



Alliance for Historical Dialogue & Accountability

2012 Program Report

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Forward

Conflicts are grounded in historical animosity, as is evident by current tensions and clashes around the world. The historical conflicts in Northeast Asia, for example, which relate primarily to Japan's wartime atrocities and colonial legacy, top the harsh international rhetoric. But the Balkans, Turkey, and the Middle East are just a few of the other areas where historical animosity either dominates or shapes contemporary politics. Alas, the conflict resolution professionals tend to overlook issues of historical justice and group memory in their efforts to address protracted conflicts. Despite this tendency, however, civil society, and in certain contexts, governments increasingly recognize the need to attend to those conflicts, and their impact on public opinion and politics. Likewise, attending to past atrocities is receiving greater attention in human rights advocacy and scholarship, and is motivated by the recognition that continuous historical injustices have to be redressed in order to solve current intra and interstate conflict, as well as structural discrimination.

In a variety of ways, the work of the newly established Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) program seeks to further these developments, and to recognize and include history and memory as significant factors to consider in conflict resolution. It is thus a great pleasure to be able to report on the first year of activities of the Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA), housed at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University (ISHR). This relatively new discipline is exploring its way between the field of conflict resolution and prevention on the one hand, and the field of transitional justice on the other. It goes beyond legal questions, and beyond individual encounters, to address the identity of the group and the nation. The aims of the AHDA program come at an opportune moment: as the scholarship on historical conflicts expands world-wide, so does civil society advocacy, with the goal of advancing historical dialogue and countering the nationalist mythologies that aggravate conflicts. The field includes a variety of political, social and cultural

activities: from education and textbooks to the production of films (including documentaries), the establishment of museums and commemorations, the work of historical scholarship, oral histories and ethnographies, and formal and informal historical commissions.

AHDA's goal is to provide a virtual and physical space for advocates and scholars to compare and expand their experience and knowledge. ISHR is very proud of our first year of activities, which included launching a semester long International Fellowship program, hosting a large international conference, and establishing a web presence that serves as a clearing house for many advocates who learn about a diverse range of related activities in other parts of the world.

We could not have done it without our partners and funders: Robert Bosch Foundation; Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (IFA); International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ); International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. At Columbia University: the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life; the Heyman Center for the Humanities; the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research; Columbia University Seminars: History, Redress and Reconciliation; Columbia University Seminar on Cultural Memory; the Guantanamo Public Memory Project; the Columbia Center for Oral History; and Reacting to the Past.

We are currently into our second year with a growing program and many aspirations. We invite you to connect with us, individually, and institutionally, and together we can further the cause of historical dialogue as a tool of redress and conflict resolution.

Elazar Barkan,
Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director, Human Rights Concentration at the School
for International and Public Affairs
Columbia University

Introduction

The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program (AHDA) at Columbia University has expanded the work of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights in the growing field of scholarship and practice that seeks to examine and address the historical legacy of conflicts, and in particular the role and impact that the memory of past violence wields on contemporary politics, societies and cultures. The depth of interest in the program reflects the increasing recognition on the part of stakeholders that addressing a violent past and conflicting narratives about the past are integral tools in the work of reconciliation and democracy promotion.

As described below, the AHDA program consists of several different initiatives: its recently established virtual network serves as a resource for scholars, students, and practitioners, and seeks to connect individuals working on issues of historical dialogue around the world; the annual conference elaborates on this goal by enabling individuals to meet and explore specific questions and themes in depth, and to share their research and practices with others in the field. Likewise the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research is a resource for advocates and scholars and itself is an important tool for archiving the work being done in historical dialogue. Finally, the fellowship program enables a group of practitioners and

scholars in the field of historical dialogue to come to Columbia for a semester of coursework, skills-building workshops, project development and networking opportunities that strengthen their work and the work of their organizations in the field of historical dialogue.

As reflected herein by the fellows and by our other programs, historical dialogue and accountability takes place in a variety of fields ranging from journalism and education to film and new media. These disciplines all contribute to the goals of historical dialogue, namely, enhancing public discussion about the past; understanding the uses and misuses of history; and creating a framework in which communities can reflect, share and debate their past in the quest for reconciliation and a more democratic future. We look forward to continuing to work with our AHDA partners, fellows and alumni, and the many participants, contributors and supporters of AHDA's programs.

Ariella Lang
*Director, Alliance for Historical Dialogue and
Accountability Program
Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University*

Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability



AHDA fellows Bijoyeta Das and Jolanta Steciuk on the steps of Low Library



Participants at the AHDA conference in December 2012

The Network

The Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Network (www.historicaldialogues.org) brings together scholars and practitioners concerned with historical dialogue, justice and memory in societies in which past and present conflicts or historic wrongs impinge on the present; as a network, it encourages interdisciplinary, transnational and comparative research and advocacy on issues relating to the memorialization and historicization of conflicts and historic wrongs, historical and transitional justice, the promotion of sustainable peace and participatory democracy, and reconciliation and historical dialogue. It aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge across the divides of academic institutions, disciplines and fields, of national and local contexts, and of theory and practice. The Dialogues is a joint initiative of the Historical Justice and Memory Research Network (HJM-RN), housed at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, in Melbourne, and of the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) at Columbia University. AHDA is collecting case studies and

research in order to map instances of historical dialogue globally. With the support of our affiliates, the network seeks to publicize activities and scholarship in historical dialogue, and to publish papers that analyze and present the degree of historical dialogue reached in different societies. To this end, the network serves as a virtual portal that connects practitioners, scholars, and others interested in the field of historical dialogue by serving as a resource and information point on activities, research, and opportunities happened in the field. Moreover, the mapping of historical dialogue globally can serve as a basis for policy recommendations.

Annual Conference

Each December, AHDA holds a multi-day conference in New York City, bringing affiliates – scholars and practitioners who work in the field of historical dialogue – together. These individuals have the opportunity to present their projects, scholarly papers, and case studies. The conference provides a space for



AHDA participants and other Columbia students at the International House

networking, opportunities to share knowledge and experiences, and establishes AHDA's identity as a forum for historical dialogue. As an annual event, the conference is also used to explore different topics and challenges within the field, and to reach out to a wide cross-section of practitioners and scholars working in the field.

