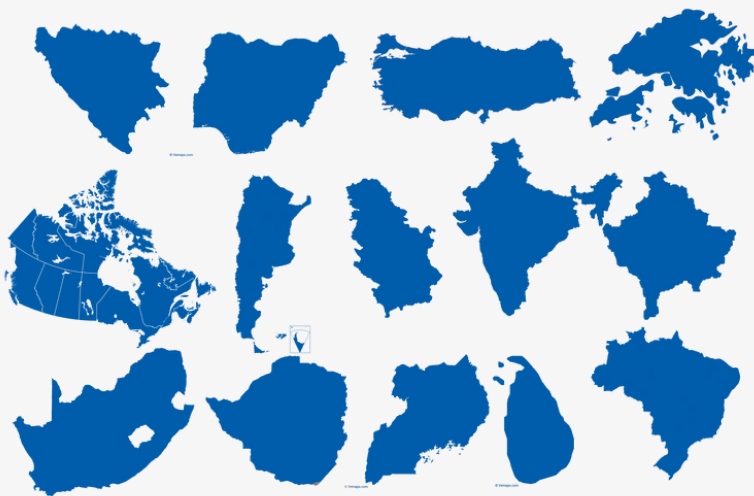
AHDA

50

TO DATE, PROGRAM ALUMNI HAVE COMPLETED OR ARE IN PROGRESS TO COMPLETE APPROXIMATELY **50** HISTORICAL DIALOGUE PROJECTS THAT WERE CONCEPTUALIZED DURING THE FELLOWSHIP.



As of 2021, the program hosted 96 individuals from approximately 47 countries



During 2020-2021, the fellowship program worked with individuals from 13 countries: Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina/Serbia, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Kosovo, Nigeria, Turkey, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

Academic

30

DURING THE THREE-SEMESTER ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OFFERED 30 DISTINCT CLASSES WITH TWO NEW GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS

PBHR

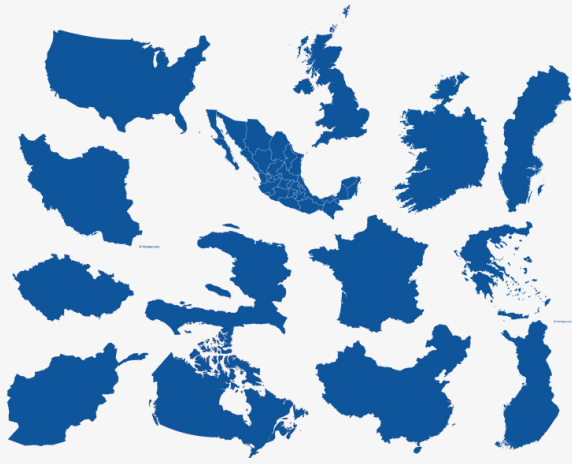


From June 2020 to May 2021, PBHR has published approximately 45 articles, given approximately 14 interviews, and organized or co-sponsored approximately 22 events on a variety of peacebuilding and human rights topics.

+59%

THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS GREW BY 59% OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS (2018-2020) - A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE PROGRAM'S REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ITS LEADING ROLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THEORY AND PRACTICE.

Academic



Countries represented in the Fall 2020 incoming MA class: Afghanistan, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Iran, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States



Foreign Languages spoken by the incoming MA class: Arabic, Bengali, Czech, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Swedish, Spanish, Telugu, Yoruba, Urdu

36

IN FALL 2020, ISHR WELCOMED 36 INCOMING HRSMA STUDENTS, REPRESENTING 13 DIFFERENT US STATES AND 14 FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

38%

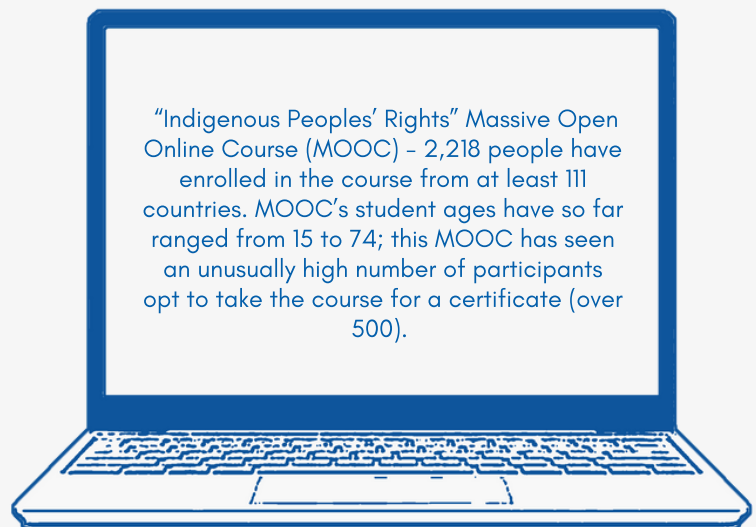
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MADE UP 38% OF THE FALL 2020 INCOMING CLASS.

HRAP



The 2020-21 HRAP cohort hailed from Georgia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nigeria. The 2020-21 cohort work on issues including LGBTQI rights, disability rights, children’s rights, indigenous peoples’ rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

IPRiP



“Indigenous Peoples’ Rights” Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) - 2,218 people have enrolled in the course from at least 111 countries. MOOC’s student ages have so far ranged from 15 to 74; this MOOC has seen an unusually high number of participants opt to take the course for a certificate (over 500).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Columbia University has an exceptional international reputation earned through decades of innovative research by faculty in several academic departments, a commitment to the interdisciplinary study of human rights, and highly respected training of human rights professionals. ISHR is committed to promoting excellent education programs that draw on these strengths. As the focal point for the study of human rights at Columbia University, ISHR is directly responsible for several human rights education programs, including:

- Undergraduate Major & Concentration
- Masters of Arts
- Graduate Certificate
- Summer Program and Certification of Professional Achievement

We coordinate with programs and institutes across Columbia and the human rights community in New York and more broadly in order to provide rigorous academic and professional training for students, support innovative scholarship and teaching of human rights, and spearhead initiatives that facilitate engagement between practitioners, faculty and visiting scholars, students, and alumni.

Students in ISHR's education programs are able to:

- Gain an understanding of the international human rights regime, including the major normative documents and institutions.
- Identify, explain, and critically examine key concepts, issues, debates, norms, policies, practices and critiques as they relate to a particular theme or issue within human rights.
- Assess and respond to emerging sociocultural, economic, political, and technological issues using a human rights lens.
- Understand how the human rights idea and institutions are used politically by various actors.
- Critically analyze human rights situations and human rights as a field.
- Examine human rights from multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives and the differences between them.
- Critically analyze how concepts such as justice, dignity, non-discrimination and equality are defined and applied in human rights debates and practices.
- Develop the skills necessary to conduct substantive original research, analyze data, and develop specialized knowledge.
- Demonstrate effective written and oral communication and argumentation skills.



In 2020-2021

THE DEPARTMENT OFFERED 30 CLASSES, INCLUDING TWO NEW GRADUATE-LEVEL COURSE OFFERINGS. A TOTAL OF 22 INSTRUCTORS TAUGHT AT ISHR, COMBINING EXTENSIVE ACADEMIC AND PRACTITIONER EXPERTISE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD



ADAPTING TO THE CHALLENGES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING A PANDEMIC

ISHR implemented several steps to support faculty and students in responding to the challenges of teaching and learning online during a global pandemic. In conjunction with Columbia University's Center for Teaching and Learning, the program coordinated a faculty training session, which focused on designing and adapting courses to online and blended settings, and addressed the use of various platforms and tools to facilitate student engagement. Faculty were also surveyed on their teaching experiences to identify common challenges, lessons learned, and best practices that can inform pedagogy and learning objectives. Instructors expertly incorporated innovative teaching approaches (including a more substant-

-ial focus on asynchronous teaching and increased use of various interactive tools and platforms online) and maintained the focus on high quality human rights education that is centered in participatory learning.

The department prioritized student support by providing pandemic-related emergency funding, regular town hall events with staff and faculty, and an increased focus on building a strong virtual community. In coordination with ISHR, student groups played a critical role in engaging graduate and undergraduate human rights students through online interactive activities, socials, and events focusing on peer mentoring and support.



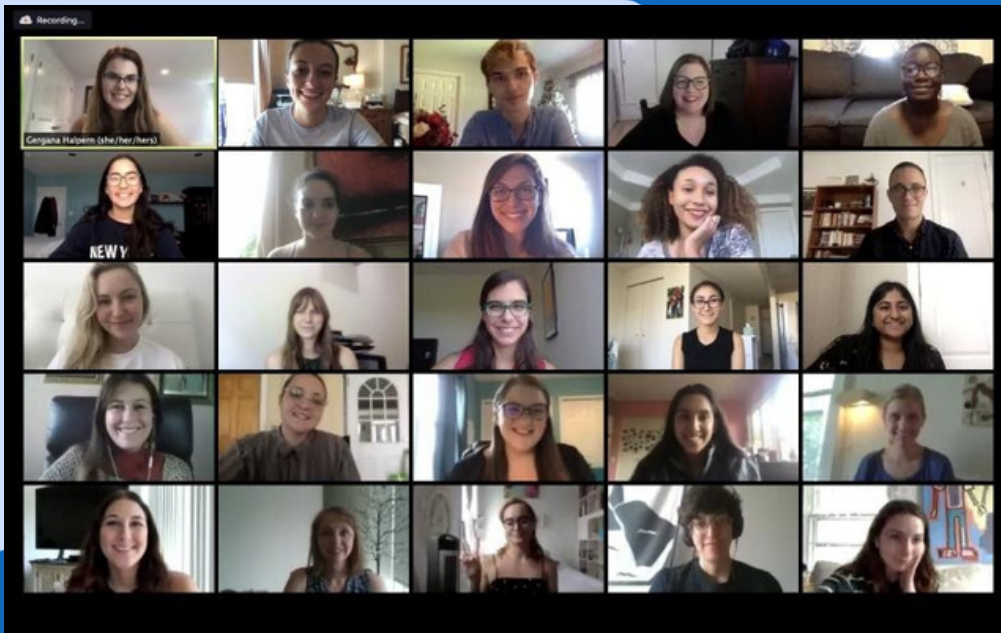
Courses Offered During the 2020-2021 Academic Year

HRTS UN3001 Introduction to Human Rights
 HRTS UN 3190 International Human Rights Law
 HRTS UN3994 Human Rights Senior Seminar Research Methods
 HRTS UN3995 Human Rights Senior Seminar
 HRTS UN3996 Human Rights Thesis Seminar
 HRTS UN5555 Human Rights and Oral History
 HRTS GU4185 Human Rights and Global Economic Justice
 HRTS GU4214 NGOs & The Human Rights Movement
 HRTS GU4230 Refugees, Forced Migration and Displacement
 HRTS GU4270 Social Media and Human Rights
 HRTS GU4360 Menstruation, Gender, and Rights
 HRTS GU4380 Advocating and Campaigning for Social and Economic Rights
 HRTS GU4400 Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Human Rights
 HRTS GU4600 Human Rights in the Anthropocene
 HRTS GU4650 Children's Rights Advocacy
 HRTS GU4750 Facing the Violent Past: Prevention and Repair
 HRTS GU4810 Religion and Human Rights
 HRTS GU4880 Human Rights in the United States
 HRTS GU4900 UN Human Rights Bodies: Impact, Reform, Advocacy
 HRTS GU4930 International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights
 HRTS GU4950 Human Rights and Human Wrongs
 HRTS GU4965 Gender-Based Violence & Human Rights
 HRTS GR6020 Introduction to Human Rights
 HRTS GR6800 International Human Rights Law
 HRTS GR6990 Human Rights Research Seminar
 HRTS S4020 Introduction to Human Rights
 HRTS S4185 Human Rights and Global Economic Justice
 HRTS S4215 NGOs & The Human Rights Movement
 HRTS S4220 International Human Rights Law
 HRTS S4250 US Immigration: Rights, Framing and Advocacy

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES M.A. PROGRAM

The HRSMA is a selective graduate program, which attracts a diverse pool of domestic and international applicants. The number of admissions applications grew by 59% over the past three years (2018-2020) - a substantial increase that highlights the program's reputation for academic excellence and its leading role at the intersection of human rights theory and practice.

