



Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability

2015 Program Report

Table of Contents

- Forward 2
- Introduction..... 3
- The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability 4
 - The Network 4
 - Annual Conference 4
 - The Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research 5
 - The Fellowship Program 5
 - Nora Ahmetaj 8
 - Nidzara Ahmetasevic 10
 - Margarita Akhvlediani 12
 - Friederike Bubenzer 14
 - Harout Ekmanian 16
 - Dogu Eroglu 18
 - Espérance M. Chantal Gatore 20
 - Hasini Haputhanthri 22
 - Nayla Khodr Hamadeh..... 24
 - Okot Komakech Deo 26
 - Pawel Nowacki 28
 - Besiana Xharra 30
 - AHDA Fellows Washington, DC Trip 2015 32
 - Workshops & Seminars 33
- AHDA Administration 37
- Institute for the Study of Human Rights..... 38

Forward

The impact of historical memory on the persistence of violence is too often ignored. Many interstate and intrastate conflicts are grounded in historical animosity. We need only to think of tension in North East Asia, in relation to Japanese wartime atrocities and its colonial legacy, as well as domestic demands for accountability in both China and much more in South Korea. Ukraine, the Balkans, Turkey, and the Middle East are just a few other areas where historical animosity shapes contemporary politics. Alas, conflict resolution professionals tend to overlook issues of historical justice and group memory in their efforts to address protracted conflicts, primarily because it is viewed as too complicated.

Civil society in contrast pays growing attention to the memory of violence. These are manifested in various ways from commemoration to performance, from political advocacy to education. "We have begun a research project to map these efforts, which will hopefully serve as a resource for research and activism, while also clarifying and publicizing the scope of multifaceted activism in this area. You can read more on the mapping project below.

In addition to civil society, if more infrequently, governments too recognize the need to attend to the historical memory that drives conflicts and their impact on public opinion and politics. One of the few bright spots in international human rights over the last two years has been the peace process in Colombia. As part of the negotiation a formal Historical Commission was initiated; its report contributed to confidence building among stakeholders.

The memory of past atrocities receives greater attention in



Ariella Lang and Elazar Barkan speak at the ISHR Reception.

human rights advocacy and scholarship. This is motivated by the recognition that continuous historical injustices have to be acknowledged and at least attempted to be redressed in order to endeavor to resolve the conflict and challenge structural discrimination. In a variety of ways, the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) program seeks to further these developments, and to recognize and include historical memory as a significant factor in conflict resolution.

It is thus a great pleasure to be able to report on the fifth year of the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA), housed at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University (ISHR). This relatively new field is expanding chronologically and methodologically on the work done by conflict resolution and prevention on the one hand and transitional justice on the other. It aims beyond legal questions and individual encounters to address the identity of the group and the nation.

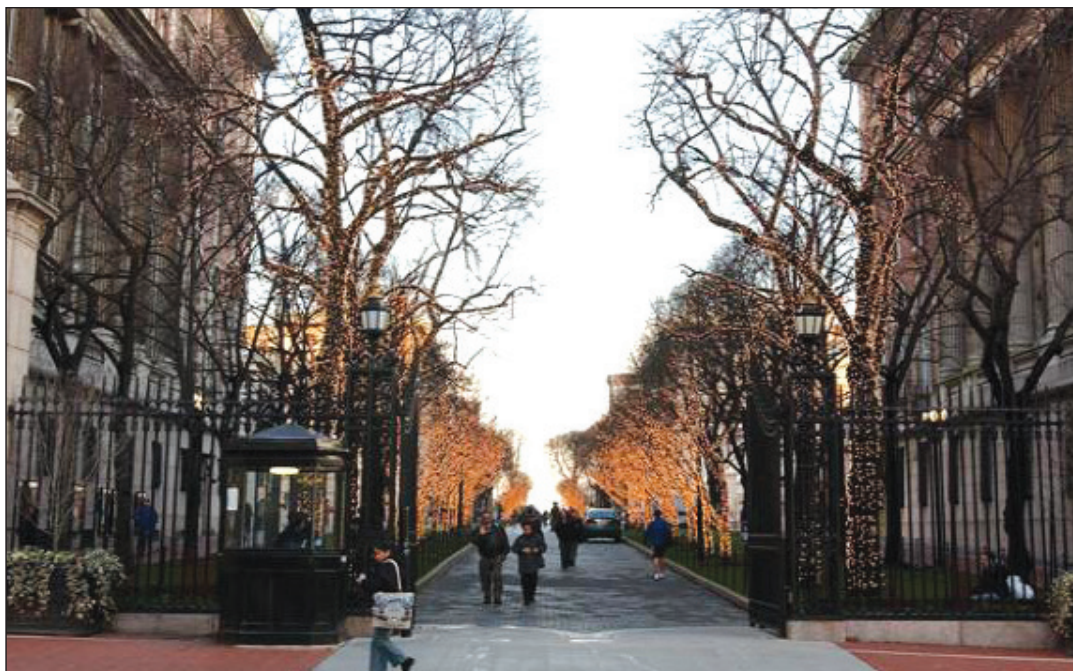
AHDA's goal is to provide a virtual and physical space for advocates and scholars to compare and expand their experience and knowledge. In addition to research initiatives such as the Memory Studies Portal and the Mapping Project, ISHR is pleased to report on AHDA's activities with regard to the semester long international fellowship program; its annual, international conference; and its web presence, which 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 Stiftung; The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); European Network Remembrance and Solidarity; Civiltas Foundation; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; at Columbia University: the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research; Columbia University Seminars: History, Redress and Reconciliation; Columbia University Seminar on Cultural Memory; Guantanamo Public Memory Project; The Heyman Center for Humanities; Whitney M. Young.

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

Introduction



The gates to
Columbia University.

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 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. Our newly launched Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP) not only serves as a tool to measure work being done in the field, but is a resource for best practices and

will, we believe, contribute to a better understanding of the impact of historical dialogue initiatives in the field of conflict transformation. 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.

The variety of activities and work that the AHDA program supports and develops reflects the fact that historical dialogue takes place in a variety of fields ranging from journalism and education to history 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 fellows, our AHDA alumni, and the participants, contributors and supporters of the AHDA programs.