Our inaugural conference, "Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society," took place from December 11-14, 2012. The aim of the conference was to explore the relatively new field of historical dialogue and its relationship to other discourses such as transitional justice, memory studies, oral history, historical redress and religious studies. Sessions addressed the possibilities and limits of these concepts and methods, searching for unexplored connections and elaborating upon how historical analysis can be used to resolve long-standing sectarian conflicts. Panels included topics on a wide range of regional and thematic topics, including: Local Memory, Global Relations: China, Japan, Korea; Visual Representation and Exhibits as Historical Dialogue; Teaching Controversy: Pedagogy and Contested Histories; and The Historian in Dialogue.

The Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research

The CHRDR continues to build strong collections of primary source and published materials. During the calendar year of 2012, there were 21 accessions encompassing approximately 900 linear feet of new materials into our archives. We were pleased to acquire the papers of several individuals who have

played important roles in human rights monitoring and advocacy: A. Whitney Ellsworth, chairman of Amnesty International USA between 1976-78 and treasurer during the decade of the 1970s; Andrew Blane, early member of Amnesty International USA, first American to serve on AI's International Executive Committee, and coordinator of the Amnesty International Oral History Project; and Gay J. McDougall, director of the Southern Africa Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The CHRDR is also initiating a project to serve as a repository for materials collected under the auspices of the Guantánamo Public Memory Project. In the past year, finding aids have been posted online for the archives of the regional divisions of Human Rights Watch, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility. These collections are now available for use by researchers. In December of 2012, the CHRDR was awarded a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, CLIR, for a project, "Documenting Advocacy." The \$242,000 grant will support continued processing of archival collections. The Human Rights Web Archive launched in the fall of 2012, providing access to the archived websites of over 500 human rights organizations. Mellon Foundation funding will continue to support the development of this program over the next two years, including studies of how web-based information is used in human rights research. Finally, the CHRDR participated in several ISHR sponsored programs, meeting with HRAP and AHDA fellows, supporting the research of students in the human rights programs and courses, and joining a panel at the AHDA Annual Conference.

AHDA fellows at the winter reception. (From left to right: Ariella Lang, Sandra Orlović, Murat Celikkan, Bijoyeta Das, Jolanta Steciuk, Mario Mazić, Elazar Barkan)



The Fellowship Program

Historical dialogue remains disconnected as a field and underutilized as a mechanism for addressing conflict. Prominent activists and academics in conflict and post-conflict countries engaged in the process of historical dialogue share similar challenges, including:

- Minimal dialogue between like-minded peers, often a result of geographical and political isolation
- Insufficient exchange between disciplines who work under the umbrella of historical dialogue
- Limited knowledge of best practices
- Little access to available resources, including funding opportunities and conferences
- Lack of a recognized and clearly defined field with which those working on historical dialogue can identify

Our fellowship program, established in the Fall 2012 seeks to contribute to the field of historical dialogue by building a network of historical dialogue advocates; by fostering a dynamic academic environment for Fellows to initiate and develop new projects in the field of historical dialogue; by facilitating discussion about the past in their respective societies. The projects that the fellows develop during the course of the fellowship are implemented upon their return to their home communities.

The success of the inaugural year of the AHDA fellowship program was due in no small part to the Institute's lengthy history of working with educators and scholars, advocates and

practitioners, to strengthen the skills and knowledge of those working in the field of human rights. As 2012 fellow Khet Long wrote, "the curriculum has broadened my knowledge and improved my own practices in terms of designing projects that grapple with reconciliation, memory, oral history, as well as improving, both in breadth and depth, my skills in dealing with the past."

The AHDA curriculum includes four types of sessions: seminars with scholars and other experts in historical dialogue, exploring major theoretical issues and on-the-ground case studies; capacity building workshops that focus on practical skills important to the work of historical dialogue; site visits to relevant organizations working in historical dialogue, to observe their practices, learn more about their strategies, and meet their leadership and staff; finally, fellows have the opportunity to enroll in a Columbia University course of their choice, relevant to their particular context or approach to historical dialogue.

The AHDA 2012 fellows were chosen by a selection committee from a large pool of applicants from over 40 countries. The fellows came from Cambodia, Croatia, India, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Turkey to deepen their understanding of historical dialogue and related fields such as transitional justice, oral history, memory studies, and conflict resolution. Throughout the fellowship, they developed specific projects in the field that were to be implemented upon their return to their home communities.

ISHR staff generously contributed their time and expertise to developing the AHDA curriculum and to shaping the pro-



(Clockwise, from top left): AHDA fellow Murat Celikkan presents his work at the historical dialogue conference; AHDA fellows visit the Statue of Liberty; AHDA fellows exploring New York City; The plenary session of the conference on historical dialogue.

gram. Professor Elazar Barkan, Director of ISHR, is also a Professor of International and Public Affairs and Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. He co-founded and shaped the AHDA program. The vision and hard work of co-founder, Veronika Burget, was equally central for the success of the program. Stephanie Grepo directs the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP), an annual training program for human rights activists from around the world, and the model in many ways for the AHDA program. Liz Sevchenko, director of the Guantanamo Public Memory Project, helped develop the AHDA curriculum. Ariella Lang, AHDA program director,

developed and oversaw the AHDA curriculum and related activities and events. Danielle Goldberg provided crucial administrative support for the program.

The Fellows

We asked the Fellows to share with us what historical dialogue means to them, and how their work connects history and human rights advocacy. Each entry is followed by details regarding the fellows' activities during their time in New York City.



SANDRA ORLOVIĆ

Deputy Executive Director
Humanitarian Law Center
Belgrade, Serbia

I come from a country that disappeared when I was 11 years old. The breakup of Yugoslavia, followed by a catastrophic war that took over 130,000 lives, has marked my personal and professional life in many different ways. That my primary education took place in an environment full of hatred and extreme nationalism not only exemplifies the challenges that the younger generation faced growing up in a war-torn country; for me personally it triggered an instinctive desire to try and understand why the war happened, to learn who was responsible for it, and to contribute to the mechanisms and value systems that would enable the society to condemn rather than accept this violence and people who promoted it.

In 2004, as a recent graduate from the Faculty of Law at the University of Belgrade, I was appointed to monitor war crimes trials before the newly established War Crimes Chamber in Belgrade. I worked as part of a team of monitors who came from across the region of the former Yugoslavia. Being present at the war crimes trials, seeing perpetrators accused and victims of war crimes testify in the justice arena was a watershed moment for me, and I knew I wanted to work in an arena that stood for justice and democracy and that fought for the criminal responsibility of perpetrators and the acknowledgement of victims. In short, it was this experience that led me to become a human rights activist.