In September 2020, ISHR welcomed 36 incoming HRSMA students, representing 13 different US states and 14 foreign countries. The 2020 cohort included ISHR's first recipient of Columbia University's Scholarship for Displaced Students - Shabnam Fayyaz, who was only one of two GSAS students selected for this prestigious Scholarship.



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ENROLLED MA NEW
AND RETURNING
STUDENTS IN FALL 2020

Student Spotlight: Shabnam Fayyaz

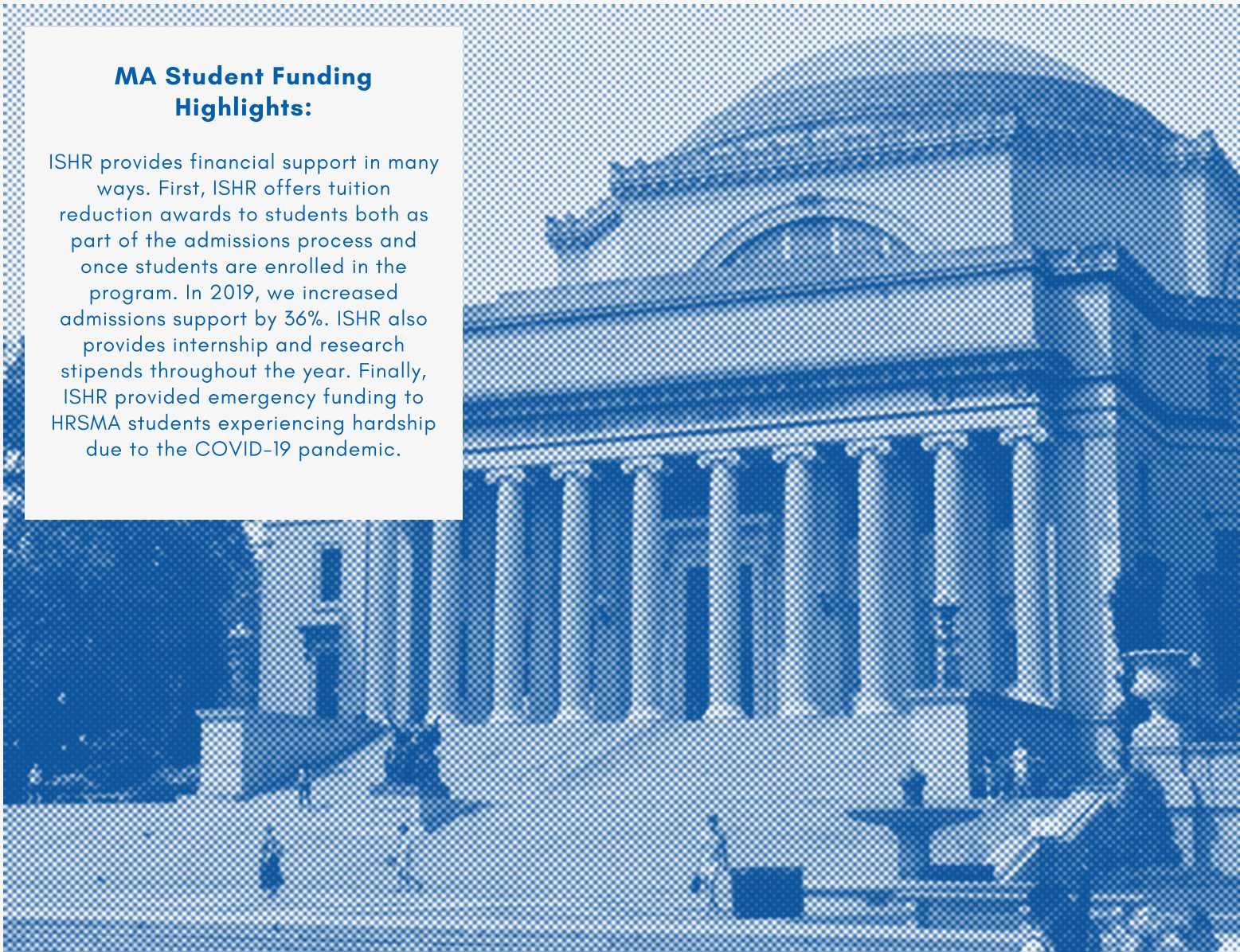
Shabnam Fayyaz was born in Afghanistan in 1996, the year the Taliban came to power, before fleeing to Quetta, Pakistan, where she lived in a refugee community. She is currently pursuing the HRSMA and is particularly interested in the topics of refugees and forced migration and women's rights. She hopes to study law with a focus on human rights in the future.

"I love the focus of the program, the opportunity to take courses from so many disciplines across the university, the diversity and relevant experiences of both the students and the faculty, the kindness and concern of the faculty for their students, and the location of Columbia in New York City with all of its opportunities for internships and future careers in the field of international human rights."

- SHABNAM FAYYAZ ON WHY SHE
CHOSE THE HRSMA PROGRAM.

MA Student Funding Highlights:

ISHR provides financial support in many ways. First, ISHR offers tuition reduction awards to students both as part of the admissions process and once students are enrolled in the program. In 2019, we increased admissions support by 36%. ISHR also provides internship and research stipends throughout the year. Finally, ISHR provided emergency funding to HRSMA students experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Foreign Languages spoken by the incoming MA class: Arabic, Bengali, Czech, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Swedish, Spanish, Telugu, Yoruba, Urdu



Countries represented in the Fall 2020 incoming MA class: Afghanistan, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Iran, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

UNDERGRADUATE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The Undergraduate Human Rights Program consists of a Human Rights Major and a Concentration, offered through Columbia College and the School of General Studies. Students in the program enhance their knowledge and skills in human rights, and explore their interests through coursework and extracurricular activities outside the classroom. The program also works to strengthen and

support the undergraduate human rights community on campus. During the fall 2020 semester, a total of 106 students were enrolled in the Human Rights major and concentration.

"My time at Columbia as a human rights major has been an incredibly lovely and shaping experience - I want to thank all my peers, professors, and advisors for making this adventure a truly spectacular one."

- SAFIA SOUTHEY, HUMAN RIGHTS MAJOR, SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

"My favorite part of every Human Rights class has been the brilliant minds of my peers."

- NICOLAS LOPEZ-ALEGRIA, HUMAN RIGHTS MAJOR, COLUMBIA COLLEGE

"I'd like to thank my professors in the Human Rights Department whose dedication and encouragement shaped my academic and professional interests. I'd also like to thank my fellow students in the senior thesis course for their thoughtful contributions to my thesis and congratulate them on completing outstanding research projects."

- GRACE MINER, HUMAN RIGHTS MAJOR, COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES

54

STUDENTS AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE

NEW INITIATIVES

Miller Human Rights Award

ISHR launched the new Miller Human Rights Award, which provides \$5,000 to two undergraduate human rights students annually who seek to deepen their experience in human rights abroad. The fellowship is generously funded by Steve Miller, the Chief Financial Officer of Warby Parker, member of the Board of Ubuntu Pathways, and an alum from Columbia College in 1996 with a degree in Political Science.

Center & Institute Initiative to Enhance Remote Learning and Teaching

The ISHR Education Program joined a consortium of Columbia centers and institutes in order to fund proposals that cultivate student engagement and enhance the online learning experience.

Human Rights Research Fellowship

ISHR launched the Human Rights Research Fellowship – which provides funding to students who wish to gain valuable research experience, while supporting the work of Columbia faculty conducting human rights-related research.

Supported projects in the 2020-2021 academic year included:

- Severine Auteserre, *The Frontlines of Peace: An Insider's Guide to Changing the World*. Research fellow: Mary Soledad Craig (Columbia College)
- Page Fortna, *Government Abuse and Rebel Groups' Use of Terrorism*. Research fellow: Alexia Cervello, HRSMA
- Premilla Nadasen, *Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba, the Anti-Apartheid Movement and Transnational Black Solidarity*. Research fellow: Naima Kane (General Studies)
- Lara Nettelfield, *The New Humanitarians: The Volunteers of the Refugee "Crisis"*. Research fellow: Abigail Taylor Edwards (General Studies)
- Lisa Sachs, *Recognition of Autonomous Protocols and Community By-Laws in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa with Professor*. Research fellow: Toumai Kafri (MPA - SIPA)
- Felisa Tibbitts, *Youth Activists and the Influence of Schooling*. Research fellow: Luis Gasca Trivino (Columbia College)
- Inga Winkler, *Menstruation: A Matter of Human Rights*. Research fellow: Neha Sree Tadepalli (HRSMA)



STUDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Students in ISHR's education programs engaged in academic research on a wide range of human rights and social justice issues, themes, and topics. Select papers and publications are highlighted below.

Trisha Maharaj

Trisha and Professor Inga Winkler published a paper titled: "You don't just do it because someone else said so": Menstrual practices and women's agency in the Hindu diaspora of Trinidad" in *Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care*. The paper explores women's motivations, choices and decisions related to menstrual practices in the Hindu-Trinidadian diaspora.



Sabrina Kozikis

Sabrina and Professor Inga Winkler published a paper titled *The Paradox of Framing Water as a Human Right in the United States: An Analysis of Power and Resistance in Journal of Human Rights*. The paper explores why grassroots organizers and national-level activists use the human rights framework to advocate for access to water in a country that is so hostile toward socio-economic rights.



Examples of human rights topics and issues addressed in student theses.



Maude Weiss, Human Rights Major (CC '21):

Human Rights Thesis: "Memory and Truth: A Poetic Response to Northern Ireland's Troubles"

It has now been over twenty years since the Troubles came to an end with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, but those who lived through them still struggle to make sense of and speak about the violence and loss of life during that tumultuous period. There was no official truth commission put in place that allowed the people of Northern Ireland to fully understand what occurred and grant them space to publicly grieve. What has persisted is the poetry. This paper explores how poetry written after the Troubles constitutes an unofficial truth project through its memorialization of the past.



Rachel Gordon, Human Rights Major (GS '21):

Human Rights Thesis: "Rethinking Movements Towards Peace in Israel: Women's Resistance to Militarization in the Private Sphere"

This study explores Israeli women's resistance to militarism in the private sphere. Data was collected through archival research, a survey and in depth interviews on modes of Israeli women's resistance to militarization. These actions were mapped onto geographic spheres, reflecting a public-private spectrum which included the body, home, social spheres and their implications for the public sphere. The research finds that many forms of resistance begin in the private sphere. These acts often move fluidly, like waves, in multiple directions, back and forth across a public-private spectrum.

Rowena Kosher, Human Rights Major (GS '21)

Human Rights Thesis: "Shark Week, Werewolves, MANstruation: A Cyberethnography of Linguistic Strategies by Trans and Nonbinary Menstruators"

The paper takes a queer linguistic and grounded theory approach to the role of language in menstrual discourse with a focus on trans and nonbinary menstruators. Menstrual discourse is deeply gendered, which impacts the trans and nonbinary experience of menstruation. The research undertakes cyberethnography of YouTube videos by trans and nonbinary menstruators and the comments below them, analyzing the linguistic choices they make to speak about menstruation. These videos not only uncover an overlooked community of menstruators that has unique linguistic engagement with menstruation, but they also demonstrate de-stigmatization and inclusion strategies that can inform critical research and activism on menstruation.

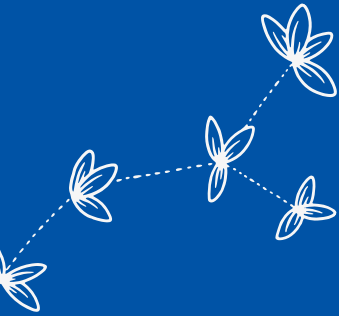


STUDENT AND ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Trisha Mukherjee, Human Rights Major (Columbia College) was awarded a Racial Justice Mini-Grant by the Office of University Life for her project "CU Against Racism: A Podcast Series Exploring Anti-Racist Efforts at Columbia." The series explores anti-racist efforts at Columbia, and highlight the hard work of student activists, the encouragement of faculty, and the key decisions made by the university that have all brought Columbia closer to being an equitable school.