Ariella Lang, PhD
Associate Director,
Institute for the Study of Human Rights
Lecturer, Department of History

The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability

The Network

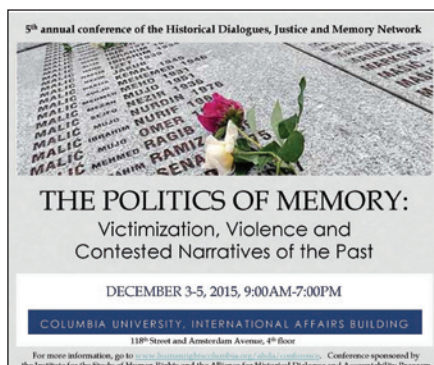
The Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network (www.historicaldialogues.com) brings together scholars and practitioners concerned with historical dialogue, justice and memory in societies in which past and present conflicts or historic wrongs impinge on the present. As a network, it encourages 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 (HJMRN), 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's recently launched Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP), a digital visualization project that researches and maps instances of historical dialogue globally, is available on the site, as are other resources including book reviews, an emerging scholars paper series, information about the Network's annual conference, and other, related projects. The goal of the network is to serve

as a virtual portal that connects practitioners, scholars and others interested in the field of historical dialogue, and to do so by serving as a resource and information point on activities, research, knowledge production and best practices, and opportunities in the field.

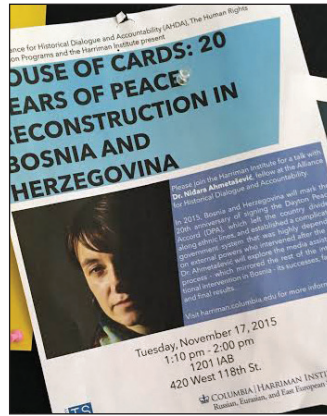
Annual Conference and Other Events and Initiatives

Each December, AHDA holds a three-day conference that brings affiliates – scholars and practitioners who work in the field of historical dialogue – together. These individuals have the opportunity to present projects, ongoing work, scholarly papers, and case studies. The conference provides a space for 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, and to reach out to a cross-section of practitioners and scholars working in the field.

Our fifth annual conference, "The Politics of Memory: Victimization, Violence, and Contested Memories of the Past," took place on December 3-5, 2015 at Columbia University in New York City. The conference featured 45 panels with over 140 speakers from around the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Spain, Tur-



(Left) A screenshot of the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP), (Center) 'The Politics of Memory' international conference was held December 3-5 at Columbia. (Right) Roundtable: Memories of Japanese American Incarceration with panelists Fred Katayama, Professor Eric Muller, and Madeleine Sugimoto.



AHDA events included 'The Politics of Memory' conference, a lecture by AHDA fellow Nidzara Ahmetasevic, and a film screening of *The Look of Silence* with filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer.

key, and the United States. The conference sought to explore issues relating to memory, victimhood and violence, and panelists spoke about themes including the changing nature and identity of victims and the theme of contested victimization. Keynote speakers included Zoe Konstantapoulou, Former President of the Greek Parliament; Professor Jeffrey Olick, University of Virginia; Hugo van de Merwe, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in Johannesburg, South Africa; Professor Tricia Olsen, University of Denver; and Professor David Backer, University of Maryland and College of William and Mary.

AHDA hosts numerous events throughout the year pertaining to memory, justice and human rights. This year we were fortunate to sponsor a film screening of *The Look of Silence*, followed by discussion with filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer. In addition we co-sponsored a number of events with the Human Rights Education Programs and other institutes and departments at the university that allowed AHDA fellows to speak about their work and to meet other members of the Columbia community. Finally, AHDA launched two exciting new digital initiatives this year, the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project, and the Political Apologies Archive.

The **Mapping Historical Dialogue Project** (www.historicaldialogues.org/mhdp) is a digital visualization project that seeks to better understand how the engagement of the memory of conflict can be used as an opportunity to develop conflict transformation mechanisms. Using a crowdsourcing model, the map seeks to gather data about projects that engage in historical dialogue work. The information collected is not only descriptive; it enables all users to more fully understand the impact that the memory of sectarian and national violence has on contemporary

politics and to establish the norms of the field of historical dialogue. In so doing, the project aims to more fully understand how this knowledge facilitates work towards conflict transformation, reconciliation, peacebuilding, and democracy promotion, particularly in post-conflict countries. The **Political Apologies Archive** takes up the topic of political apologies, and the ways in which apologies have become part of the political and historical landscape throughout the world. This ongoing initiative (www.humanrightscolumbia.org/ahda/political-apologies) was launched by political scientist Graham Dodds, and includes an extensive archive of political apologies in modern historical contexts.

The Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research

Columbia University Libraries/ Information Services

The CHRDR continued in 2015 to acquire archival and primary source materials from human rights organizations and from individuals who have made significant contributions to human rights advocacy and education. The Council on Library and Information Resources' Hidden Collections Grant provided ongoing support for a project archivist to process collections. Finding aids are now available for the Gay J. McDougall South African and Namibia Papers and processing has begun for the records of Physicians for Human Rights. In addition, the Human Rights Web Archive, a digital project that captures and archives human rights related websites, now includes over 600 human rights organizations worldwide, along with the websites of national human rights institutes and individ-



ual bloggers. This web archiving work has been featured in numerous lectures and presentations to scholarly, library, and cultural heritage forums. Finally, center director and archivist Pamela Graham conducted a workshop with AHDA Fellows on archives and documentation in post-conflict settings; the workshop was a two-part session, in which fellows also met with anthropologist Dr. Angana Chatterji, who is currently developing an Archive of the Legacy of Conflict in Southeast Asia. This pilot project is being developed in partnership with the Armed Conflict Resolution and People's Rights Project at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Fellowship Program

Historical dialogue is a growing field of scholarship and practice that engages with the legacy of historical violence and its ties to contemporary politics. It is predicated upon the belief that the memory of past violence has a central impact on present social, political, and cultural processes in conflict, post-conflict and post-dictatorial societies, and that an engagement of this past is necessary for conflict transformation and democracy promotion. To this end, the goal of historical dialogue is to counter the manipulation of history and the antagonistic representation of historical violence

that results from attempts to promote identities that themselves contribute to increased tension and hostilities among identity groups, fomenting vengeance and a spiraling pattern of violence. Thus historical dialogue treats the past as a factor of conflict that must be addressed if a better future is to be created. In addition, historical dialogue focuses on the communal memories of conflict—memories that often (but not always) pre-date living individuals. Although recognizing the importance of holding individuals accountable, historical dialogue does not focus on legal justice or retributive policies, but rather on engaging opposing sides of the conflict, acknowledging responsibility and guilt in their various manifestations, acknowledging and leveraging the central role of history in understanding conflict, exploring restorative action at the group level (e.g. through museums), all with the goal of developing empathy and recognition of joint (parallel) multi-perspective understandings of the past and challenging instances of denial or viewing it as a zero sum rivalry.