The project I developed at Columbia takes up many of these themes. It deals with the history and memory of the mass graves of Batajnica. This mass grave is the

largest of three mass graves that were discovered in February 2001, and it contained 726 bodies. Batajnica is a suburb of Belgrade, more than 300 kilometers from Kosovo, where the victims had been killed, and less than 20 kilometers from downtown Belgrade. Slobodan Milosevic and a group of high police officials ordered the bodies moved there in order to hide evidence of crimes committed by Serbian forces. At the time of the discovery, the Serbian public reacted quite ambiguously towards the existence of mass graves in its midst. Some denied the authenticity of the reports regarding the graves; others saw the arrest and extradition of Slobodan Milosevic in 2001, which occurred at roughly the same time, as part of an orchestrated and illegitimate effort to defame Serbia and its leaders. In other words, despite the disturbing proximity to the center of the capital city, despite the fact that the highest ranking political, military and police officials in Serbia were convicted of the killings and subsequent concealment of the bodies, public debate about the moral and historical implications of Batajnica mass grave has never occurred. Indeed, Batajnica is seldom mentioned in public and no one, apart from several non-governmental organizations and intellectuals, speaks of the terrifying story of people whose bodies were buried there. My project seeks to acknowledge these victims, to create a public discourse around their tragic fate, and in so doing to contribute to a culture in which Serbs can acknowledge the facts about the crimes committed in our name and integrate this acknowledgement into our social memory.

Sandra Orlović speaks with Professor Andy Gold at the Museum of Tolerance.



Faculty Mentor:

Yasmine Ergas,
Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Adjunct Professor of International Law and International Human Rights Law at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University

Classes:

Law of Genocide, Prof. Menchem Rosensaft, Columbia Law School
Transitional Justice, Prof. Graeme Simpson, Columbia Law School

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum
Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
International Peace Institute
National Endowment for Democracy
New York Tolerance Center
Open Society Institute
Tenement Museum

Speaking Engagements:

“Confronting a Contentious Past: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in the Balkans,” Sponsored by Human Rights Studies Masters of Arts Program and the Harriman Institute, Columbia University.
“Human Rights in Serbia,” Sponsored by the School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.
“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue,” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.
“History and Accountability in Serbia: A Project Proposal,” Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program, Columbia University.
“Remembering Batajnica: Between History and Accountability in Serbia,” *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.



MURAT CELIKKAN

Co-Director

Truth, Justice and Memory Studies Center

Istanbul, Turkey

My own involvement in the field of human rights began in 1986, when I began work that dealt with the atrocities related to the 1980 coup d'état in Turkey. My own experience as a political prisoner in the aftermath of the 1980 coup was what inspired me to become involved in human rights, and more specifically in initiatives of dealing with the past and historical dialogue.

My commitment to historical dialogue, however, is more than a personal story or individual history. The never acknowledged atrocities against minorities in Turkey has not only created an environment of daily violations against them, but has also created a barricade that makes Turkey resistant to democratization. When a society does not deal with the past, when the state neither accepts its faults nor apologizes for its crimes, when perpetrators are not brought to justice, history continues to repeat itself. Dealing with the past leads the way to a more democratic memorialization of events, it leads the way to a more democratic and peaceful society.

The Kurdish conflict, often called “the most burning issue for Turkey,” is deeply connected to the 1980 military coup. Unimaginable acts of torture have been executed and oppressive acts have been enforced in order to abolish Kurdish identity. In the 1990s, under the guise of a renewed “fight against terror,” forced disappearances, unresolved assassinations, mass graves for the Kurdish people were committed as the pervasive policy of that era. The phenomenon of enforced disappearances, especially “those disappeared under custody,” in addition to the societal trauma it

inflicted, is a phenomenon that can never be accepted in a democratic society.

In Turkey there are still hundreds of enforced disappearance cases that remains unresolved, with individuals missing, the whereabouts of whom loved ones are still struggling to learn. The project I developed at Columbia focused on this silence; I developed new and innovative methods of disseminating the truth about Turkish human rights violations to the broader Turkish public. By countering the misinformation that the public receives every day on these issues, I seek to create a platform for official acknowledgement and compensation of victims and their relatives, and to end the impunity with which state violence continues to be obscured. Both my personal experience and my country's dire need for genuine confrontation with the past keeps me motivated to work in this arena.

Faculty Mentor:

Karen Barkey

Professor of Sociology and History

Director, Institute for Religion Culture and Public Life
Columbia University

Armen Marsoobian

Visiting professor, Columbia University

Professor of Philosophy and Chairperson of the Philosophy Department,

Southern Connecticut State University

Classes:

Law of Genocide, Prof. Menachem Rosensaft, Columbia Law School

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum
Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University
Ford Foundation
Gallagher Foundation
Grand Circle Foundation
Heinrich Böll Foundation
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
International Peace Institute
New York Tolerance Center
Open Society Institute
School of the Arts, Columbia University, meeting with Orhan Pamuk
Tenement Museum

Speaking Engagements:

“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue,” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

Panel Chair, “Historical Dialogue and Conflict Negotiation in Israel and Palestine,” *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.

Turks and Kurds, Togetherness or Estrangement?” *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.



AHDA fellows Sandra Orlović and Murat Celikkan speak at the December reception for the Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Respondent, “A conversation with acclaimed director Yesim Ustaloglu,” Sponsored by the Middle East Institute, the American Turkish Society and the Moon and Stars Project.



BIJOYETA DAS

Independent Journalist and Filmmaker
Somriddho Bangladesh (Collaborator;
Dhaka, Bangladesh)
Guwahati, India

Journalists are often interested in covering conflict, war and violence. What interests me, however, is what happens when the mayhem is over, when reporters leave the sites of conflict. What happens to those who are left to recover from horrendous trauma? How do people heal, or do they? As a journalist, as a photographer, and as a woman, I have spent the last four years researching stories about violence against women, and the lives women live in the aftermath of this trauma. I have documented stories such as the Saturday Mothers seeking answers in Turkey, women surviving acid violence, exiled women, and women refugees caught in limbo, and rape survivors. I have interviewed women who have survived horrific violence, but, strikingly, they often speak about restorative justice, forgiveness, letting go, and their desire to move on.

My interactions with these women, and my more general interest in the lives they construct following the violence they have survived led to my reporting on the rape victims and war babies of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh. The Liberation War marked the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan, and the establishment of the Bangladeshi state. In the context of this conflict, the Pakistani army and local militia raped an estimated 200,000 women, although that number has never been verified. In the post war period, fervent nationalism in newly established Bangladesh resulted in a collective and deliberate amnesia regarding the plight of these women and the children that were born as a result of these rapes.