Susanne Prochazka, HRSMA, was awarded the Davis Fellowship. This fellowship is a merit award funded by a \$10 million bequest from the late Kathryn Wasserman Davis, 1931 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and recognizes students with an excellent academic record. Susanne is concentrating her studies at Columbia on the role of human rights and development in maintaining international peace.

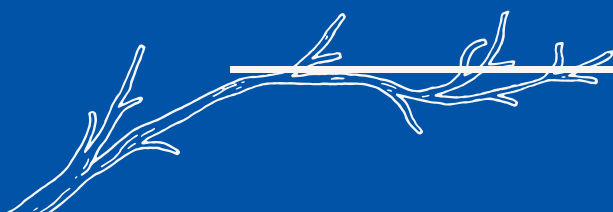


When the Almeda Fires devastated her community in Southern Oregon in September 2020, **Niria Alicia**, HRSMA, started a GoFund me campaign that raised more than \$115,000 to provide relief for her neighbors, many of whom lost their homes. The New York Times featured an article about the impact of the wild fires and Niria's efforts to restore and rebuild her community and neighboring towns.



Sarah Tucker (HRSMA '21) published an article titled "Silencing and Stigmatizing the Disabled Through Social Media Monitoring" with the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University. As a disabled woman working in tech, Sarah has a unique perspective on how modern digital tools are used to harm disabled people by silencing their voices and further excluding them from society. Sarah's research focus centers on disability and digital rights.

Anoush Baghdassarian, (HRSMA alumna and a J.D. Candidate at Harvard Law School), co-founded the Rerouted Archive, documenting over 200 testimonies from Syrian-Armenian refugees who have fled Syria in the last ten years. Anoush is the author of FOUND, a historical fiction play about the Armenian Genocide, and co-authored the introduction to "Surviving the Forgotten Genocide" with Professor Wendy Lower.





Professional Development Resources and Support for Students

The HRSMA Program was one of the GSAS departments that took a leading role in the planning and development of this year's MA Academic and Professional Development Series, which aims to create a supportive community among GSAS MA students. ISHR faculty Lara Nettelfield served as panelist on the pilot event of this year's series, titled "How to Choose a Thesis Topic?" Other topics included: "How to Get Published," "Public Speaking," and "Job Search Strategies," "Presenting YOU in a Job Interview," and "How to Deliver a Conference Presentation."

ISHR Myra Kraft Prize for Superior Academic Achievement in Human Rights

- Kendra Neumann, Human Rights Major (Columbia College)
- Grace Miner, Human Rights Major (Columbia College)

HRSMA Connect LinkedIn Group

HRSMA's LinkedIn Group provides current and former students with the opportunity to connect with their peers and alumni from the program, learn about upcoming events and opportunities, and foster a strong social and professional community.

Select Internship and Volunteer Highlights

During summer 2020, 11 graduate and undergraduate students received ISHR support to pursue remote volunteer and internship positions with various organizations engaged in human rights work, including with alumni from ISHR's capacity building programs - the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) and the Human Rights Advocates (HRAP).

Nay Alhelou, HRSMA - AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Latin America and the Caribbean

Grace Elizabeth Miner, Human Rights Major (Columbia College) - Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Luis Angel Gasca Trivino, Human Rights Major (Columbia College) - European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) at University of Barcelona Solidarity Foundation

Hunter Zhao, HRSMA - Community Stabilization Unit, IOM (Erbil)

RightsViews Blog

RightsViews is a student-run blog published by ISHR. RightsViews highlights ongoing conversations about developments in the human rights field amongst students and faculty at Columbia University.

ISHR HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZES, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2021 ISHR Human Rights Essay Contest

ISHR's annual Human Rights Essay Contest aims to acknowledge students who have written exceptional academic papers that address issues related to human rights and includes a cash prize. This year's winning papers were:

- **Rosario Grima Algora** (Columbia Law School): "Advancing Reproductive Justice in Latin America through a Transitional Justice Lens"
- **Lauren Elizabeth Buehner** (Human Rights Concentration, Columbia College): "Transboundary Water Governance And The Human Right To Water In Latin America"
- **Neha Sree Tadepalli** (HRSMA): "The Devaluation of Civilian Lives: An Analysis of the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen"
- **Lexi Young** (Human Rights Major, Columbia College): "Crisis in Canada: How Nonprofits are Mobilizing to Address Systemic Inequality Faced by Canada's Indigenous Populations"

Human Rights Thesis Competition

The thesis competition event celebrates the outstanding research produced by graduate and undergraduate human rights students in ISHR programs. Students compete for a cash prize by engaging in a 5-minute presentation that synthesizes their research and highlights their projects' key findings.

- **Safia Southey**, Human Rights Major, School of General Studies: "Repatriation vs. Resettlement: The Role of UNRWA in the Stalemate of the Palestinian Refugee Crisis"
- **Yuki Nishimura**, HRSMA: "Human Rights or Civil Rights? The Exclusion of Japanese Latin Americans from the Civil Liberties Act of 1988."

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society Inductees

School of General Studies:

- **Abigail Taylor Edwards**, Human Rights Major
- **Rachel Gordon**, Human Rights Major
- **Griffin Jones**, Human Rights Concentration
- **Julia Kepczynkza**, Human Rights Major
- **Lorenzo Lamo**, Human Rights Major
- **Safia Southey**, Human Rights Major
- **Thu Phuong To**, Human Rights Major

Columbia College

- **Arina Karkhanis**, Human Rights Major
- **Kendra Neumann**, Human Rights Major

Undergraduate Human Rights Program Departmental Honors

School of General Studies

- **Abigail Taylor Edwards**, Human Rights Major
- **Rachel Gordon**, Human Rights Major
- **Safia Southey**, Human Rights Major

Columbia College

- **Kendra Neumann**, Human Rights Major
- **Maude Weiss**, Human Rights Major



EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

During the 2020-2021 academic year, ISHR coordinated a series of events targeted to undergraduate and graduate human rights students. These ranged from social to professional development events and helped build community the social and academic lives of students.

Human Rights Career Panel

During this annual event, practitioners share their extensive experience and perspectives, and offer advice to students on successfully navigating a human rights career. The panelists this year included Rebecca Brown (Senior Director of Global Advocacy at the Center for Reproductive Rights), Ryan Heman (Senior Manager of Forced Labor & Human Trafficking at Humanity United), Steve Miller (Chief Financial Officer of Warby Parker), Gianna Sanchez Moretti (International Migration Law Officer at IOM), and Matthew Wilson (Deputy Director of the Global Drug Policy Program at the Open Society Foundations). The discussion focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and on strategies to pursue professional development opportunities in its aftermath. ISHR's RightsViews Blog reported on the key points, advice, and insight shared by the panelists.

Alumni Speaker Series

As part of ISHR's Alumni Speaker Series, the Education Program hosted two recent graduates from the Human Rights Studies M.A. Program - **Bárbara Matias** and **Roya Pakzad**. Both speakers reflected on their time in the HRSMA program and its impact on their professional trajectory, and shared insights and career advice with students in attendance.

ISHR End-of-Year Celebration

During the End-of-Year event ISHR acknowledged students' research and accomplishments, and shared photos and messages from graduating students. This event also featured a keynote address by Professor Loretta Ross - an activist, a public intellectual, and an academic with a long-spanning career in human rights education, racial and reproductive justice.

HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMER PROGRAM

This program, hosted within the School of Professional Studies, emphasizes the interaction between human rights theory and practice and offers students the opportunity to explore human rights both inside and outside the classroom.

Students can take individual courses or pursue a Certification of Professional Achievement in Human Rights. The certification program is ideal for professionals, graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students wishing to further their knowledge and understanding of human rights.

In Summer 2020, 71 students enrolled in ISHR summer courses. The department offered 6 distinct summer courses in an online format:

- HRTS S4020 Introduction to Human Rights
- HRTS S4185 Human Rights and Global Economic Justice
- HRTS S4190 Human Rights and Visual Culture
- HRTS S4215 NGOs & The Human Rights Movement
- HRTS S4220 International Human Rights Law
- HRTS S4250 US Immigration: Rights, Framing and Advocacy



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

HRAP

Human Rights Advocates Program

Columbia University
Institute for the Study of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PROGRAM (HRAP)

HRAP has traditionally been a one-semester, in-person program that consists of graduate-level courses, skill-building workshops, networking in New York City and Washington, DC, and mentorship. However, the 2020-21 HRAP was held online over two semesters due to the global pandemic. The 2020-21 HRAP report is available online.

Since 1989, 334 advocates from 92 countries have attended HRAP. In recent years, a significant number of HRAP participants have worked on LGBTQI rights, disability rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, torture, prisoners' rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, and women's rights.

HRAP Alumni

HRAP alumni serve as invaluable resources for one another as they continue to excel in their respective fields. They have founded leading human rights organizations in countries including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Chad, Colombia, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and the USA. HRAP alumni have served on boards ranging from Open Society Foundations to the International Commission of Jurists to The Elders and have secured funding for their organizations from a variety of sources including the Global Fund for Women, the National Endowment for Democracy, Open Society Foundations, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and USAID.

Among their many accolades, HRAP alumni have been honored as Robert F. Kennedy Laureates and with the Martin Ennals Award (known informally as the Nobel Prize of Human Rights), the Waislitz Award, and the Right Livelihood Award. Recent HRAP alumni have been awarded scholarships to Tufts University, Leiden University, Ohio State University, and Oxford University.

HRAP alumni have taught at universities in countries including Australia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Rwanda, Uganda, Uruguay, and the USA. Recent HRAP alumni have been published in *The Lancet* and *The Journal of Human Rights Practice* (Oxford).

2020-21 Human Rights Advocates Program

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Find out more about 2020-2021 HRAP activities in the program's own annual report

Highlights of the 2020-21 HRAP

- The 2020-21 HRAP cohort hailed from Georgia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nigeria. They work on issues including LGBTQI rights, disability rights, children's rights, Indigenous peoples' rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Twelve HRAP alumni from Afghanistan, Argentina, Ghana, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Serbia, Uganda, USA, and Zambia led speaking engagements during which they spoke about their work as human rights advocates.
- ISHR's first Massive Online Open Course, which is on Indigenous peoples' rights, was launched on edX in October 2020 where five HRAP alumni from Australia, Cameroon, Greenland, Mexico and Russia are featured prominently.
- Five Columbia University students matched with HRAP alumni in Australia, Mexico, Nepal, and Zimbabwe through the 2021 Student Volunteer Program.