As an emerging field, more work needs to be done to expand the impact, efficacy and implementation of work in historical dialogue. Our fellowship program seeks to contribute to the field 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; and by facilitating discussion about the



(Opposite page)
AHDA fellows in
New York City.

(This page)
AHDA fellows on
Columbia's campus.

past in their respective societies. The expectation is that the projects that the fellows develop during the course of the fellowship will be implemented upon their return to their home communities.

The success of the AHDA fellowship program is 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 2015 fellow Nora Ahmetaj writes, "The whole experience has been quite enriching. I appreciated the chance to be in class again and the opportunity to be with colleagues from around the world. This fellowship provided the framework that I needed in this mid-career stage and gave a hands-on international perspective in regards to historical dialogue and transitional justice."

The AHDA curriculum is organized around four component parts: seminars that explore the major theoretical and methodological issues relating to historical dialogue as a field; capacity building workshops that focus on practical skills important to the work of historical dialogue; site visits and networking opportunities with organizations and individuals whose work is relevant to historical dialogue. Finally, fellows have the opportunity to enroll in 1-2 Columbia University courses of their choice that are relevant to their work in the field.

The twelve fellows who formed the class of 2015 were selected from a pool of approximately 200 applicants. They came from a wide range of places: Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Georgia, Kosovo, Lebanon, South Africa, Poland, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Uganda to deepen their understanding of historical dialogue and related fields such as transitional justice, oral history, memory studies, and conflict resolution. Over the course of the fellowship, they developed specific projects that they hope to implement upon their return to their home communities.

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. A list of networking visits that fellows had the opportunity to join, as well as members of the Columbia community (networking@Columbia) who made themselves available to individual fellows are listed under each fellow's profile. Similarly, the courses fellows selected and the presentations they made are noted.



NORA AHMETAJ

Founder and Director

Centre for Research, Documentation and Publication (CRDP)
KOSOVO

My path to advocacy came out of my experience during the armed conflict in Kosovo, when I conducted investigations of war and crimes against humanity for the Humanitarian Law Centre. Inspired by a profound need to seek reconciliation and the right to truth for victims and former adversaries of the Kosovo conflict, I founded the Center for Research, Documentation, and Publication (CRDP) to help heal the scars of warfare and restore the dignity of the victims. The mission of CRDP is to develop mechanisms related to Dealing with the Past through research, documentation, publication and advocacy.

Throughout my work, I have grappled with the following questions: first, how can people who are traumatized by war and human rights violations regain trust of other citizens and state institutions? Second, how can people overcome their violent past to build a common and peaceful future? The Balkan wars in the 1990s, and especially the Kosovo war, have left communities in a state of despair, distrust and hostility towards each other. In Kosovo, peaceful transformation will be a long and complex process. Transitional justice is not a static process exclusively reliant on the rule of law and the work of security institutions and courts. Restorative justice is achieved through dialogue, restoration of dignity of victims, and the restitution of peaceful relations between conflicting parties.

As an AHDA fellow, I have focused on building a project to extract a working definition and to better understand what exactly the term “reconciliation” means in the context of Kosovo and the Western Balkans. Defining this term is not easy, but understanding its goals and limitations in a culturally specific framework is essential to furthering post-conflict peacebuilding initiatives. The need for this project springs from the fact that there is no common understanding of what reconciliation really means in Kosovo and the Western Balkans. The project includes a workshop, where participants of different ethnic backgrounds and with differing expertise will be brought together to jointly engage in discussion around the idea of reconciliation, with the goal of creating a roadmap for what reconciliation means, and what it looks like in practical terms. These outcomes will be published, including a “reconciliation roadmap” which will, I hope, clarify to some degree what the term means. There will be a final conference with stakeholders from the region where the findings of the workshop will be presented and discussed further, and next steps toward rethinking reconciliation and implementation will be developed. I believe the project shall serve as a stepping-stone for further work in the field of historical dialogue and transitional justice in the region, moving us to a more meaningful conception and practice of reconciliation methodologies.



(Left) Fellows meeting with Louis Bickford of the Ford Foundation. (Right) Nayla and Nora at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Networking@Columbia

Jonathan Bush, Columbia Law School

Tanya Domi, School of International and Public Affairs and Harriman Institute

Yasmine Ergas, School of International and Public Affairs

Classes

Human Rights Reparations in U.S. and International Law, Jonathan Bush

Politics of History and Reconciliation, Elazar Barkan

Transitional Justice, Graeme Simpson

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

American Association of University Women

American Friends Service Committee

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Freedom House

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of Chinese in America

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

Kosovo: An Introduction to Human Rights Challenges, presentation to human rights students

Civil Society and Transitional Justice Processes: How International Actors Can Promote a More Inclusive Approach, presentation to Columbia law students

Reconciliation Roadmap in Kosovo and the Western Balkans, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



NIDZARA AHMETASEVIC

Independent Scholar and Journalist

BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA

My work focuses on the topics of democratization, the process of facing the past, and media development in post conflict societies. In 2013, together with two colleagues, I established the Open University Sarajevo, a platform for public discussions, social, artistic and political alternatives, and informal education. Previously, I had a long career as a journalist working for various local, regional, and international media on human rights, war crimes, and international affairs. My foray into journalism began during the Bosnian War, when I covered stories of the atrocities and the Hague Trials and other court proceedings that followed. Initially, I concentrated largely on survivors' stories. However, I have realized that in order to understand a more complete picture of war events, it is necessary to also hear the stories of perpetrators of war crimes. While it will not change the facts about the crimes committed or who is responsible, this information can shed light on different perspectives of the war; it can offer new material for further research, and shed light on some of the complex challenges that emerge in post-conflict communities where perpetrators and victims live in close proximity to one another.