Some rape victims killed themselves or their babies; others fled to India or denied that they had been raped altogether; still others suffered from state sponsored, involuntary international adoptions, which were often used to reinforce Bangladeshi honor and to distance the nation from the “polluted blood” of war babies.

While much energy has been focused on the crimes these women suffered at the hands of the Pakistani military, very little has been done in terms of examining how their own country treated them and responded to their plight. What was life for these women in the aftermath of the war? While Bangladeshi society buried their stories, I discovered through interviews and testimony the many ways that these women helped each other to recover from the trauma they suffered. These initial interactions with these women survivors inspired me to go beyond my job as a journalist, to seek a way to preserve their stories, and to enable the public to understand how these women became victims of social isolation and stigma long after the sexual violence they initially suffered. My project, which is both an oral and visual history project based on interviews that will be part of a public exhibit, not only breaks the culture of shame and silence surrounding these victims of war rape and sexual violence; it creates a space for healing, for intergenerational dialogue, for preserving memories that requires Bangladeshi society to face its past and to reconsider how it understands and teaches its history.

AHDA fellow Bijoyeta Das presents during a seminar meeting.



Faculty Mentor:

David Grubin,
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Film Program
School of the Arts,
Columbia University

Classes:

From Oral History to Literary Narrative, Prof. Jerald Albarelli, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University

Art of Witness, Prof. Rosalyn Deutsche, Barnard College

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

Open Society Institute

Tenement Museum

Women's Media Center

Speaking Engagements:

"Human Rights and Historical Dialogue," Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

"Rape Victims and the Bangladesh War of Independence: A Project Proposal," Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program, Columbia University.

"The Politics and Poetics of Wartime Trauma: Rape Victims in post-conflict Bangladesh," *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.

Panel Chair, Visual Representation and Exhibits as Historical Dialogue, *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.



JOLANTA STECIUK

Civil society activist, Journalist and
program coordinator
POLIS Young Journalists' Association
Warsaw, Poland

For me, historical dialogue is a method of dealing with the past which acknowledges the victims of past violence and human rights abuses; the acknowledgment and memory of these actions is central to understanding the history of conflict, and in allowing generations to come to terms with their past and to reconstruct their identities and their roles in society. Historical dialogue also requires one to collect and analyze facts about one's national history in order to counteract the misuse of history in new political projects, and to enable younger generations to explore the full spectrum of analyses insofar as they relate to the conflict being examined. In so doing, historical dialogue promotes a public discussion of the past that seeks to combat stereotypes and propaganda, and to overcome the hatred that grows between members of different groups—tensions that are born out of conflicting interpretations of the past.

After World War II, Poland's borders were changed significantly both in the east (when territories were annexed by the Soviet Union) and in the west (when territories were acquired from Germany). The forced transfers of populations in these regions were part of this process. Both processes were either improperly represented in public discourse or were taboo. The suffering and deaths of Germans during the process of expulsions was not properly acknowledged by Polish society; instead, post-war Polish identity was constructed based on the fact that most of these territories belonged to Poland seven centuries ago. Indeed, hatred towards Germans, which had accu-

mulated during the years of WWII occupation, made these expulsions uncontroversial and accepted. The victims of expulsions even today are hardly known and are not properly acknowledged by the general public in Poland.

In eastern Poland, the shift of boundaries meant that Poles suffered from forced resettlement as well when they were forced to leave territory which was annexed by the Soviet Union. Given the Soviet domination in the east, the issue of lost Polish territories in the east and the suffering and forced resettlement that these individuals endured was a taboo topic in communist Poland. Official propaganda in communist Poland and nationalist narratives explained the loss of territory in the east, and the reacquisition of territories in the west as a "return" to the motherland territory of centuries past.

Both silence and an ethnocentric narrative of the forced resettlement of Poles and German are deeply embedded in the Polish educational system, despite the trauma and tension these narratives represent for those who were resettled and their families. On a personal level, this work is meaningful to me because of my family's history. My grandparents' house is located in prewar Eastern Poland (present day Ukraine), and they were forced to migrate after the war to the newly acquired territories in Western Poland. They moved into a house that had belonged to a German family. I am interested not only in the historical record of these expulsions, but also in exploring the way this past has been remembered, how information has been

transferred to the next generation, and how history and memory evolves with the act of transmission.

Above all, I seek firstly understand the differences between two narratives and their changes while being transmitted from one generation to another, the reasons of differences and consequences in both societies and how they influence the relations between two states. Secondly, I wish to create a shared narrative of transfers of populations and shifts of borders after WWII between young generation of Poles and Germans that not only will enable the general public to explore, question and understand for themselves the historical events that I have described above; I seek to deconstruct postwar myths and nationalist histories by presenting forced transfer populations in both the east and the west in a framework that allows the third generation to critically analyze the past events, postwar propaganda and mass culture, and their influence on collective memory. Last but not least, I see the need to analyze the forced transfers of populations as significant human experience of 20th century in Europe, as these facts shape identities of third generation and influence present societies. My perspective takes into consideration the Holocaust as well as prewar and postwar Polish-Jewish relations as crucial for examining the memory in the region.

Faculty Mentor:

John Micgiel

Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs; Executive Director, East Central European Center; Director, East European, Russian, and Eurasian National Resource Center; Associate Director, Harriman Institute
Columbia University

Classes:

From Oral History to Literary Narrative, Prof. Jerald Albarelli, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
Art of Witness, Prof. Rosalyn Deutsche, Barnard College



AHDA fellow Jolanta Steciuk during a group visit to the United Nations

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum
Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University
Harriman Institute
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
International Peace Institute
New York Tolerance Center
Roosevelt Institute
Tenement Museum
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Speaking Engagements:

“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue,” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.
“Population Transfers and the Challenges of Memory vs. History: A Project Proposal,” Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program, Columbia University.
“Myth and memory: forced transfers of populations after WWII in Poland and neighboring countries,” *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.
Participant and performer, Improvisational Theatre class, Magnet Theatre



MARIO MAZIĆ

Director

Youth Initiative for Human Rights – Croatia
Zagreb, Croatia

I grew up during a violent conflict in the former Yugoslavia. My family fled from a part of Croatia that was later occupied. However, as I was very young during the conflict, I have, in a way, been protected from its implications. It was not until later, when I returned to my home town together with my family, that I started thinking about the results and consequences of the conflict. More specifically, I was interested in understanding the connection between war criminals and the ethnic groups that they claimed to represent; I found the level of identification with war criminals within these groups particularly troubling, because this level of empathy resulted in very little compassion for victims, particularly victims of different ethnic backgrounds.