List of 2020-21 Advocates

- Ekanem Ito Effiong, Director, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization, African Network of Adolescent and Young Persons Development, Nigeria
- Francis Bichnord Komla Asong, Voice of People with Disability Ghana (VOICE Ghana), Ghana
- Joy Pathaw, Executive Director, Grassroot, India
- Renae Green, Executive Director, TransWave Jamaica, Jamaica
- Ruben Alan Avila Reyna, Executive Director, Sin Parental Control, Mexico
- Tamar Ivaniadze, Executive Director, Initiative for Social Changes, Georgia

The 2020-21 HRAP cohort hailed from Georgia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nigeria. The 2020-21 cohort work on issues including LGBTQI rights, disability rights, children's rights, indigenous peoples' rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

HRAP EVENTS

- [A Conversation with Judy Heumann](#), the first Special Advisor for International Disability Rights at the U.S. Department of State, 2017 Advocate Michael Miro, the Technical Advisor on HIV/AIDS, Disability, and Sexual – and Gender- Based Violence for the Masaka Association of Persons with Disabilities, and 2020-21 Advocate Francis Bichnord Komla Asong, the Executive Director of Voice of People with Disability Ghana
- [Advocating for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Ghana](#), Columbia School of Social Work Disability Awareness Caucus with 2020-21 Advocate Francis Bichnord Komla Asong
- [Challenges to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Youth and Adolescents](#), Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, Fordham Law School with 2020-21 Advocates Ekanem Ito and Ruben Alan Avila Reyna
- [The Current State of LGBTQI + Rights in Jamaica and Mexico](#), Human Rights Campaign with 2020-21 Advocates Ruben Alan Avila Reyna and Renae Green
- Gender, Human Rights, Disability Rights, and Social Work: Insights for Practice in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Columbia School of Social Work with 2020-21 Advocates Francis Bichnord Komla Asong, Tamar Ivaniadze, and Joy Pathaw
- HRAP Info Session with HRAP Alumni from Ghana, Honduras, Mexico, and Zambia
- [Human Rights in Africa](#), Center for African Education, Teachers College, Columbia University
- [Social Entrepreneurs at Work](#), Columbia Business School with 2018 HRAP Alumnus Marijana Savić, founder and director of Atina and Bagel Bajgl Shop, Serbia and 2009 HRAP Alumnus Mary Akrami, director of the Afghan Women Network, Afghanistan

ALLIANCE FOR HISTORICAL DIALOGUE AND ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM (AHDA)

The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability program (AHDA) brings together individuals who work on historical dialogue issues in conflict, post-conflict, post-dictatorial and democratic societies. Historical dialogue seeks to examine and address the historical legacy of conflicts, and in particular the role that memory of past violence and conflicting narratives of the past can play in reconciliation and democracy promotion.

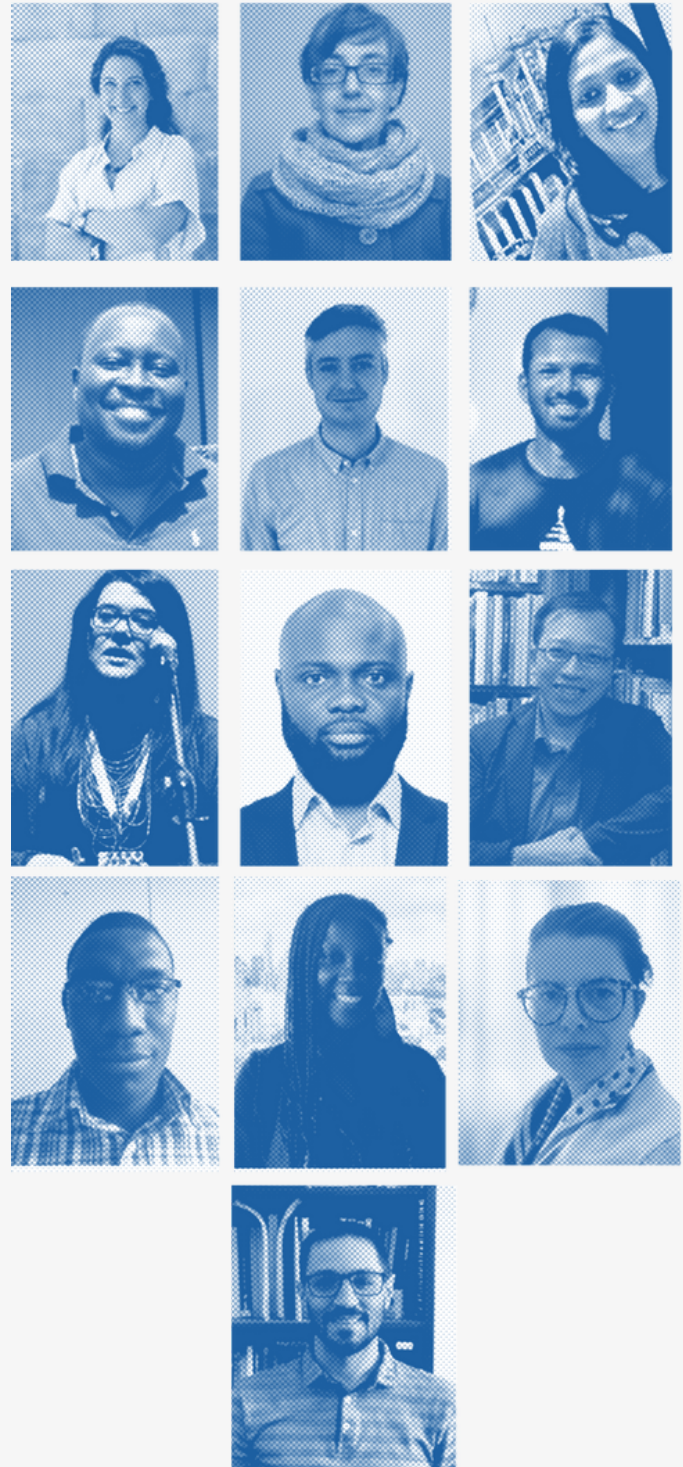
AHDA Fellowship Program:

The AHDA capacity-building program consists of graduate-level courses at the University, seminars engaging with historical dialogue; workshops in fundraising, advocacy, leadership and other specific topics; site visits and networking globally; and contributions to the intellectual life on campus through presentations and panel discussions. Fellows also develop and present historical dialogue project proposals that they plan to implement upon completion of the program.

2020-2021 AHDA Fellows profiles

- Banu Pekol, formerly Cultural Heritage Professional, Association for the Protection for Cultural Heritage, Turkey and Berghof Foundation, Germany
- Catherine Kennedy, Archival Activist, Constitutional Court Trust, South Africa
- Dilpreet Bhullar, Associate Editor, Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, India
- Francis Nono, Community Activist, National Memory and Peace Documentation Center (NMPDC), Uganda
- James Miles, Writer and Editor, The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2), Canada
- Johann Peiris, Technical Expert - Historical Dialogue, GIZ (German Development Cooperation), Sri Lanka
- Lucas Sebastian Massuco, Political Scientist, Museo de la Memoria in Rosario, Argentina
- Kaltrina Krasniqi, Film Director and Researcher, Kosovo Oral History Initiative, Kosovo
- Marija Ristic, Journalist and Researcher, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mbasekei Martin Obono, Human Rights Lawyer and Advocate, Tap Initiative for Citizens Development, Nigeria
- Simon Li, Journalist and Researcher, Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Center, Hong Kong
- Tendaishe Tlou, Transitional Justice Specialist in Zimbabwe
- Thais Rosa Pinheiro, Researcher and Founder, Conectando Territórios, Brazil

2020-2021 AHDA FELLOWS





Highlights of 2020-21

- The 2020-21 AHDA cohort included 13 participants from Argentina, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Kosovo, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Their projects addressed issues of Indigenous youth, families of disappeared, preservation of Holocaust memory, arts education, collecting oral histories from war witnesses, houseworkers and archeological sites of memory, creating mobile museum exhibits and transitional justice work.
- Eight alumni from Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Uganda, Turkey, and the U.S. led workshops and speaking engagements on historical justice, memory and peacebuilding.
- Eight Columbia University students matched with AHDA alumni in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Iraq, Spain, Uganda and the U.S. through the Student Volunteer Program in 2020 and 2021.
- The program created a [list of COVID-19 related resources](#) for advocates, practitioners and scholars working in the field of historical dialogue.
- Together with the Digital Scholarship Research and Learning Technologies department, the historical dialogues mapping initiative was incorporated into the course 'Politics of History and Reconciliation' at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network (HDJMN):

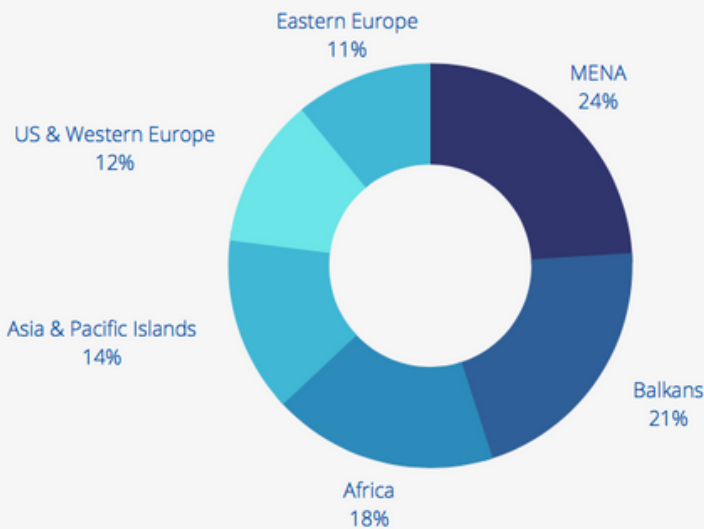
The Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network brings together a group of over 4,000 scholars, advocates, and practitioners to facilitate the exchange of knowledge across academic institutions, disciplines and fields, national and local contexts, and theoretical and programmatic approaches. As a network, it encourages research and advocacy on redress projects relating to the memorialization of historic wrongs, historical and transitional justice, the promotion of sustainable peace and participatory democracy, and reconciliation and historical dialogue. Network activities include the distribution of a newsletter, organizing conferences (postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic), facilitating book reviews, and producing working paper series.

- Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP) - a digital visualization project seeking to better understand the ways that engaging memory of conflicts can be used to develop conflict transformation mechanisms. The MHDP has mapped over 740 projects from 112 countries.



Events, Presentations and Lectures

- Series of events “Historical Dialogues” co-sponsored by Columbia Global Centers in Rio, Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, Committee on Global Thought, History Department, Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy concentration at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University:
 - Beyond Conflict Resolution and Transitional Justice
 - Interdisciplinary Applications in Art, Museums and Collections,
 - Afro-Brazilians and the Right to Memory, Education and Culture
 - Space for Reconciliation
 - Interpretation and Telling the Story
 - AHDA fellows’ project proposal presentations to Columbia community
 - Book talk “The Past Can't Heal Us: The Dangers of Mandating Memory in the Name of Human Rights” with Lea David, Professor at the University College in Dublin, Historical Dialogue, Justice and Memory network
 - Co-sponsored event "Contested Legacies: Public Monuments in Global Perspective," Columbia Committee on Global Thought
 - Co-sponsored series of events ‘Herstory, History, Our History: Learning About and Engaging with the Past,’ Hasini Haputhanthri (AHDA 2015)
 - Co-sponsored WWII event series, Robert Bosch Foundation and Erica Fugger (AHDA 2019)
 - Five AHDA alumni virtual reunions. The program continued to support and connect alumni to foster wider networks and funding resources.



**AS OF 2021
THE PROGRAM
HOSTED 96
INDIVIDUALS FROM
APPROXIMATELY 47
COUNTRIES**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING SERIES



ISHR
Institute for the Study of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING SERIES

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

Online Workshop
June 17th, 18th, 24th & 25th from 9:30am-1pm EST
4 virtual live sessions
Fellowships available by application!



ISHR
Institute for the Study of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING SERIES

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT

Online Workshop
March 11th, 18th & 25th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3 virtual live sessions
Fellowships available by application!



ISHR
Institute for the Study of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING SERIES

WORKING WITH DATA IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

Online workshop
January 28th, February 4th, 11th and 18th
11 am- 1pm EST
4 virtual live sessions
Fellowships available by application!

In Fall 2017, ISHR launched a Human Rights Training Series to provide training and professional development to human rights and social justice professionals and students. Workshops address both practical skills and thematic issues intended to enhance the work of those engaged in human rights and social justice work. To-date, ISHR has trained over 250 participants.

2020-2021 Workshops

- Arts, Human Rights, and Social Change
- Born on the Battlefield - co-sponsored with ICRC
- Human Rights Advocacy and Campaign Development Workshop
- Human Rights Research and Documentation Workshop
- Migration and Human Rights
- Missing Maps: Free Interactive Workshop - co-sponsored with ICRC
- Working with Data in the Human Rights and Humanitarian Contexts

All workshops took place online this year, allowing for individuals around the world to participate and contribute to a greater diversity of perspectives, experiences, and knowledge-sharing.