Twenty years after the war, Bosnia and Croatia remain shrouded in silence, denial, and guilt about the war crimes committed in the 90s. It is a region where victims and perpetrators live side by side with minimal contact. I see historical dialogue as a necessary precondition to the normalization of life in any post-war country. Finding a way to begin conversations about the collective trauma of the past can be the first step towards societal healing and the redress of human rights violations. As an AHDA fellow, I have been interested in employing oral history methods to examine the stories of people who were sentenced for war crimes they committed in Bosnia and Croatia, and who returned to cities where their victims, as well as families and friends, live. The perpetrators did not go through any kind of rehabilitation program during imprisonment, and there has been no institutional response to address the reintegration of these groups of returnees or the survivors who are continuing life close to people they testified against in courts of law. There are few studies that address the effects of reintegration into Bosnian and Croatian society, and this project will seek to open this field for further investigation of topics such as victim acknowledgement, accountability for past actions/atrocities, and the differing perceptions of the past that often continue to divide communities. After the fellowship, I will continue my research in Prijedor in Bosnia and Osijek in Croatia. Both cities were deeply changed by the war, and the past continues to affect life today. The final product of the research will be an online database with oral histories of people in both cities and an accompanying book manuscript that examines the information and stories that they tell.



(Left) Nidzara and others at a MOMA exhibit. (Right) Nora, Pavel and Nidzara at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Networking@Columbia

Tanya Domi, School of International and Public Affairs and Harriman Institute

Menachem Rosensaft, Columbia Law School

Bruce Shapiro, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Classes

Accusation, Rosalind Morris

Art of Witness: Memorials and Historical Trauma, Rosalyn Deutsche

Vampires, Gil Anidjar

Networking/Site Visits

Alliance for Peacebuilding

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Enough

Ford Foundation

Freedom House

George Mason University, Program on History and Memory of Conflict

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium for Investigative Journalists

Museum of Chinese in America

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

Media and Human Rights in Bosnia, presentation to human rights students

House of cards: 20 years of Peace Reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-sponsored by the Harriman Institute, the Human Rights Educational Programs at Columbia and AHDA

Deconstructing Reconciliation in Kosovo and the Western Balkans, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015

Guest Lecturer for Human Rights in the Western Balkans course

Guest Lecturer for Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian language course

Panel chair, *Remembering Srebrenica*, The Politics of Memory Conference of the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network



MARGARITA AKHVLEDIANI

Director and Editor-in-Chief

Go Group Media

GEORGIA

Since the late 1980s, I have worked as a journalist, editor, and producer at local and international newspapers and radio and TV stations through several wars and civil confrontations. The conflicts that erupted in the Caucasus region, my homeland, in the early 1990s have defined my professional interests in the social and political aspects of post-Soviet Union history, the challenges and issues relating to self-determination in the region, and the way ordinary people are affected by this history. In 2009, I co-founded the Go Group Media/ Eyewitness Studio, where I currently serve as the organization's director. In 2015, I launched JAMnews, the first media outlet in the Caucasus region covering all its parts, including disputed territories. I currently serve as the outlet's editor-in-chief. In these roles, I seek to contribute to the mission of Go Group Media of transforming the conflicts in Georgia and the South Caucasus by enhancing the quality of media and citizen journalism throughout the region.

As an AHDA fellow, I focused on developing an oral history project that focuses on people trapped in the aftermath of violent conflict. Twenty years after my region's three ethno-territorial conflicts, resolutions seem like a distant prospect. Instead of paving the way for healing, governments and local mainstream media have indulged in nationalistic rhetoric and have excluded the voices and stories of ordinary people. The narratives currently saved in national archives and popularized via museums, school curriculums and media employ an array of 'truths', too many of which are either distorted or just untrue. In the hands of nationalist historians, politicians and journalists on all sides, the wars of the 1990s as well as of 2008 continue to be manipulated, reaching in general two results: uniting each community's constituent nationality and sowing mistrust and often hatred between them and their neighbors. Historical dialogue is necessary in order to deal with the legacies of a bitter past of military conflict and human rights violations. The Memory Project will cover the period immediately prior to the 1992-1993 wars, the duration of the wars themselves, and the post-war period, reconstructing as full a picture of the past as possible – as experienced, remembered, recorded.

By gathering eyewitness stories from different kinds of witnesses and former adversaries, I hope that participants in the project will better understand and empathize with the multiplicity of perspectives that exist about the memory of violence, particularly in thinking of those who for years they regarded as enemies. The digital archive is expected to provide a basis for understanding the past more fully and to learn from it in order to prevent the recurrence of war and to build lasting peace. The ultimate purpose of the archive is to make the materials contained within it accessible to all and thus to contribute to establishing an informed, unbiased discourse across the political, ethnic, religious, linguistic and other divides between different parts of the South Caucasus and within them.



(Left) Margarita with other HRAP and AHDA fellows at the Ford Foundation. (Right) Margarita with AHDA colleague Dogu Eroglu.

Networking@Columbia

Mary Marshall Clark, Center for Oral History

Alexander Cooley, Barnard Department of Political Science and Harriman Institute

Bruce Shapiro, School of Journalism

Classes

Postcolonial and Post-Soviet Cinema, Yury Shevshuk

Transitional Justice, Graeme Simpson

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Buzzfeed

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Ford Foundation

George Mason University, Program on History and Memory of Conflict

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Consortium for Investigative Journalists

Interpeace

Mediators Beyond Borders

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of Chinese in America

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

WITNESS

White & Case

Presentations

Ethnic Conflict in the Caucasus, presentation to human rights students

Media in the Caucasus: The Challenges of Normalization, co-sponsored talk by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, the Human Rights Educational Programs at Columbia and AHDA

The Digital Memory Archive of the South Caucasus Conflicts, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



FRIEDERIKE BUBENZER

Senior Project Leader

Institute for Justice and Reconciliation

SOUTH AFRICA

While my own life has been one of incredible privilege and freedom, my family history is shaped by the impact that conflict has had on us and on the world at large. Growing up in a politically-active home and surrounded by injustice, choosing a career in activism and the pursuit of social justice was a natural evolution for me. I am a citizen of a deeply wounded nation. In my daily interactions with fellow South Africans, this woundedness manifests itself in mistrust and aggression, in violence and disrespect. While South Africa's transition was a remarkable one, the country has yet to successfully address the more than 300 years of oppression and marginalization that has shaped the identity of most of its citizens. In the pursuit of building cohesive and socially just societies, countries affected by conflict and/or structural violence need to engage the root causes and divisions which gave rise to conflict in the past. I believe that without sustainable, creative and holistic approaches, post-conflict societies cannot move forward towards social cohesion and reconciliation. My work at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town, South Africa focuses on these topics. I have contributed to peacebuilding, social cohesion and reconciliation processes with policy makers and civil society leaders in South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya. I work with a dynamic team that has conceptualised and implemented a nation-wide reconciliation consultation training programme for South Sudan, and I am passionate about furthering inclusive dialogue and action around social justice issues across Africa.