Being unable to accept this, nor to understand the ideology behind it, I started working on issues regarding the integration and inclusion of ethnic minorities on the local level. Soon I realized that it was impossible to successfully work on integration and inclusion without addressing our history, and the atrocities that have torn this region apart. I started working on education about the past, and in particular on creating new regional ties between young people, particularly ties between youth from different ethnic groups living in the same towns or areas, while always focusing on addressing the rights of victims. I cannot accept to live in a society that glorifies criminal regimes and ideologies over human rights; I cannot accept to live in a society that focuses more on malicious intangible principles, than on existing people suffering from them. I engage with the past in order to ensure that our history does not repeat itself.

The project that I developed while at Columbia deals with an issue that is being widely denied within Croatia: the criminal participation of Croatia in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina between late 1992 and early 1994. My project focuses on young people, aged 18-25, who as a group did not themselves participate in the conflict in a direct way, but who have either been influenced by the conflict or have been raised in communities where the dominant narrative relativizes or denies Croatian participation in the Croat-Bosnia War 1992 – 1994, refusing to consider its criminal nature and implications. These young people will examine and challenge the existing dominant narratives through a comprehensive set of documentation and material, site visits to areas where the atrocities were committed, and in discussions with historians who work on the recent past. As a final stage of the seminar, the participants will discuss the possibility of a shared narrative with the historians and young people in one of the divided communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In so doing, I seek to contribute to ending denial about the participation of the Republic of Croatia in the Croat-Bosnia War 1992 – 1994, and to give young people the tools with which they can critically analyze the violence our society has endured and consider ways to contribute to a more democratic, civic set of discourses and actions in the future.

Faculty Mentor:

Elazar Barkan, Director

Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

AHDA fellows at the Brooklyn Bridge (Mario Mazić in the foreground)



Classes:

Law of Genocide, Prof. Menchem Rosensaft, Columbia Law School

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

International Republican Institute

National Democratic Institute

National Endowment for Democracy

New York Tolerance Center

Open Society Institute

Tenement Museum

Speaking Engagements:

“Confronting a Contentious Past: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in the Balkans,” Sponsored by Human Rights Studies Masters of Arts Program and the Harriman Institute, Columbia University.

“Human Rights and Transitional Justice,” Sponsored by Prof. Eduardo Gonzalez, New School for Social Research.

“Practicing Human Rights in Croatia,” Sponsored by the School for International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue,” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

“Remembering Criminal Acts: A Project Proposal,” Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program, Columbia University.

“Uncomfortable Truths: Remembering Croatia’s Role in the War in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” *Local Memory, Global Ethics, Justice: The Politics of Historical Dialogue in Contemporary Society Conference*, Columbia University.



IRENA STEFOSKA

Associate Professor
Institute of National History, Ss. Cyril and
Methodius University; Centre for Human Rights
and Conflict Resolution

Skopje, Macedonia

Through my work, I have understood historical dialogue as the fundamental tool for exiting the trenches of nationalistic readings of the past supported by ethnic ideologies in the Republic of Macedonia and the region of Southeastern Europe. I live and work in a post-conflict and multiethnic society in which history is used as a battlefield, and where different ethnocentric ideologies collide. This is a potential source of permanent conflict between the ethnic communities in the country, especially between the major ones, Macedonians and Albanians. Bearing in mind the notion that these conflicts are often about history, its impact and its narration, historical dialogue, and the use of historical memory, offers the possibility for reconciliation, peace-building and the promotion of democratic values in the country. For me, historical dialogue is not a utopia, but, as the philosopher Martin Buber framed it, it is the fundamental fact of human existence.

The main goal of the project that I developed at Columbia is to develop a curriculum that includes alternative teaching materials for students and history teachers in order to improve inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia and in order to support education about human rights, communication and conflict resolution.

In addition, this project seeks to promote an awareness of the multi-perspectivity in history teaching, to acknowledge that national stories have many elements, and to encourage considering variety in terms of narratives and interpretations. Finally, the purpose of my project is to design additional teaching materials that provide concepts, skills, attitudes and values based on historical dialogue as a model for teaching history. Such a model would represent different community perspectives and promote respect, tolerance and democratic values.

Faculty Mentor:

Mariana V. Souto-Manning,

Associate Professor of Education

Teachers College

Columbia University

Sandra Schmidt,

Assistant Professor of Social Studies

Teachers College

Columbia University

Class:

Designing Curriculum, Prof. Raymond Cummings,
Teachers College, Columbia University

AHDA fellows Irena Stefoska, Jolanta Steciuk and Sandra Orlović on the Columbia campus



Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University

Harriman Institute

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

Tenement Museum

New York Tolerance Center

Speaking Engagements:

“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue,” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

“The Burden of the Past: Teaching Macedonia (1944-1991),” Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program, Columbia University.



KHET LONG

Executive Director
Youth for Peace
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In Cambodia there are approximately 338 killing sites or crime sites that remain from the period of the Khmer Rouge. These sites include former security centers, prisons, and mass graves. Neither the sites nor the human remains that lie at the sites are well maintained, and the history of these places of memory are not recorded, documented or compiled. Indeed, some mass killing sites have already been forgotten and abandoned, and many more risk being lost in the near future. Even the people living nearby are unaware of the sites, nor do they understand the value of protecting and maintaining them.

Further complicating this picture is the fact that victims, perpetrators, and the post-war generation remain divided in terms of their understanding of the past, their sense of responsibility and identification with what happened, and their connection to this period of war and atrocity. Bringing these three groups together is crucial to re-establishing civic discourse in Cambodia, and I see historical dialogue and its work in bringing individuals with conflicting views of the past to the table, as crucial to my work.

I seek to address the challenge of bringing these groups together by engaging different generations in historical dialogue, thus ensuring that the community will understand critically what happened under the Khmer Rouge. The challenge is how to engage people in developing their local history such that each memory site becomes a place for learning and societal healing, and a place where future generations will learn about what happened and why. In Cambodia, the strong focus on the Khmer Rouge regime has the effect of decontextualiz-

ing this era; the time before and after this period, the role of external forces, and the politicization of the historical record during this period have taken a heavy toll on our communities, and make us unable to understand the past or escape its grip. Historical dialogue, that is, using the historical record to engage in discussion and to consider witness accounts, intergenerational dialogue, historical research, and sites of memory can be used to engage in a new kind of discussion of our past, a new learning process and a new way of understanding and teaching our history.