Other workshops organized as part of this series have included:

- Community Engagement for Human Rights and Social Justice Practitioners
- Business and Human Rights
- Engaging with the Media on Human Rights: Finding, Crafting and Advancing your Story
- Fundraising for Human Rights
- Organizational Leadership for Human Rights and Social Justice
- Teaching Human Rights in Classrooms and Communities

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS PROGRAM (IPRIP)

Philosophy and approach

Established in 2012, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Program is committed to promoting interculturality, i.e. dialogue among cultures on the basis of equality, and this requires two core elements in terms of approach: a) Indigenous Peoples should not be relegated to the past; they continue to exist and make important contributions, including through their traditional knowledge, governance systems and political and other interventions. b) There should be cross-fertilization of conventional academic thought via collaboration with Indigenous Peoples themselves, contributing their knowledge and perspectives. This means facilitating access of Indigenous scholars, experts and practitioners to our University and also creating opportunities for Columbia's students to interact with Indigenous scholars and community leaders.

Goals of the program

First, the program seeks to develop capacity in human rights, including Indigenous Peoples' rights and cultural rights, of the student body at Columbia and of Indigenous human rights advocates and researchers. The program organizes an annual seminar Series with Indigenous Women Leaders (in collaboration with the International Indigenous Women's Forum-FIMI), facilitates participation of Indigenous practitioners through ISHR's Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) and the Alliance for Historical Dialogue Accountability (AHDA), and offers a unique International Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy.

Second, the program promotes research development between academics and experts, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. By 2020, this was accomplished through the organization of five international symposia on cutting edge Indigenous topics. The program also cooperates with relevant international organizations and bodies, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to encourage interdisciplinary approaches. The promotion of research on Indigenous Peoples' rights has also led the program to expand and deepen our collaborations with other academic research and to pursue the publication of books on collaborative research. These publications include, but are not limited to:

- [Walking and Learning with Indigenous Peoples, 2018, Institute for the Study of Human Rights,](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Unreported Struggles: Conflict and Peace, 2017, Institute for the Study of Human Rights,](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Access to Justice, Including Truth and Reconciliation Processes, 2014, Institute for the Study of Human Rights,](#)





Highlights of 2020-2021

Columbia University passed a resolution officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day to be celebrated on the second Monday of October every year.

Four years ago, Columbia University proudly placed a plaque in the courtyard in front of John Jay Hall, recognizing that the campus was built on traditional Lenape territory. Like other major educational institutions, Columbia has a crucial role in raising awareness and educating not only students, but also the general public.

In 2019, Columbia University Senate passed a resolution officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day to be celebrated on the second Monday of October every year. The students of the Native American Council had presented this proposal to the University leadership. This resolution, demonstrating their strength, perseverance, and vision, successfully concluded a mobilization of many years that also included faculty and other Columbia employees.

"Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and the Covid-19 Pandemic"

In October 2020, ISHR co-organized an event marking the 1st Indigenous Peoples Day at Columbia. The event took

place on October 12th focusing on Indigenous Peoples and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed, early on, the continuing inequalities profoundly affecting Indigenous Peoples and African Americans or Afro Descendants. Although Indigenous people are only 6.2% of the world's population, they have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. At the same time their mobilization on the ground has been admirable. With Indigenous leaders from the Americas participating as panelists, this event confronted this dynamic and discussed avenues for change in the future.

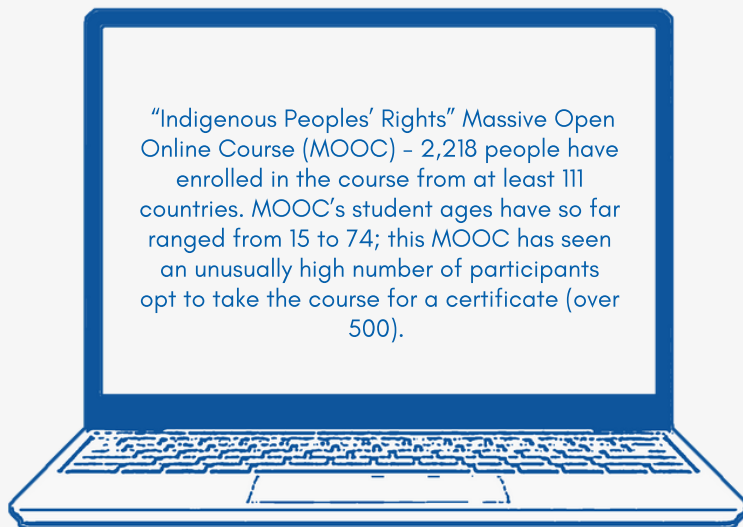
Indigenous Women Leaders at Columbia

On February 8th, FIMI (the International Indigenous Women's Forum) launched the 2021 edition of the Global School of Indigenous Women Leaders—a remote program this year. A record number of 35 Indigenous women from 20 countries and 28 Indigenous Peoples participated this year. The overall program was organized into 14 seminars and 390 hours, of which 190 hours are theoretical and 200 practical hours, which are developed over eight months, with a modular study regime. A video of FIMI on the Global School appears here.

Launch of “The First Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights” and Event

On October 28, 2020, ISHR launched the “Indigenous Peoples’ Rights” Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which was supported with a grant from the Provost. To date, 2,672 people have enrolled in the course from at least 115 countries. The course is geared to a broad audience, Indigenous Peoples, government officials, UN and other IGO officials, foundations, NGOs, and the private sector; the MOOC’s student ages have so far ranged from 15 to 74; this MOOC has seen an unusually high number of participants opt to take the course for a certificate (over 700).

On April 20, 2021, ISHR organized a side event for the 20th Session of the UNPFII to discuss the MOOC and feature presentations from various Indigenous Peoples’ rights practitioners. Discussing the MOOC, Professor Stamatopoulou observed: “After UNDRIP’s adoption, all actors interested in and working with Indigenous Peoples—Indigenous Peoples themselves, government officials, UN and other IGO officials, foundations, NGOs, and the private sector—all should have the knowledge so as to be able to engage and relate with Indigenous Peoples based on the rights recognized in the Declaration.”



“Indigenous Peoples’ Rights” Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) – 2,218 people have enrolled in the course from at least 111 countries. MOOC’s student ages have so far ranged from 15 to 74; this MOOC has seen an unusually high number of participants opt to take the course for a certificate (over 500).

International Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Policy

The 2021 Program (17 May – 4 June) was cosponsored by Columbia’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race and enjoyed the collaboration of the University of British Columbia and the University of Auckland. Thirty participants from 18 countries participated in this year’s Program, which took place in a remote format this time.

This is an immersion program that encourages team learning and synergy by creating a community atmosphere among participants. The online components consisted of synchronous and asynchronous lectures; discussions with lecturers; discussions among participants; participant panels; a virtual platform for contacts among participants; and one-on-one mentorship sessions with instructors. There were 24 lectures and workshops in a three-week period, including sessions with officials of a Native American Nation and sessions with UN officials, in addition to 10 participant panels. The program provides an overview and analysis of the major questions in Indigenous affairs today, as they have emerged globally in the last decades, culminating in the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and efforts towards its implementation.

PROGRAM ON PEACEBUILDING AND HUMAN RIGHTS (PBHR)



The Program on Peace-building and Human Rights (PBHR) is an applied research endeavor that works in conjunction with local partners, emphasizing knowledge sharing and capacity building. PBHR shapes policy, working closely with U.S. officials, international stakeholders, foreign governments, and through research, regular media appearances, and advocacy.

The Peacebuilding Program has developed international projects in:

- The Middle East (Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Kurdish issues)
- The Western Balkans (Serbia-Kosovo normalization and mutual recognition between Greece and North Macedonia)
- Rakhine State in Myanmar
- Transitional justice in Sudan
- Countering and preventing violent extremism in Sri Lanka



Highlights of 2020-21

From June 2020 to May 2021, PBHR published over 45 articles, given approximately 14 interviews, and organized or co-sponsored approximately 22 events on a variety of peacebuilding and human rights topics.

Launch of Artsakh Atrocities website:

The Program on Peacebuilding and Rights (PBHR) launched a research project on “Human Rights and Foreign Terrorist Activities in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh)” in November, 2020. In partnership with the Human Rights Ombudsman for Artsakh, the project draws on primary sources documenting crimes against humanity and other atrocities committed by Azerbaijani armed forces and Turkish-backed Islamist fighters against Armenians. Project arrangements were facilitated by the Armenian Assembly of America.

Panel on the Armenian Genocide

President Joe Biden recognized Armenian Genocide on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day (April 24, 2021). Following his statement, PBHR organized a discussion on the impact of Biden's statement, including Bernard Kouchner (former foreign minister of France and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General), Daniel Fried (former Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs and Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow at the Atlantic Council), and Van Z. Krikorian (Co-chair, Armenian Assembly of America).

Transitional Justice Workshop in Sudan:

Peacebuilding and Human Rights (PBHR) worked with the Darfur Bar Association and the University of Khartoum to convene a conference on "Transitional Justice in Sudan" (November 30, December 1). The meeting was attended by civil society, bar associations, women's groups, organizations representing Internally Displaced Persons, as well as the governors of several Darfur states. US Special Envoy for Sudan, Ambassador Donald Booth, addressed the plenary. To follow-up the conference, PBHR will assist the Government of Sudan to prepare legislation establishing a Transitional Justice Commission, guiding the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy.

From June 2020 to May 2021, PBHR published approximately 45 articles, given approximately 14 interviews, and organized or co-sponsored approximately 22 events on a variety of peacebuilding and human rights topics.

Event highlights:

- [Northern Syria Since Turkey's Invasion](#) - June 22, 2020
- [The Future of Transatlantic Cooperation in the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue](#) - July 14, 2020
- [The Impact of Deadly Conflict on Kurds in Iraq and Syria](#) - July 17, 2020
- [Turkey's Targeting of Christians and Religious Minorities in Syria](#) - September 18, 2020
- [Targeting Christians in Turkey](#) - September 23, 2020
- [U.S. and Regional Implications to War in Nagorno-Karabakh](#) - October 22, 2020
- [Roundtable on the Future of Kosovo](#) - October 28, 2020
- [Human Rights in Burma](#) - February 25, 2021
- [Views of Burmese Religious and Ethnic Groups](#) - March 8, 2021
- [Myanmar Crisis with with Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun](#) - March 18, 2021
- [President Biden's Statement on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and Its Consequences](#) - April 27, 2021



From June 2020 to May 2021, PBHR has published approximately 45 articles, given approximately 14 interviews, and organized or co-sponsored approximately 22 events on a variety of peacebuilding and human rights topics.

PROGRAM ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Established in 2017, the Program on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encourages the next generation of advocates to focus on the implementation of rights and to gain the necessary skill sets and knowledge to engage across disciplinary boundaries and professional fields. The program focuses on four multi-year projects that combine research, student involvement, and advocacy.

- Menstrual Health and Human Rights
- The UN Special Procedures and their Contribution to the Realization of Socio-Economic Rights
- The Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights

Highlights of 2020-2021

Professor Inga Winkler (Lecturer in the Discipline of Human Rights in the Department of Political Science) and fellows of the Menstrual Health and Gender Justice Working Group at the Center for the Study of Social Difference received the Provost's Interdisciplinary Teaching Award for a new course on Menstruation, Gender and Rights: Interdisciplinary Approaches. The course explores the contemporary discourse around menstruation in global and local contexts. It is taught by an interdisciplinary team of faculty members with backgrounds in human rights, law, epidemiology, anthropology, biomedical informatics, computer science, economics, and women's and gender studies.

Professor Winkler served as co-editor for *The Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies* (co-edited with Chris Bobel, Tomi-Ann Roberts, Breanne Fahs, Elizabeth Kissling and Katie Ann Hasson), published in July 2020. The Handbook situates menstruation as a category of analysis, establishing the field of critical menstruation studies as a coherent and multi-dimensional transdisciplinary subject of inquiry and advocacy. It brings together 134 contributors from more than 30 countries in 72 chapters. With support from the UN Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and *The Case for Her*, the Handbook was published open access and has received more than 760,000 downloads. In February 2021, Professor Winkler discussed her work on removing stigma around menstruation with NPR's Malaka Gharib.