As the Whitney M. Young fellow in the AHDA program, I worked on the development of a project that seeks to enhance our understanding of how trauma is transmitted across generations. This is part of a research project titled 'Trauma, Memory and Representations of the Past' which I will be coordinating, and which is being led by Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela at the University of the Free State. IJR is implementing the project in three communities in the Western Cape (Langa, Bonteheuwel and Worcester). The overall aim of this expansive project is to generate enhanced understanding of how the trauma of those who experience gross human rights violations and genocide plays out in subsequent generations and how and where individual and collective traumatic memories intersect. It is envisaged that enhanced understanding of this important question will shed light on the extent to which trauma-affected sections of the population are able to successfully engage in cross-group reconciliation efforts.

Friederike Bubenzer was the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Fund Fellow in the 2015 AHDA fellowship program.



(Left) Friederike and Hasini at the United States Institute of Peace, in Washington, D.C. (Right) Friederike Bubenzer speaks about her work at a meeting at the International Peace Institute.

Networking@Columbia

Yasmine Ergas, School of International and Public Affairs

John Hirsch, International Peace Academy

Rosalind C. Morris, Department of Anthropology

Graeme Simpson, Interpeace/Columbia Law School

Classes

Art of Witness: Memorials and Historical Trauma, Rosalyn Deutsche

Transitional Justice, Graeme Simpson

Networking/Site Visits

Alliance for Peacebuilding

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

International Trauma Studies Program

Interpeace

Museum of Chinese in America

The Museum at Eldridge Street

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

South African-Washington International Program for Service and Leadership

UNDEF

UN Women

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

Justice and Reconciliation Initiatives in the Context of South Africa, International Peace Institute

Trauma, Memory, and Representations of the Past in South Africa, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



HAROUT EKMANIAN

Producer
Civilitas Foundation
ARMENIA

As a producer for the Civilitas Foundation's internet TV channel, CivilNet.am, my work promotes advocacy journalism and fosters inclusive regional dialogue among experts and stakeholders in the South Caucasus and the Middle East. Both professional and personal experiences have led me to advocacy. My family's story is one of dispossession, deportations, massacres and survival: my grandparents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and I am a third generation diasporan. After finally finding a place that I could call home in Aleppo, I had to leave again due to the Syrian civil war. Due to my background, I have aimed to give viewers a broad perspective on old and new struggles of identity and dominance in the region, and to explore issues related to conflict resolution, transitional justice, rule of law, development and diaspora politics.

As an AHDA Fellow, I have investigated the role of mass media and its impact on attempts at dialogue and reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey. Historical dialogue is a significant mechanism in the reconciliation process. To this day, hostility between Turkey and Armenia is still dominant in the mainstream media narrative. My goal for my work has been to deconstruct the links between present problems and historical wrongdoings, as well as to raise the issue of historical accountability by enriching the media debate about it. This research has also provided important analysis on how (ir)reversible are the changes that are taking place within the Turkish society and politics as well. In this process, it has been beneficial to research how the image of one country/people is mirrored in the second country's media -- including (but not limited to) newspapers, TV, essays, and caricatures. With this understanding, I intend to develop a workshop and exchange program for Armenian and Turkish journalists, and hopefully later their respective communities, to overcome the trappings of cultural and political differences and to ameliorate Armenia-Turkey relations.



(Left) Harout gives a presentation, "Minorities in a Turbulent Middle East," at a co-sponsored brown-bag event. (Right) Group photo on Columbia's campus.

Networking@Columbia

Armen Marsoobian, Department of Philosophy,
Southern Connecticut University

David Phillips, Institute for the Study of
Human Rights

Classes

Global Journalism, Anya Schiffrin

Post-Colonial, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Cinema,
Yuri Shevchuk

Transitional Justice, Graeme Simpson

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
(AIPR)

Buzzfeed

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Democracy Now

Ford Foundation

Freedom House

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium for Investigative
Journalists

International Peace Institute

International Trauma Studies

IREX

Museum of Chinese in America

The Museum at Eldridge Street

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and
Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

Armenia and the Memory of Atrocity,
presentation to human rights students

*Minorities in a Turbulent Middle East: From
Authoritarianism to Revolution and Civil War*,
co-sponsored by the Middle East Institute, the
Department of Middle East, South Asian and
African Studies, the Human Rights Educational
Programs at Columbia and AHDA

Panel chair, *Contested Memories of the Armenian
Genocide*, The Politics of Memory Conference
of the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory
Network

*The Protection and Support of Refugee University
Students*, presentation at UC Davis

*Deconstructing Historical Wrongoings
in Armenia-Turkey Relations*, AHDA Mini-
Conference 2015



DOGU EROGLU

Investigative Journalist
Daily Birgun Newspaper
TURKEY

Since 2013, I have worked as an investigative journalist for the *Daily Birgun*, an independent Turkish newspaper. I was drawn to investigative journalism because I grew up watching the rise Turkey's grassroots human rights movements. As a journalist I have covered—and continue to cover—issues such as systematic human rights violations in Turkey, ranging from (among many topics) the discrimination of minorities to the state's actions regarding ill treatment and torture to the oppression of civic rights. As the violence of the Syrian Civil War began to spread in the Middle East, my focus shifted to the field of conflict journalism, and my current work focuses on recruitment dynamics of radical Islamists, the logistics of armed conflict, migration policies, and other components to the unrest that has defined the Middle East in recent years.