The program I developed while at Columbia deals precisely with this topic. Entitled “Youth for Historical Reconciliation,” the project includes (among other things) a series of activities and events for the children of Khmer Rouge survivors and the children of former Khmer Rouge adherents. Both youth groups will have opportunity to explore more to understand the stories of survivor lives and the experience of civil war from former Khmer Rouge. In so doing, the project seeks to bring about historical understanding among the post war generation of the Khmer Rouge victims and former Khmer Rouge followers in order to strengthen civic discourse and social harmony.

Faculty Mentors:

Mary Marshall Clark, Director
Columbia Center for Oral History
Columbia University

Liz Sevcenko, Director
Guantanamo Public Memory Project
Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Columbia University

AHDA fellows explore New York immigrant history and culture on the Lower East Side



Classes:

Transitional Justice, Prof. Graeme Simpson, Columbia Law School

Art of Witness, Prof. Rosalyn Deutsche, Barnard College

Site Visits and Networking Opportunities:

9/11 Memorial Museum

American Jewish World Service

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research, Columbia University

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

New York Tolerance Center

Open Society Institute

Tenement Museum

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

USAID

Speaking Engagements:

“Conversation with José Vasconcelos, president of East Timor.” Sponsored by International House.

“Human Rights and Historical Dialogue.” Sponsored by Professor Andrew Nathan, Department of Political Science, Columbia University.

“Youth for Historical Reconciliation Project.” Sponsored by the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program.



*AHDA fellows meet with
Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
expert, Elsadig Elsbeikh*

Workshops and Seminars

The AHDA curriculum includes a series of workshops and seminars that help the fellows explore the concepts and applications of historical dialogue. The program is deeply appreciative of the workshop and seminar instructors, who gave generously of their time, often making themselves available outside of scheduled sessions to ensure that fellows had the support and resources necessary to develop successful projects and to further their work in and understanding of the field of historical dialogue.

Proposal Writing

Paige Arthur

Paige Arthur is an independent consultant in the field of evaluation, currently working with the United Nations' Department of Political Affairs. Formerly, she was the deputy director of institutional development at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) where she led ICTJ's initiatives in evaluating its impact, improving the effectiveness of its work, and knowledge management. She holds a PhD in European history, focusing on European decolonization, from the University of California. Dr. Arthur explored the tenets of proposal writing with the fellows, and "workshopped" the fellows' own projects to focus their goals and better articulate their aims.

History and Advocacy

Elazar Barkan

Elazar Barkan is Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University; he is also Professor of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. He was the founding director of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) in The Hague. Previously, Professor Barkan served as chair of the History Department and the Cultural Studies Department at the Claremont Graduate University, where he was the founding director of the Humanities Center. Professor Barkan is a historian by training and received his PhD from Brandeis University. His research interests focus on human rights and on the role of history in contemporary society and politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices. His seminars with the fellows examined the theoretical and methodological issues facing scholars and intellectuals who participate in historical dialogue, some of the challenges in producing shared narratives and discussions on contentious violent histories and counter popular misconceptions.

Reacting to the Past

Mark Carnes

Mark Carnes is a professor of history at Barnard College. His academic specialty is modern American history, and has pio-

AHDA fellows research some of the holdings at the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research with Pamela Graham



neered the Reacting to the Past (RTTP) teaching curriculum, which has been implemented at over 300 colleges and universities in the US and abroad. Its “Difficult Dialogues” initiative seeks to encourage new scholarship and engage students and faculty in constructive dialogue about contentious political, religious, racial and cultural issues. Prof. Carnes demonstrated an application of the RTTF model of teaching and dialogue in a one day AHDA workshop.

Oral History and Truth Seeking

Mary Marshall Clark

Mary Marshall Clark is Director of the Columbia Center for Oral History, as well as co-founder and director of Columbia’s Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program, created in 2008-09. Formerly, she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times. Mary Marshall has been involved in oral history movement since 1991, and was president of the Oral History Association in 2001-2002. Her workshop provided fellows with an introduction to oral history theories and practices and their implications for historical dialogue and accountability.

History Education and Human Rights

Lili Cole

Lili Cole is a senior program officer in the Jennings Randolph Fellowships program at the United States Institute for Peace. From 2000-2005, she was senior program officer in Studies

and Education at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. While there, she developed an international research program called History and the Politics of Reconciliation, which studied how societies reckon with difficult pasts. Dr. Cole holds a Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literatures from Yale University. In her seminar, Dr. Cole discussed share case studies of struggles and strategies to reform history education in the wake of violent conflict, including revising text books, developing curricula, and working with education authorities.

Fundraising

Erik Detiger

Erik Detiger is the Founder and Managing Director of Philantropia, an organization which specializes in advising and supporting grant-seeking organizations on international fundraising. Mr. Detiger provided the fellows with an overview of concepts and strategies in international fundraising. His workshops also focused on fundraising from institutional donors and individuals.

Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Elsadig Elsheikh

An alumnus of the 2009 HRAP (Human Rights and Advocacy Program) at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Elsadig Elsheikh is currently Researcher and External Relations Specialist at The Haas Institute for a Fair & Inclusive Society, University of California-Berkeley.



*AHDA fellows and seminar leader,
Liz Ševčenko*

He presented an interactive workshop on negotiation and conflict resolution geared toward human rights work. The fellows worked on critical aspects of effective communication skills that help them to acquire better tools to engage their advocacy within and beyond their communities.

Refining Fellows' Project Proposals Yasmine Ergas

Yasmine Ergas is the Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and Adjunct Professor of International Law and International Human Rights Law at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University. A graduate of the Universities of Sussex and Rome and Columbia Law School, she is a former member of the School of Social Science of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton; fellow of the Center for European Studies at Harvard University; and a Pembroke Fellow of Brown University. Among other honors, she has been awarded fellowships and grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Ford Foundation and the Italian Consiglio Nazionale della Ricerca. She has served on the staff of the Social Science Research Council and as a consultant to leading international organizations, including the OECD and UNESCO. Her workshop provided a hands on approach in which fellows help each other develop the first part of their project designs: explaining their context; refining the needs they seek to address; and articulating why their approach is most strategic for addressing those needs.