On October 8th, 2020, the Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies officially launched during an online webinar, featuring comments by the handbook editors, selected contributing authors, and a live Q&A with audience members.





AFRICAN-AMERICAN REDRESS NETWORK

The African-American Racial Redress Network is an innovative model for scholars and advocates to further groundbreaking work in activism and to promote redress for U.S. historical racial injustices by undertaking and facilitating interdisciplinary research, capacity-building, education, and advocacy. The project is a collaboration between Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights and Howard University's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center (TMCRC).

The Network is unique in that it is rooted in local reparations efforts. Its Steering Committee includes local representatives from Africatown and GU272 and national organizations such as N'Cobra and Black Lives Matter. Moreover, the project is a purposeful collaboration between a predominantly White university and a HBCU. Both Columbia University's ISHR and Howard University's TMCRC have experience bridging the theory and practice of human rights. Thus, the Network governance is designed to support and build upon the expertise of local and national practitioners, as well as the research, capacity-building, and legal expertise of both universities.

redress initiatives aimed to confront the legacies of slavery, lynching and racism. The assessment of these initiatives were framed within the international human rights law frameworks as defined by Resolution 60/147 and the

Initial research performed by ISHR identified over 350 local International Commission of Jurists to include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. Existing public redress efforts within the network fall mostly under the category of satisfaction, namely apologies, truth-seeking initiatives through historical research and preservation, and commemorations and monuments that shift historical narrative.

The Network currently consists of over 200 members from 30 states and includes activists, scholars and artists working in the field of redress. Members represent a diversity of institutions and approaches for pursuing racial justice, including remembrance projects, government sponsored reparation ordinances, land preservations, and museums. On Juneteenth 2020 the website for the Network was launched. The launch of the website highlighted approximately 120 local redress efforts within the South Atlantic region of the U.S. The successful launch of the project resulted in media attention.

The demand for technical assistance to local reparations efforts is significant. Currently the organization is working alongside activists in Evanston, IL, Africatown, AL, Brown Grove Land, VA, Red Summer Education Initiative and the VA Redress Network. The collaboration with other reparation organizations will be key to securing support for local efforts.

Reparations 2021

On Saturday, April 10th, AARN held its first convening of the year, Reparations 2021, which was sponsored by Columbia University's Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement through the Addressing Racism Seed Grant Initiative.

Reparations 2021 brought together grassroots organizers, government representatives, researchers, and students to discuss local reparations efforts in the U.S. and consider

ways to build strong partnerships moving forward. The conference created a space for individuals and organizations to learn from one another and grow in their efforts to secure racial justice at the local level. The program focused on Politics, Legislation, & Litigation; Advocacy & Organizing; Research & Documentation; and Education & Awareness Raising. The Network plans to continue these conversations with a conference series throughout the year and is in the process of completing a report detailing the findings of the Reparations 2021 Conference.



REPARATIONS 2021

Saturday, April 10th Agenda

Purpose: further our understanding of the development and implementation of U.S. policies and their justice potential. Additionally, the intention is to promote and facilitate collaborative and/or interdisciplinary research and the enhancement of research by creating a networking infrastructure.

11:05 - 11:30

Opening Session

Conference organizers will welcome participants and review the purpose and goals of the convening.

11:30- 12:30

A Conversation with Local Redress Leaders

Speakers: Joe Womack (Africatown);
Ald. Simmons, Kamm Howard (Evanston, IL);
Waymon Hinson (Black Farmers Reparations)
Facilitator: Nkechi Taifa (Founder, Principal and CEO of The Taifa Group LLC)

12:30- 1:30

Breakout Rooms

Politics, Legislation & Litigation;
Advocacy & Organizing;
Research & Documentation;
Education & Awareness Raising

1:30- 2:20

Reporting and Reconvening

2:20- 2:30

Thank You

Goals of the convening

- To develop a framework for sustainable networking
- To develop an online presence for collaboration and dialogue
- To foster an informed public on the policy and research debate of U.S. local racial redress
- To explore the complexities and responses for developing justice initiatives
- To develop a deeper understanding of the methodological and conceptual tools employed
- To address historical legacies of racial injustices that assure meaningful and sustainable repair
- To explore new and burgeoning tools for repair initiatives



UNIVERSITY HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN MYANMAR

In 2014, ISHR launched the University Human Rights Education in Myanmar project, which aims to promote and engage in human rights education in Myanmar. Specifically, the aims of this project are to enable university educators to more effectively teach and incorporate human rights into law and other departmental curricula as well as implement research initiatives using rights-based approaches. The first phase of the project involved a junior faculty member from each of the seventeen law departments in Myanmar and many of those participants began teaching a newly compulsory third-year LLB International Human Rights Law course. Key project activities included six in-person workshops at various universities in Myanmar, two phases of online training, the hosting of four visiting scholars in the United States, curriculum development, campus visits, the launch of an online human rights education network, and the facilitation of links and collaborations between faculty and human rights practitioners in Myanmar.

In 2019, ISHR began a new two-year phase of the project, which focuses specifically on minority rights education. It entails three in-person workshops in Myanmar and over a dozen online modules. This project adopts an intersectional approach to minority rights, and will explore issues that include disability, gender, sexuality, religion, race/ethnicity, language, and Indigenous rights.

Due to Covid-19 and in response to the February 1st coup, 2020-2021 activities focused on online learning modules, webinars, and more individualized support to faculty.

Human Rights in Myanmar Webinar Series

- Human Rights in Burma: A Discussion with Kyaw Min San, Susanna Hla Hla So, Ma Thida, Htun Lin Oo, Nay Phone Lat, and Kyi Pyar. - February 25, 2021
- Views of Burmese Religious and Ethnic Groups - March 8, 2021
- Myanmar Crisis with Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun - March 18, 2021
- A discussion with U Aung Myo Min, Minister of Human Rights for the National Unity Government in Myanmar - May 13, 2021
- Humanitarian Considerations in Myanmar: A Discussion with Dave Mathieson, June 11, 2021

Humanitarian Considerations in Myanmar

Join us for a discussion with Dave Mathieson, an independent analyst with over 20 years of experience researching and working on human rights and humanitarian issues in Myanmar

Friday June 11th
9:30 am ET
8:30 pm ICT

ISHR
Institute for the study of human rights
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

You are invited to a panel discussion on:

VIEWS OF BURMESE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS

With:

- **Zo Tum Hmung** (Executive Director of Chin Association of Maryland)
- **Kyaw San Hlaing** (Founder, PDI Kintha in Sittwe, Rakhine State)
- **Susanna Hla Hla So** (MP and Karen Ethnic Minister, Yangon Region)
- **Dr. Pon Nya Mon** (Executive Director of Ethnic Nationalities Affairs Council)

Facilitated by:

- **David L. Phillips** (Director, Program on Peacebuilding and Human Rights at Columbia University)

MARCH 8 - 9:30 AM EST

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/3bSAzeE>

ISHR Institute for the study of human rights
Peace Building Institute

HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR:

A DISCUSSION WITH THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

SPEAKER: U Aung Myo Min
1993 ISHR HRAP advocate U Aung Myo Min was recently named as the Minister of Human Rights for the National Unity Government in Myanmar by the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH). U Aung Myo Min is also the founder and previous executive director of Equality Myanmar, a leading human rights organization in Myanmar.

THURSDAY, MAY 13TH AT 10:30 EST/20:00 IST/21:00 MMT
For Zoom login information, please register here:



WOMEN AND GENDER IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Women and Gender in Global Affairs (WGGA) is an interdisciplinary, international network of academic scholars and centers focused on women and gender in global affairs. Its goal is to foster stronger relationships across disciplinary and national partitions, provide a platform for information-sharing with respect to research and teaching, and, generally, promote common conversations that may eventually lead to collaborative projects. It continues to work on broadening the network, with particular attention to scholars from Eurasia and Latin America.

WGGA seeks to respond to the backlash on gender studies and human rights by identifying new opportunities, ensuring the viability and sustainability of critical gender knowledge, and furthering the education of new generations of students and scholars who seek to promote gender equality. As a response to the emergence and strengthening of illiberal movements and regimes compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, it conducted a series of working meetings to address the systematic targeting of gender studies programs. In July 2020, WGGA held a strategic meeting with the network's core groups from Central Asia, Eurasia, Africa, Latin America, the United States, and Europe to discuss the gendered effects of the pandemic and its impact on academia, the implications of the long lasting inequity faced by interdisciplinary programs, and the rise of authoritarianism. The meeting helped to conceptualize WGGA as a "network of networks" and defined topics for engagement in areas of interest for scholars such as the need to organize more meetings

addressing the intensifying pressures faced in their programs.

WGGA has also held a set of working meetings with heads of gender study departments, organized networks, and "informal academies." The purpose of these meetings was to identify common responses to the current challenges and harness the opportunities available in the collective community. Following a survey and the first meeting with heads of gender study programs, WGGA co-designed a list of resources and initiatives that could be undertaken collaboratively. In its second meeting with gender studies networks, the network continued building on these ideas for cooperative action and brainstormed the concrete steps needed going forward. WGGA recently held a third meeting with "informal academies", which provided insights into resistance strategies deployed outside formal institutions. As a result of these discussions, and in light of our shared practical desire to bolster the resilience of the gender academy and provide support for programs and scholars in difficult situations, WGGA will focus on the following initiatives: 1) building a website to foster information sharing, 2) establishing an early warning system to recognize and prevent potential pressures and danger for scholars and academic programs, and 3) designing a cybersecurity training workshop in order to help recognize and mitigate risks associated with online learning and information sharing. WGGA has been able to undertake these activities thanks to the generous support of the Open Society Foundations and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Each year, ISHR welcomes a select number of visiting scholars to conduct research on a variety of human rights topics and has hosted close to 100 scholars. This program was suspended during 2020-2021 due to the pandemic, but ISHR looks forward to welcoming visiting scholars again this coming year.

Examples of visiting scholar research projects include:

- The development of an electronic exhibit relating to the Archive Legacy of Conflict in South Asia at the Columbia University Libraries;
- The creation of a model for social and environmental mitigation with Indigenous communities to move away from confrontation, conflict, and hostile development towards conservation and conversation;
- An exploration of Roma identity in the global context;
- Research into counter-narratives of female delegates of the 1948 drafting of the UDHR;
- An investigation of the genealogy of human rights theory, practice and their claim to universality, particularly in relation to their visual representation in exhibitions, museums and digital media.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Research is a key component of ISHR's work that is embedded through its various programs and initiatives. In addition to the research and publications noted throughout this report, publication highlights from faculty and staff include:

Elazar Barkan:

- Barkan, Elazar., Constantin Goschler, and James E Waller. Historical Dialogue and the Prevention of Mass Atrocities. London: Routledge, 2020.

Daniela Ikawa

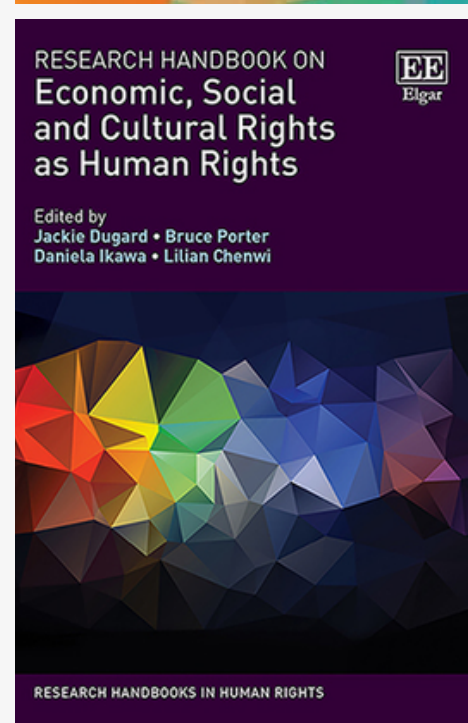
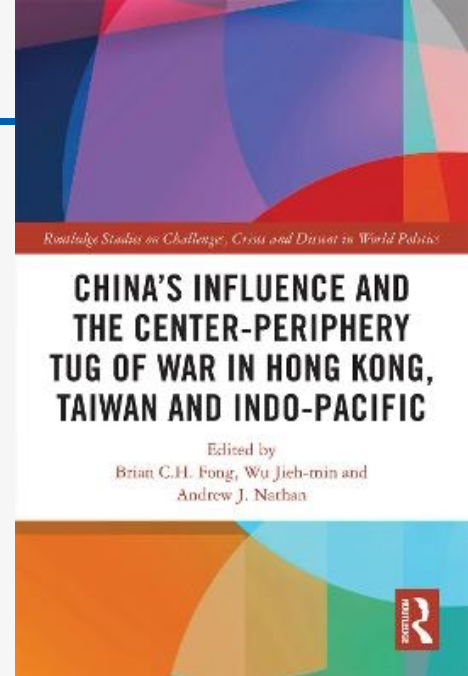
- Dugard, Jackie, Bruce Porter, Daniela Ikawa, and Lilian Chenwi. *Research Handbook on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as Human Rights*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, 2020.