I am interested in the issues surrounding historical dialogue and religious extremism, and in particular how a history of violence in certain places contributes to radicalization. After the Syrian Civil War evolved into a conflict between religious groups in its later phases, in Turkey, I began investigating the relationships between new recruits for jihadist organizations and the way in which recruitment works in these circles. Questions of identity and exclusion, the experiences of more senior jihadists, and the long history of violence in the region, all play a role in these efforts. During the AHDA fellowship, I have developed a project framework to chart the historical movement of the jihadist movement from country to country over decades, documenting each available jihadist's individual motivations and countries' policies against recruitment from the Afghan-Soviet war to current jihad. The mapping phase, which will constitute a source of information for policy makers who wish to eliminate the reasons for radicalization, will be followed by a long-term engagement in de-radicalization mechanisms. My goal is to reach a better understanding of individual motivations of those who join jihad, to measure the past and current social feedback effects, to learn how historic grievances play a part on mobilization, to measure the dialectic mechanism of precautions taken by governments and related effects on jihadist recruitment, and finally to make a social, geographical, and mathematical prediction for the next jihad to come. The research is expected to be useful to societies suffering from jihadist recruitments, by helping them design measures for rehabilitation and reconciliation.



(Left) Dogu speaks about his project on mapping Islamic extremism. (Right) Chantal, Dogu and Hasini, walk through a Washington, D.C. park.

Networking@Columbia

Karen Barkey, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life

Armen Marsoobian, Department of Philosophy, Southern Connecticut University

Classes

Armed Groups and Political Violence, Zachariah C Mampilly

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Buzzfeed

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Ford Foundation

Freedom House

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

Interpeace

IREX

Museum of Chinese in America

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

Mapping Islamic Extremism: An Overview, presentation to human rights students

Reparations and the Question of Turkey, presentation to the Columbia community

Mapping Islamic Extremism: An Introduction to the De-radicalization of Fighters, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



ESPÉRANCE M. CHANTAL GATORE

Project Officer

Form for Building Civil Society Capacities

BURUNDI

Burundi has a divided history with more than 4 decades of civil war and ethnic conflicts that continues to this day. It is this history of civil war that inspired me to become a human rights advocate. In 2000, upon completing my university studies, I became a journalist, with the primary objective of advocating for social justice and making people aware of the terrible crimes that were being committed in Burundi. As an internally displaced person, I also wanted to give voice to individuals who are unable to speak for themselves, and to explore and further restorative justice mechanisms in civil war and post-conflict states like Burundi. My interest in this area ultimately led me to learn more about the fields of transitional justice and Dealing with the Past, both of which are of critical importance for Burundians. Ultimately my interest in these fields led to my decision to join the Forum for Building Civil Society Capacities in Burundi, where I have worked as a Program Officer. In this role, I have managed a team of 170 personnel and have overseen overseas capacity building initiatives with regard to transitional justice projects as well as the development and implementation of other human rights related projects. This work included a relationship with the media, as I communicated to journalists the work of our organization and specific applications of transitional justice mechanisms that we were working on. I also coordinated and monitored groups who were involved in the 2014 Truth and Reconciliation Commission. While the violence in my country has not ended, this Commission, and the earlier Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation (2000) and the cease fires that followed it (2002 and 2008), show how difficult change is, but also how critical it is to address the memory of violence and the history of mass atrocity.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed the Kazoza Oral History Project. The project proposes to tackle the issue of divided history in Burundi. Simply put, the goal of the project is to create a shared narrative about Burundi's history by recording individuals' wartime experiences that recall events and considerations of the past four decades of violence. Oral culture is central to Burundian identity, and thus this project not only uses a mode of storytelling and documentation that resonates with local cultural norms; it can be used to help individuals and communities deal with their past. Such a project will encourage a multiplicity of perspectives and truths to come to light, as opposed to the single narrative promoted by the government; these interviews will also be a resource for the inquiries of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and may be useful in thinking about reparation and redress policies in the country.



(Left) Chantal presents her project proposal at the AHDA mini conference. (Right) Chantal and others take in the New York art scene at MoMA.

Networking@Columbia

Severine Autesserre, Department of Political Science, Barnard College

John Hirsch, International Peace Institute

Rhiannon Stephens, Department of History

Classes:

International Human Rights Movements, Louis Bickford

East African History, Rhiannon Stephens

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium for Investigative Journalism

International Peace Institute

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of Chinese in America

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Program on History and Memory of Conflict, George Mason University

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

UNDEF

UN Women

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

Burundi, Transitional Justice, and the work of NGOs, International Peace Institute

Post-Conflict Burundi and the Road to Transitional Justice, discussion for students at Teacher's College

Thinking Historical Dialogue in Burundi: The Kazoza Oral History Project, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



HASINI HAPUTHANTHRI

Technical Advisor of Arts and Culture for Social Integration
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
SRI LANKA

Having grown up against the backdrop of a thirty-year conflict in Sri Lanka, I have witnessed how contested histories have fueled deeply-rooted misunderstandings and stereotypes. In my experience, when bringing polarized groups together for historical dialogue, it is essential to create trust between the two groups. It is not necessary that the two groups come to a consensus on their interpretations of history, but it is necessary that the dialogue creates empathy toward the 'other' perspective. In order to bring about true reconciliation, Sri Lanka needs a dialogue that is process-oriented, constructive, and creative, so that the community is able to carefully navigate a sensitive and often painful terrain. As the Technical Advisor of Arts and Culture for the Social Integration unit in FLICT (Facilitating Initiatives for Social Cohesion and Transformation) project, I have overseen a program that focuses on reconciliation and social integration in post-war Sri Lanka. I lead the cultural component of the project, dealing with history, memory and education as well as arts, film and theatre projects.

As an AHDA fellow, I worked on a project to develop a multimedia mobile museum that celebrates the diversity of Sri Lanka's people while acknowledging and coming to terms with the difficult past of colonialism, failed revolutions and protracted civil war. The project builds on the model of a travelling theatre group, which includes a multiethnic cast that reaches out to local communities and serves marginalized and underprivileged communities that have no access to cultural resources. The main target group of the mobile museum are school communities: teachers, especially history teachers, teacher trainers, principals, primary and secondary school children and their parents. The main objective of the project is to provide educational resources and facilitate a process in which local communities are able to appreciate their diversity, and discover alternative re-tellings of history. This process aims to address the trauma and reflect upon the experiences and root causes of the conflict in Sri Lanka by tackling some of the deep cultural and structural issues embedded in a divided, hierarchical society. The mobile museum will include multi-media exhibition, workshops, forum theater performances, and dialogue forums.



(Left) Hasini and other fellows at the main exhibit of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (Right) Hasini, Chantal and Friederike (not pictured) speak at the International Peace Institute.