Transitional Justice and Historical Dialogue

Eduardo Gonzalez

Eduardo Gonzalez is the director of the Truth and Memory program at the International Center for Transitional Justice, which provides advice to countries on truth commissions, declassification of archives, memorialization activities, museums, and other instruments. He has provided technical and strategic support to truth-seeking initiatives in places as diverse as East Timor, Morocco, Liberia, Canada, and the Western Balkans. In the fellows site visit to ICTJ, as well as in a follow-up seminar, Eduardo Gonzalez explored some of the challenges of transitional justice with examples and discussion of questions that arise in the field. He also explored where transitional justice and historical dialogue overlap, and what might differentiate the two fields in practical and theoretical ways.

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research

Pamela Graham

Dr. Pamela Graham is director of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University. In her workshop with the fellows, she described the Center's work archiving the materials of human rights organizations around the world. She discussed how archiving can become an effective tool for advocacy and coalition-building, and showed the fellows some of the archiving projects the Center is currently working on, and how it is relevant to the fellows' areas of work.

Advocacy and Campaigns

Zeke Johnson

Zeke Johnson is the Director of Amnesty International USA's Security with Human Rights Campaign. He advocates for effective US security policies that comply with international law. His areas of expertise include drones, lethal force, torture and Guantanamo, where he has served as both a 9/11 commission observer and organizer for the largest national protests opposing the prison. He presented a workshop with the AHDA fellows on organizing effective human rights campaigns.

Memory Studies.

Daniel Levy

Daniel Levy is Associate Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. As a political sociologist he is interested in issues of globalization, collective memory studies and comparative-historical sociology. He has been exploring the global diffusion of rights norms and their impact on questions of nation-state legitimacy. He has written extensively on human rights, memory, and reconciliation. His AHDA seminar presented fellows with an introduction to the field of memory studies and key issues in historical dialogue.

Historical Dialogue in the Classroom

Karen Murphy

Karen Murphy is the Director of International Programs for Facing History and Ourselves. Major projects include the coordination of international fellows project and program related work for England, Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Colombia, the Czech Republic and South Africa, in addition to outreach for future projects, project development, research and writing, all particularly focused on transitional justice issues (Rwanda, South Africa, Northern Ireland, US, Germany are the major case studies). Her workshop explored some of the educational approaches and techniques Facing History employs in its work in post-conflict societies.

Gender, Oral History and Historical Dialogue

Luisa Passerini

Luisa Passerini is an oral historian, writer, and professor of history. She has taught in Australia, Germany, and the United States as well as in Italy, where she is a Professor of History at the University of Turin, and has just completed a term as a Professor of 20th Century History at the European University Institute in Florence. Passerini is the author of seven books and

the editor of eight. She has done pioneering oral history work on the World War II period, focusing on themes of memory and the Resistance; fascism and the working class; and is currently doing an intellectual history of European identity in relation to the idea of love. In her discussion with the fellows, Professor Passerini spoke about the role of gender in shaping collective memory and the politics of remembering.

Peace-Building and Conflict Resolution

David Phillips

David Phillips is currently Director of the Program on Peace-building and Rights at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Phillips has worked as a senior adviser to the United Nations Secretariat and as a foreign affairs expert and senior adviser to the U.S. Department of State. He has held positions as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle East Studies, executive director of Columbia University's International Conflict Resolution Program, director of the Program on Conflict Prevention and Peace-building at the American University, Associate Professor at New York University's Department of Politics, and as a professor at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. His discussion provided fellows with a case study of the Turkish-Armenian Dialogue Initiative and the Turkish-Armenian Partnership Program, a 2-year initiative funded by USAID under the leadership of the Eurasia Partnership Foundation to support Armenia-Turkey Approchement through second track diplomacy.

Trauma and Dialogue

Jack Saul

Jack Saul is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health at Columbia University. He co-founded the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture in 1995 and was its clinical director until 1998 when he founded NYU School of Medicine's International Trauma Studies Program (ITSP), an independent post-graduate training and research institute in New York City and Uganda, which he also currently directs. In 1999, Dr. Saul established Refuge, a resource center in New York for survivors of political violence and forced migration, and a member of the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs. Dr. Saul has been a member since 2000 of the Kosovo Family Professional Educational Collaborative, which has been instrumental in the development of the community mental health system in post-war Kosovo. His seminar with the fellows explored trauma and its aftermath, and some methods for working with post-conflict societies.



Columbia student Matthew Murray joins the AHDA conference on historical dialogue.

Designing and facilitating history-based dialogue

Liz Ševčenko

Liz Ševčenko is Director of the Guantanamo Public Memory Project at Columbia University. Prior to this work, she founded the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a network of historic sites that foster public dialogue on pressing contemporary issues. Before launching the Coalition, Ševčenko had over ten years of experience developing public history projects designed to catalyze civic dialogue in New York and around the country. As Vice President for Programs at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, she developed exhibits and educational activities that connect the dramatic stories of the neighborhood's immigrants past and present. Her workshops with the AHDA fellows focused on designing history-based dialogue and understanding further the meaning and application of historical dialogue.

Ethics and Compliance

Michael Silverman

Michael Silverman, Adjunct Associate Professor at School of International and Public Affairs, led three workshops on the broader issues of managing organizations to meet their respective compliance and ethical challenges. Michael has held various offices specializing in strategic planning, program management, compliance and policy development in both the public and private sectors.

Designing Museums, Memorials, and Exhibits

Paul Williams

Dr. Paul Williams is a Senior Content Developer at Ralph Appelbaum Associates. Dr. Williams' work for Ralph Appelbaum Associates involves the planning, research, and conceptualization of content for globally significant new museum projects, including the world's first Arab Slavery Museum, and the International African American Museum. Prior to this position, Dr. Williams taught for several years in the graduate program in Museum Studies at New York University. Paul received his Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne, Australia, in Cultural Studies. In his seminar at Columbia, Dr. Williams explored the problematics of "exhibiting" trauma, or in general confronting violent pasts through visual media and museum modes.