Khatchig Mouradian

- Mouradian, Khatchig. *The Resistance Network: the Armenian Genocide and Humanitarianism in Ottoman Syria, 1915-1918*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2021.

Andrew J. Nathan:

- Nathan, Andrew J. "The Dictator's Two Dilemmas." *Project Syndicate*, August 11, 2020. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/asian-barometer-public-attitudes-authoritarian-vs-democratic-regimes-by-andrew-j-nathan-2020-08>
- Nathan, Andrew J. "The Heart of the New Cold War." *Project Syndicate*, September 25, 2020. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/human-rights-at-the-center-us-china-cold-war-by-andrew-j-nathan-2020-09?barrier=accesspaylog>
- Nathan, Andrew J. "Getting human rights right: Consistency, patience, multilateralism, and setting a good example." in *The Future of U.S. Policy Toward China: Recommendations for the Biden Administration*, edited by Ryan Hass, Ryan McElveen, and Robert Williams, 35-39. Washington DC: Brookings 2020.
- Brian C H., Fong, Jieh-min Wu, and Andrew James Nathan. China's Influence and the Center-Periphery Tug of War in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Indo-Pacific. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2021.
- Nathan, Andrew J. "Culture, Complicity, and Identity: Why Public Support for the CCP Remains High after 2020." in *Party Watch Annual Report*, 1-7. Washington DC: Center for Advanced China Research 2020



FRONTLINE SYRIA

From Revolution to Proxy War

David L. Phillips

Lara J. Nettlefield

- Nettlefield, Lara J. "The New Humanitarians: The Volunteers of the Refugee 'Crisis'," *Harriman Magazine*, Fall 2020.
- Nettlefield, Lara J. "[Accounting for the Missing in Bosnia and Beyond](#)," *Kosovo 2.0*, July 11, 2020 and *openDemocracy*.
- Nettlefield, Lara J., Kobrin, Rebecca. "[We Need Racial and Legal Equality in the US Asylum System Too](#)," *Public Seminar*, June 20, 2020. (Co-authored with Rebecca Kobrin.)

David L. Phillips

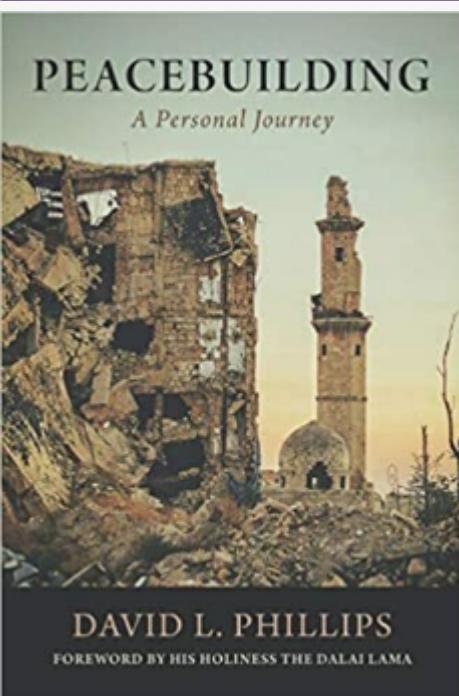
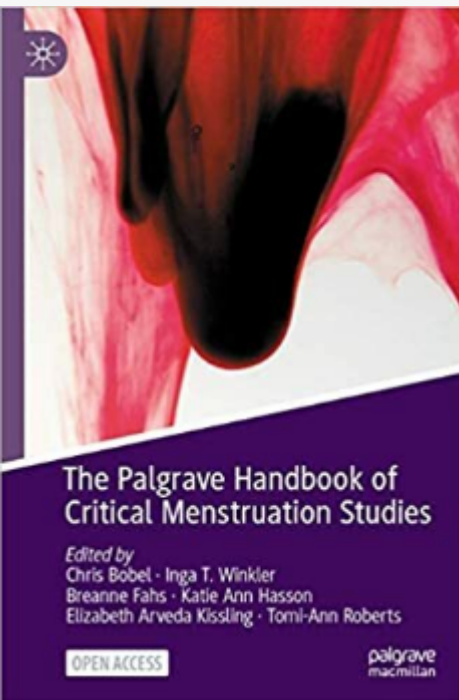
- Phillips, David L. *Frontline Syria: from Revolution to Proxy War*. London, UK: I.B. Tauris, 2021.
- Phillips, David L. *Peacebuilding: A Personal Journey*. Westphalia Press, 2020.

Jack Snyder

- Snyder, Jack. "The First Amendment Is Not a Suicide Pact," *American Purpose*, February 22, 2021. <https://www.americanpurpose.com/articles/the-first-amendment-is-not-a-suicide-pact/>.
- Snyder, Jack. "Backlash against Human Rights Shaming: Emotions in Groups," *International Theory* 12 (2020):109-132.
- Snyder, Jack. "Backlash against Naming and Shaming: The Politics of Status and Emotion," *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 22:4 (2020).
- Snyder, Jack. "Is There a Coherent Ideology of Illiberal Modernity, and Is It a Source of Soft Power?" In *Soft-Power Internationalism* edited by Burcu Baykurt and Victoria de Grazia, 274-300. New York Chichester, West Sussex: Columbia University Press, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.7312/bayk19544-013>

Inga Winkler

- Winkler, Inga. "Socio-economic rights: Consolidating progress, charting future directions" in *A Research Agenda for Human Rights*, edited by Michael Stohl and Alison Brysk, 111-125. Elgar 2020.
- Winkler, I. T., Bobel, C., Fahs, B., Hasson, K. H., Kissling, E. A., Roberts, T. ed., *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies*. Palgrave Macmillan 2020.
- Winkler, Inga T., Chris Bobel, Lauren C. Houghton, Noémie Elhadad, Caitlin Gruer, and Vanessa Paranjothy. "The Politics, Promises, and Perils of Data: Evidence-Driven Policy and Practice for Menstrual Health." *Women's Reproductive Health* 7, no. 4 (December 1, 2020): 227-43. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23293691.2020.1820240>.



SELECT FACULTY RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Lara J. Nettelfield

Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Human Rights in the Department of Political Science

Professor Nettelfield contributed to an expert report for the Bronx Defenders (in support of a client in removal proceedings). Her other projects included endorsing and hosting a book talk for Kenneth Morrison and Paul Lowe's *Reporting the Siege of Sarajevo* (Bloomsbury, 2021); a screening of the film *Stalingrad* (dir. Hind Meddeb); a talk on "Neurorights: Human Rights Guidelines for Human Rights Guidelines for Neurotechnology and AI" with Prof. Rafael Yuste for the Technology and Human Rights speaker series; a panel on "Solidarity along the Balkan Route: Five Years Since the EU-Turkey Deal" with the Committee on Forced Migration, and a book talk for Alec Karatkatsanis' *Usual Cruelty: The Complicity of Lawyers in the Criminal Justice System* (New Press, 2019). With her *Human Rights in the United States* class, she created a GIS map, the COVID Solidarity Project. She will be launching additional maps on refugee solidarity organizations in Europe and refugee-led organizations soon. She also presented on a panel organized for Columbia's GIS Day. She is a member of the Committee of Forced Migration, the Working Group on Migrant Personhood, and the Executive Committee of the Harriman Institute. She is cited in the following articles:



Professor Inga Winkler

Lecturer in the Discipline of Human Rights in the Department of Political Science

Professor Winkler served as co-editor for *The Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies* (co-edited with Chris Bobel, Tomi-Ann Roberts, Breanne Fahs, Elizabeth Kissling and Katie Ann Hasson), published in July 2020. The Handbook situates menstruation as a category of analysis, establishing the field of critical menstruation studies as a coherent and multi-dimensional transdisciplinary subject of inquiry and advocacy. It brings together 134 contributors from more than 30 countries in 72 chapters. With support from the UN Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and The Case for Her, the Handbook was published open access and has received more than 760,000 downloads. In February 2021, Professor Winkler discussed her work on removing stigma around menstruation with NPR's Malaka Gharib.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

ISHR organizes or co-sponsors dozens of speaking events every year to foster critical reflection and dialogue on human rights issues. These events engage the Columbia and broader human rights community, raise awareness of human rights issues, and create opportunities for networking and collaboration. Events organized between the **summers of 2020 and 2021**



Northern Syria Since Turkey's Invasion
June 22, 2020



The Future of Transatlantic Cooperation in the Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue
July 14, 2020



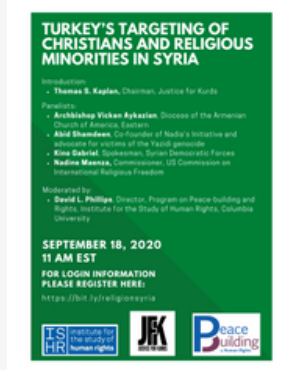
The Impact of Deadly Conflict on Kurds in Iraq and Syria
July 17, 2020



ISHR Webinar: The Intersection of Arts, Human Rights & Social Change
July 23, 2020



COVID-19, migration and human rights: impact and solutions
July 28, 2020



Turkey's Targeting of Christians and Religious Minorities in Syria
September 18, 2020



Elections and Human Rights - Youth Engagement and Influence
September 21, 2020



Targeting Christians in Turkey
September 23, 2020



Resisting the Gaslight: Lawyering for Palestinian Rights
September 28, 2020



Elections and Human Rights Series: Ensuring an Equal Right to Vote
September 30, 2020



Elections and Human Rights Series: Voting Rights and Incarceration
October 6, 2020



Book Launch: Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies
October 8, 2020



Human Rights Summer Internship Panel
October 8, 2020



Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and the Covid-19 Pandemic
October 12, 2020



Human Rights Alumni Speaker Series with Barbara Matias
October 13, 2020



Election and Human Rights Series: Indigenous Peoples Rights and Elections
October 14, 2020



Election and Human Rights Series: Human rights classrooms and elections - Teaching the day after
October 16, 2020



The current state of LGBTQI+ rights in Jamaica, Kazakhstan & Mexico: A Conversation with participants in ISHR's Human Rights Advocates Program
October 16, 2020



Separating Families as a Tool of Coercion: Palestine and the US
October 19, 2020



The Plight of Christians in Iraq
October 22, 2020



U.S. and Regional Implications to War in Nagorno-Karabakh
October 22, 2020



The Intersections Of Climate Change & Race: Does Addressing Climate Change Mean Addressing Racism?
October 28, 2020



Roundtable on the Future of Kosovo
October 28, 2020



Human Rights and Decolonization in Palestine
October 29, 2020



Missing Maps: Free Interactive Workshop
November 6, 2020



A Conversation with Disability Rights Advocates in Ghana and Uganda
November 12, 2020



Film Screening: Paris Stalingrad
November 20, 2020



Born on the Battlefield
December 2, 2020



Neurorights: Human Rights Guidelines for Neurotechnology and AI
January 29, 2021



Historical Dialogue: Beyond Conflict Resolution and Transitional Justice
February 19, 2021