Networking@Columbia

Anupama Rao, Department of History

Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantanamo' Public Memory Project

Classes

From Oral History to Literary Narrative, Jerald J Albarelli

Museums in the City, Nan Rothschild

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

Museum of Chinese in America

The Museum at Eldridge Street

Museum of Tolerance

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

National Endowment for Democracy

New York Historical Society

Program on History and Memory of Conflict, George Mason University

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

Tenement Museum

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

Vital Voices Global Partnership

White & Case

WITNESS

Presentations

History and Human Rights Challenges in Sri Lanka, presentation to human rights students

Art and the Memory of Violence in Sri Lanka, International Peace Institute

Panel chair, *The Art of Commemoration*, The Politics of Memory Conference of the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network

The Re-Telling of Sri Lankan History through a Multi-Media Mobile Museum, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



NAYLA KHODR HAMADEH

Secretary General and Project Manager

Lebanese Association for History

LEBANON

Growing up in Lebanon, I found that peaceful dialogue was at an impasse. Our country was war-torn, yet we were unable to even label it as a war. It was spoken of as “the events” or “the war of others on our land,” thus denying that we had a major role in the factors leading to it, the escalation that occurred, the damages inflicted on our people and our land, and the disastrous situation in which the country found itself after 1990. Following the war, with the Taif Agreement, a silence was imposed upon Lebanon in order to restore a civil peace and rebuild the state. Textbooks and educational materials were mandated to teach a single story. However, reconciliation and transitional justice were never truly addressed, and twenty-five years later, the traumatic consequences of war remain with us. As a founding member of the Lebanese Association for History (LAH), I have aimed to address the trauma by supporting history teachers and promoting the learning and teaching of history as a discipline in Lebanon. In particular, LAH seeks to raise public awareness about the importance of history and to ensure that history education in the country is inquiry-based and critically engaging. Since 2005, I have been facilitating teacher training workshops all over Lebanon on active teaching strategies. To this end, I currently manage an extensive professional training program for history teachers entitled, “Developing History Teachers’ Capacity to Foster Historical Thinking”. The project aims to introduce and apply the concepts of historical thinking and to empower learners to think critically about the past.

As an AHDA fellow, I developed an oral history project, entitled “History Talks,” that looks at the social history of the war. It focuses on the period between 1982–1984, sometimes called the mountain war, and the subsequent 1984 intifada in Beirut. The project aims at documenting the impact of this period on the lives of Lebanese women and their families and to provide resources to be used for engaging students and community members in the study of the civil war. Narratives will be collected from a sample of 20 women from the mountain region to document the changes that were incurred on them, their families, and villages, their memories of these changes and how they dealt with them. The narratives will be produced as videos and shared on a special website linked to the Lebanese Association for History (LAH) website. These resources will be thus made available to everyone, scholars and researchers as well as the general public. In parallel, the project involves professional development to encourage teachers and university professors to use these resources at secondary schools and universities. Finally, the project involves the organization of focus groups in mountain villages to use the resource for opening a dialogue about that ‘sensitive’ past.



(Left) Nayla and Besiana participate in an AHDA seminar. (Right) Nayla and AHDA program coordinator, Randi Aho in Washington, D.C.

Networking@Columbia

Mary Marshall Clark, Center for Oral History

Daniel Corstange, Department of Political Science

Lalitha Vasudevan, Center for Multiple Languages and Literacies

Classes

Management and Administration of Non-Profit Organizations, Gary Bagley

Rethinking Human Rights, Elazar Barkan and Dirk Solomons

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

IREX

Museum of Chinese in America

The Museum at Eldridge Street

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York Historical Society

Program on History and Memory of Conflict, George Mason University

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Woodrow Wilson Center

Speaking Engagements

Oral Histories: Remembering a Violent Past, The Politics of Memory Conference of the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network

History Talks: An Oral History Project of the Lebanese War, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



OKOT KOMAKECH DEO

Research and Documentation Officer
Refugee Law Project
UGANDA

Through my work with the Refugee Law Project, I have focused on dealing with the past initiatives, in particular archival and oral history projects, as an attempt to enable victims to move forward with their lives. Although Uganda boasts a history full of rich tradition and culture, its past is plagued with violence from the Great Lakes region and beyond. Indeed, my own decision to become a human rights practitioner, with a particular interest in working with war-affected communities, emerged from my own experience as a victim of war. More specifically, following the violence, what defined my life was the general disregard people had in terms of listening to or seeking to understand my experience. Coming to terms with past suffering as an individual and as a community are essential for deriving a sense of closure and furthering substantive reconciliation between the communities involved in the conflict. As a research and documentation specialist, I have promoted awareness regarding ongoing debates about truth, reconciliation and accountability monitoring, supported community memorial initiatives, and worked on different documentation initiatives including oral history testimonies, mapping, conflict and historical event documentation. I was drawn to this advocacy because of my own experience in a war-torn community. I wanted to be sure that other victims did not endure the terrible trauma of not being heard.

In terms of specific projects, I am currently engaged in the documentation of the voices of victims and survivors of massacres that never caught media attention or any form of acknowledgement. As an AHDA fellow, I am developing a project that will provide Ugandans in war-affected communities with a digital documentation platform for the collection and dissemination of information. The platform will enable citizens to share their memories and experiences and receive balanced information about their history; it will also enhance the use of documentation as a means for reconciliation and accountability, and in the longer term could be used to develop a warning system with which to predict and prevent future conflict. The Historical Memory Documentation and Archive Center, as it is called, will ensure that the experiences of those who suffered from the conflict are not forgotten; it will also provide space for the continuous education of the public and in particular, younger generations. Knowing that memory and remembrance play a fundamental role in post-conflict healing, the goal of the project is to create a space where a historical record and the acknowledgement of wrongs can be documented, and victims' voices and experiences can be heard.



(Left) Deo discusses his documentation and exhibit work. (Right) Deo outside of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in D.C.