Historical Dialogue in East Asia

Daqing Yang

A native of China, Professor Yang graduated from Nanjing University and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He specializes in the history of modern Japan. His research interests include the Japanese empire, technological developments in modern Japan, and the legacies of World War II in East Asia. In 2004, Dr. Yang was appointed a Historical Consultant to The Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group at the U.S. National Archives. In fall 2006, Dr. Yang served as the Edwin O. Reischauer Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies at Harvard University. Professor Yang is a founding co-director of the Memory and Reconciliation in the Asia Pacific program based in the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, and is currently working on a new project on postwar China-Japan reconciliation. His AHDA seminar explored the work being done in the areas of historical dialogue, memory, reconciliation, and historical commissions in East Asia.

Institute for the Study of Human Rights

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) was established in 1978 at Columbia University as the Center for the Study of Human Rights. In spring 2010, Columbia University elevated CSHR to the level of an institute. ISHR is committed to its three core goals of providing excellent human rights education to Columbia students, fostering innovative interdisciplinary academic research and offering its expertise in capacity building to human rights leaders, organizations and universities around the world.

ISHR (then CSHR) was the first academic center in the world to be founded on an interdisciplinary commitment to the study of human rights. This remains one of our most distinctive features. We recognize that human rights research must transcend traditional academic boundaries, departments, and disciplines, reaching out to practitioners so as to address the ever-increasing complexities of human rights in a globalized world. ISHR's emphases on interdisciplinarity, engagement and globalism draw from and complement the strengths that have long characterized intellectual life at Columbia.

ISHR Staff

Irene Atamian, Business Manager
Elazar Barkan, Executive Director
Jillian Carson, Program Assistant
Kristina Eberbach, Director, Education
Yasmine Ergas, Associate Director
Danielle Goldberg, Coordinator, Peace-building and Rights
Stephanie V. Grepo, Director, Capacity Building
Matthew Heaphy, Associate Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program
Joe Kirchhof, Coordinator
Ariella Lang, Director, Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability
J. Paul Martin, Senior Scholar
David L. Phillips, Director, Peace-building and Rights
Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project
Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program
John Washburn, Adjunct Research Scholar, International Criminal Court Program
Janine White, Program Coordinator

ADHA Administration

Elazar Barkan

Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Professor of International and Public Affairs
Director, Human Rights Concentration at the School for International and Public Affairs

Elazar Barkan is a Professor of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. He was the founding director of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) in The Hague. Professor Barkan served on ISHR's board of directors before becoming ISHR's co-director in 2007 and director in 2008. Previously, Professor Barkan served as chair of the History Department and the Cultural Studies Department at the Claremont Graduate University, where he was the founding director of the Humanities Center. His research interests focus on human rights and on the role of history in contemporary society and politics and the response to gross historical crimes and injustices. His human rights work seeks to achieve conflict resolution and reconciliation by bringing scholars from two or more sides of a conflict together and employing historical methodology to create shared narratives across political divides. Professor Barkan's other current research interests include refugee repatriation, comparative analysis of historical commissions, shared sacred sites, and the question of human rights impact, specifically with regard to redress and transitional justice.

Veronika Burget

Co-founder

Veronika Burget is the co-founder and former Director of the Alliance of Historical Dialogue and Accountability at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights. She has broad experience in historical dialogue, transitional justice, and democracy promotion. She has worked as a technical advisor for the German development agency (GIZ) in Ramallah, focusing on capacity building of civil society organizations in the West Bank. Moreover she was the Middle East Regional Coordinator

for the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (The Hague), coordinating history and reconciliation projects in the region. Prior to her work in the Middle East, Veronika was Project Manager with the Berlin Office of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, overseeing the foundation's history and reconciliation projects and media development programs in the Balkans. Veronika holds a Masters Degree in History from the University of Oxford (UK).

Jillian Carson

Program Coordinator

Jillian Carson is a Program Coordinator, and she works with the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA and Indigenous Peoples' Rights Programs. Ms. Carson is a graduate of the Human Rights Studies Master's program at Columbia University. Her Master's concentration was Indigenous Rights and her thesis discussed the right to education for First Nations in Canada and reconciliation processes in settler colonial nations. She received her undergraduate degree in Aboriginal History from the University of British Columbia. Ms. Carson also assists the ISHR Business Manager with financial operations, manages the work study program and coordinates office and programmatic activities.

Danielle Goldberg

Program Coordinator

Ms. Goldberg joined ISHR as program coordinator in September 2010 for the Darfur Development Initiative. As a conflict resolution, diversity and education program management specialist, she has coordinated various international study tour programs funded by the U.S. State Department and U.S. Department of Education and directed regional anti-bias and Holocaust education programming for the Anti-Defamation League. She works closely with the Peace Building and Rights Program and the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Program at ISHR. Ms. Goldberg graduated from American University with a B.A. in International Relations and an M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Ariella Lang

Director, Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability

Ariella Lang joined the Institute for the Study of Human Rights in May 2011. As director of the AHDA program, she works on fundraising and the curricular development of the fellowship

program. She also oversees the Historical Dialogues network, a virtual resource for practitioners and scholars interested in historical dialogue and other activities and publications that seek to increase the collaboration between practitioners and scholars working on issues relating to historical dialogue. Prior to coming to ISHR, Dr. Lang was a faculty member at Rutgers University and Barnard College and a fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has published extensively on topics related to minority rights and cultures, genocide studies, and the relationship between religion and nationalism. Dr. Lang received her Ph.D. in Italian Studies from Columbia University and her B.A. from the University of Chicago.

Liz Ševčenko

Consultant

Liz Ševčenko currently directs The Guantánamo Public Memory Project at ISHR, which seeks to build public awareness of the long history of the US naval station at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, through an exhibit, digital media and teaching and research resources. She served as consultant and curriculum developer for the AHDA program. Before coming to Columbia, Ms. Ševčenko was Founding Director of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a network of historic sites that foster public dialogue on pressing contemporary issues, prior to which she served as Vice President for Programs at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. She has published extensively on Sites of Conscience in journals and edited volumes in a variety of fields, from human rights to cultural heritage to transitional justice. Ševčenko has a B.A. from Yale University and is ABD in history at New York University.

Support

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Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA)

At Columbia University:

Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life

The Heyman Center for the Humanities

Center for Human Rights
Documentation and Research

Columbia University Seminars:
History, Redress and Reconciliation

Columbia University Seminar
on Cultural Memory

Guantanamo Public Memory Project

We are particularly grateful for the support at the Bosch Foundation of Sandra Breka and Verena Heinzl, and for the support of Peter Mares at IFA. Their enthusiasm for AHDA's work, and their ongoing commitment to historical dialogue as an integral part of conflict resolution and redress were crucial to the success of the program in its inaugural year.