Join us for a book talk with the authors of

REPORTING THE SIEGE OF SARAJEVO

Speakers:

- Kenneth Morrison, Professor of Medicine, American Museum of Natural History
- Paul Lavin, Reader in Documentary Photography, The Arts, London
- Sally Hunsford, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Human Rights, Institute for the Study of Human Rights and Program of Political Science

The Siege of Sarajevo remains the longest siege in modern European history. Lasting three months, it was the bloodiest and most intense a city has ever known. The Siege of Sarajevo is a gripping, eye-opening book that tells the story of the city's struggle for survival. It is a powerful and timely work that sheds light on the human cost of war and the resilience of the human spirit.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021
1PM (EST), 6PM (BST), 7PM (CET)

For Zoom information, please register here:
<http://bit.ly/SiegeofSarajevo>

Book Talk: Reporting the Siege of Sarajevo
February 19, 2021

You are invited to a panel discussion on

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

Panelists:

- Kywe Min San**, Legal Consultant and founder of Justice for All
- Suzanna Ma Ma Su**, MP and former ethics minister of Yangon Region
- Ma Nyein** (aka Shweing) Writer, Director of Peat Myanmar Writers Association
- Winn Lin De**, Law for All organization and writer
- Ray Pheng Lay**, Lawyer, former political prisoner and MP of Yangon region, 2010-2015
- Kai Fye**, former MP of Yangon Region and pro-democracy activist

Facilitated by:

- David L. Phillips**, Director, Program on Peacebuilding and Rights, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University

FEBRUARY 25 - 9:30 AM EST

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Human Rights in Burma
February 25, 2021

HISTORICAL DIALOGUE

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPLICATIONS IN ART, MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

FEBRUARY 25, 12-1:15PM EST

Panelists:

- CHRISTINE JOHNSON**, Anthropologist, Curator, Director of the Peabody Essex Museum
- LARIN ANDREWS ANDERSON**, Anthropologist, Curator, Director of the Peabody Essex Museum
- FRANCO VIGORE**, Director of the Peabody Essex Museum

Moderated by **DAILY YORUBOVICH**, Director of Special Collections, Peabody Essex Museum

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION, PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Historical Dialogue: Interdisciplinary applications in art, museums and collections
- February 25, 2021

You are invited to a panel discussion on

VIEWS OF BURMESE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Panelists:

- Da Tun Hsing**, Executive Director of The Association of Burma
- Kywe Min San**, Founder, FDI Kartha in Davao, Balabac, Mindanao
- Suzanna Ma Ma Su**, MP and former Ethics Minister, Yangon Region
- Dr. Poo Poo Maw**, Executive Director of Ethical Nationalities Affairs Council

Facilitated by:

- David L. Phillips**, Director, Program on Peacebuilding and Human Rights at Columbia University

MARCH 8 - 9:30 AM EST

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Views of Burmese Religious and Ethnic Groups
- March 8, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to

HISTORICAL DIALOGUE

AFRO-BRAZILIANS AND THE RIGHT TO MEMORY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE

MARCH 9, 12-1:15PM EST

Panelists:

- AMY CHAZEL**, Award-Winning Author, Professor of African Studies, Department of African Studies
- YARA OLIVEIRA FERREIRA**, Anthropologist, Curator, Director of the Museu Afrotopia
- ISAAC STRAUSSBERGER**, Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Moderated by **FRANCO VIGORE**, Director of Special Collections, Peabody Essex Museum

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION, PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Historical Dialogue: Afro-Brazilians and the Right to Memory, Education and Culture
March 9, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to

HISTORICAL DIALOGUE

SPACE FOR RECONCILIATION

MARCH 15, 11AM-12:15PM EST

Panelists:

- JAMES BOYD**, Award-Winning Author, Professor of African Studies, Department of African Studies
- YARA OLIVEIRA FERREIRA**, Anthropologist, Curator, Director of the Museu Afrotopia
- ISAAC STRAUSSBERGER**, Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Moderated by **FRANCO VIGORE**, Director of Special Collections, Peabody Essex Museum

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION, PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Historical Dialogue: Space for Reconciliation
March 15, 2021

You are invited to a discussion with

HIS EXCELLENCY KYAW MOE TUN

Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

to discuss the

MYANMAR CRISIS

Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun spectacularly broke with Myanmar's military junta at the UN General Assembly on February 25. He issued an emotional plea for help to restore civilian rule and stop the violence, targeting peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators. The next day the junta said the envoy had been sacked, but Kyaw Moe Tun refused to vacate the post. His deputy refused to take the job, deepening the diplomatic crisis.

March 18, 1pm EST

For login information, please register here:
<http://bit.ly/2tr4AA>

Myanmar Crisis with with Ambassador Kyaw Moe Tun
March 18, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights, the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and the Human Rights Institute invite you to a panel discussion on

Solidarity along the Balkan Route: Five Years after the EU-Turkey Deal

Panelists:

- DA TUN HSING**, Executive Director of The Association of Burma
- KYWE MIN SAN**, Founder, FDI Kartha in Davao, Balabac, Mindanao
- SUZANNA MA MA SU**, MP and former Ethics Minister, Yangon Region
- DR. POO POO MAW**, Executive Director of Ethical Nationalities Affairs Council

Facilitated by:

- DAVID L. PHILLIPS**, Director, Program on Peacebuilding and Human Rights at Columbia University

MARCH 19
12PM (EST) - 4PM (GMT) - 5PM (CET) - 6PM (ET)

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION, PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Solidarity along the Balkan Route: Five Years after EU-Turkey Deal
March 19, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to an online panel

"I AM NOT A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSON, BUT..."

This panel, sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the Annals of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, explores the potential to make the conversation about rights to engage with and learn from the many scholars, students, and practitioners working on human rights. It will explore the potential to make the conversation about rights to engage with and learn from the many scholars, students, and practitioners working on human rights. It will explore the potential to make the conversation about rights to engage with and learn from the many scholars, students, and practitioners working on human rights.

Panelists:

- Suzanne Ashmore**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Cornell College, Columbia University
- Mark Mazman**, Ph.D. Fellow, Professor of History, Department of History, Columbia University
- Michael Doyle**, University Professor, Columbia University

MARCH 23 - 12 TO 2 PM EST

For Zoom login information, please register here:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

"I'm not a human rights person, but..."
March 23, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to an online panel

CAREERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Insights from the Field

Wednesday, March 24th
12:00-1:30PM

Please join us for ISHR's Annual Career Panel! Human rights professionals will discuss their current work and offer insights and advice to students interested in pursuing a career in human rights. More information to follow.

Speakers include:

- Matthew Wilson**, Open Society Foundations - Deputy Director, Global Drug Policy
- Guerra Sanchez Martinez**, International Organization for Migration, Law Officer
- Roberta Brenner**, Center for Reproductive Rights - Senior Director of Advocacy
- Steve Miller**, Hestia Parker - Chief Financial Officer
- Ryan Herman**, Humanity United, Senior Manager - Forced Labor & Human Trafficking

For Zoom login information, please register here:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Human Rights Career Panel
March 24, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to an online panel

REPARATIONS 2021

Join the African American Racial Justice Network for an interactive conference on reparations efforts in the United States. Reparations 2021 will be an opportunity to learn more about reparations efforts in the United States. It will be an opportunity to learn more about reparations efforts in the United States. It will be an opportunity to learn more about reparations efforts in the United States.

Panelists:

- Matthew Wilson**, Open Society Foundations - Deputy Director, Global Drug Policy
- Guerra Sanchez Martinez**, International Organization for Migration, Law Officer
- Roberta Brenner**, Center for Reproductive Rights - Senior Director of Advocacy
- Steve Miller**, Hestia Parker - Chief Financial Officer
- Ryan Herman**, Humanity United, Senior Manager - Forced Labor & Human Trafficking

APRIL 10, 2021
11:00 A.M. ET

WTF://BIT.LY/REPARATIONS2021

Reparations 2021
April 10, 2021

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights invites you to an online panel

Human Rights Advocates on the Frontlines Respond to Covid-19

Panelists:

- DAVID L. PHILLIPS**, Director, Program on Peacebuilding and Human Rights, Columbia University
- FRANCO VIGORE**, Director of Special Collections, Peabody Essex Museum
- ISAAC STRAUSSBERGER**, Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021
12 PM NEW YORK CITY | 1 PM BUENOS AIRES
5 PM AUSTRIA | 2 PM KAMPALA

FOR ZOOM LOGIN INFORMATION, PLEASE REGISTER HERE:
<http://bit.ly/2o8KZ1n>

Human Rights Advocates on the Frontlines Respond to Covid-19
April 16, 2021



Alumna Speaker Series with Roya Pakzad - April 16, 2021



Historical Dialogue: Interpretation and Telling the Story April 20, 2021



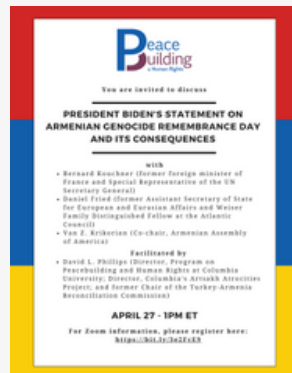
The First Massive Open Online Course on Indigenous Peoples' Rights April 20, 2021



Frontlines: Climate Risks & Migration April 22, 2021



Human Rights Thesis Presentation Competition April 26, 2021



President Biden's Statement on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day and Its Consequences April 27, 2021



End of Year Celebration April 28, 2021



Book Talk: Usual Cruelty May 7, 2021



Human Rights in Myanmar May 13, 2021



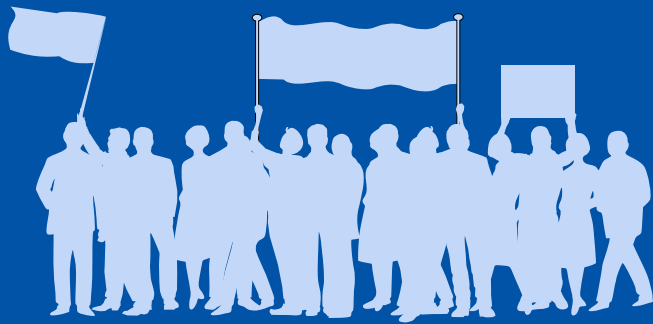
Humanitarian Considerations in Myanmar June 11th, 2021



Human Rights Research and Documentation June 17th, 2021



Response of Myanmar's Religious Communities June 30, 2021



I'm not a human rights person, but...

Jack Snyder, ISHR board member and Robert and Renée Belfer Professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University organized this event, which was co-sponsored by the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies. This engaged with scholars who work on “human rights adjacent” topics of peace, personal security and dignity, humanitarian action, and social and economic justice. The conversation featured Séverine Autesserre, Professor in the Department of Political Science at Barnard College; Mark Mazower, Ira D. Wallach Professor of History in the Department of History at Columbia University; and Michael Doyle, University Professor at Columbia University.

Palestine and Human Rights Series

Bruce Robbins, ISHR board member and Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities in the Department of English & Comparative Literature, organized a successful fall speaker series that addressed different topics related to human rights and Palestine. This series was co-sponsored by the Center for Palestine Studies. These events included:

- [“Resisting the Gaslight: Lawyering for Palestinian Rights”](#)
- [“Separating Families as a Tool of Coercion: Palestine and the US”](#)
- [“Human Rights and Decolonization in Palestine”](#)



Elections and Human Rights highlight

ISHR organized a Fall discussion series that addressed the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs, including through free and fair elections by universal and equal suffrage. A varied group of panelists that addressed both research and advocacy explored various ways in which elections can be a powerful tool for change and tactics for addressing efforts to restrict and manipulate electoral processes. It recognized that elections are an essential means through which we can support representatives who are committed to defending and promoting laws and policies that are respectful of human rights. These events included:

- [Youth Engagement and Influence](#)
- [Ensuring an Equal Right to Vote](#)
- [Indigenous Rights and Elections](#)
- [Human Rights Classrooms and Elections: Teaching the Day After](#)



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