Networking@Columbia

Chris Blattman, Department of Political Science

Pamela Graham, Center for Human Rights
Documentation and Research

Macartan Humphreys, Department of
Political Science

Classes

Transitional Justice, Graeme Simpson

Politics of History and Reconciliation,
Elazar Barkan

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
(AIPR)

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch International Center for
Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The Museum at Eldridge Street

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Program on History and Memory of Conflict,
George Mason University

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and
Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Scholars at Risk

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

Speaking Engagements

Uganda and the Work of the Refugee Law Project,
presentation to human rights students

*Memory and the Need for Documentation of
Uganda's Conflict Legacies*, Center for Strategic
and International Studies Conference

*Historical Memory Documentation and
Archive Center in Kitgum, Uganda*, AHDA Mini-
Conference 2015



PAWEL NOWACKI

Project Manager

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS)
POLAND

I was drawn to advocacy because I have witnessed history being used and misused in national and international disputes. Without historical dialogue and without raising new questions regarding our common heritage, we risk the falsification and misuse of history for nationalist purposes. Likewise, without the implementation of new communication tools in history education, we risk the exclusion of those who see themselves as marginalized from the writing of recent histories. My interest in these ideas led me to join ENRS, an international organization that seeks to facilitate the documentation and promotion of the study of 20th century European history with special emphasis on how it is remembered. In my professional work, I encourage others to look at the broader historical picture of regional histories, to review individual and collective memories, as well as to look through the historical prism from other perspectives. My work focuses on exploring new forms of remembrance that are both historically responsible and appealing to those who have a lesser interest in the subject—particularly young people.

During my time as an AHDA fellow, I had the opportunity to develop a project that explores how European countries use 20th century history as a policy making tool during identity and financial crises. I am particularly interested in enabling younger generations, in particular high school aged students, to understand the ways in which collective memory is used to explain historical trauma, and the impact that these explanations have on contemporary society. Regional history often differs greatly from that which is presented in standardized educational textbooks. My project therefore seeks to encourage the countries included in our Network to strive not only to cooperate on creating common historical textbooks but also to facilitate greater historical exchange between different regions within member states, and in so doing to explore shared narratives, and regional and cross border identities. This project thus focuses on regional history as a driving force for regional identity and as a tool for empowering high school students to more fully understand the complexities of their histories by presenting it in a comparative and regional context.



(Left) Hasini, Pawel and Nora at the WITNESS workshop. (Right) Pawel and other fellows at a networking meeting.

Networking@Columbia

François Carrel-Billiard, The European Institute
 Malgorzata Mazurek, Department of History
 Siovahn Walker, Council for European Studies

Classes

Nuremberg Trials and War Crimes, John Bush

Networking/Site Visits

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)
 Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights
 Center for Strategic and International Studies
 Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution
 The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma
 Ford Foundation
 Freedom House
 Global Arts Corps
 Human Rights Watch
 International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)
 International Coalition of Sites of Conscience
 The Legacy Project

Museum of Chinese in America
 The Museum at Eldridge Street
 Museum of Tolerance
 National Endowment for Democracy
 Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
 Rockefeller Brothers Fund
 UNDEF
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
 United States Institute of Peace
 White & Case
 WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

One Region, Many Stories, One Future: European Network Remembrance and Solidarity, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015



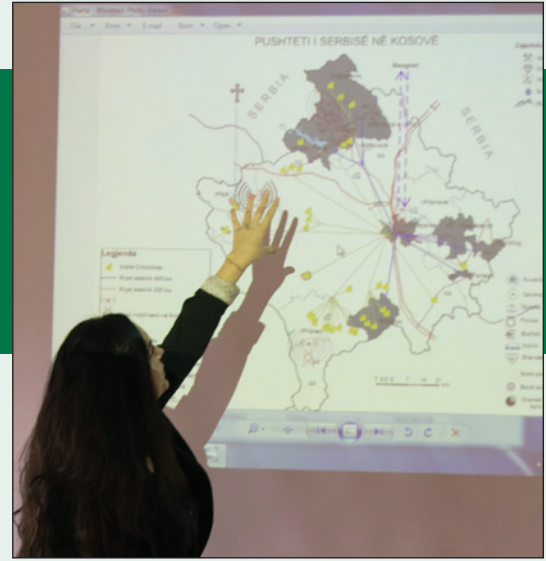
BESIANA XHARRA

Senior Journalist
Zeri Newspaper
KOSOVO

Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe, and, over 16 years after the war, Kosovo continues to face enormous challenges. My decision to become a journalist was very much connected to my own experience of having lived under the Milošević regime and having experienced the war and the post-conflict challenges facing the country. I was drawn to journalism because it provided an avenue through which I could explore how the failure to have a sustained dialogue has contributed to the political, cultural, ethnic, and economic issues of the region. My areas of expertise include accountability and transitional justice, conflict resolution, and historical dialogue, and my background includes extensive experience in documentation activities and policy work. The second challenge is to understand and address the radicalization movement in Kosovo and the region, and how radicalization has taken root in the country. This development is, I believe, closely linked to the Serbian occupation of Kosovo, its treatment of Kosovo Albanians, and the stereotypes it perpetuated about this population. Both of these areas speak to the challenges that Kosovo currently faces: Serbian and Albanian communities remain divided, with virtually no integration of the two within Kosovo institutions.

As a senior journalist at Zeri, a newsroom dedicated to investigative journalism in the public interest, I have written on topics relating to the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo and the challenges that have arisen in the years since the war concluded. In 2011, the European Union urged the governments of Kosovo and Serbia to initiate a political dialogue in Brussels with the goal of the “normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade.” However, five years later, relations between the governments and their citizens are still fraught with tension.

As an AHDA fellow, I wanted to develop a project that examines the challenges that continue to discourage the coexistence between Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo. In addition, I hoped to address the failures of the recent EU initiative to encourage dialogue. In sum, I wanted to transform the political dialogue into a civic dialogue between Albanians and Serbs within Kosovo, particularly among young people. To do so, I opted to start with my home institution, the first Albanian language newspaper in the country that, to date, has no full time Serbian journalists or reporters. In order to encourage more collaboration and a shared dialogue between the divided communities of Albanians and Serbs in the country, I have proposed a desk that would develop newspaper projects requiring the contributions, research, perspectives and collaboration of Serbian and Albanian journalists. Topics to be covered would focus on civic and political topics that continue to create tensions and divide the communities. By encouraging journalists from both communities to work together, the goal is not only to arrive at a more nuanced understanding of the topic being covered, but to create a model of integration and collaboration that will be adopted more broadly.



(Left) Besiana and Chantal. (Right) Besiana discusses the political situation in Kosovo during a presentation.

Networking@Columbia

Tanya Domi, School of International and Public Affairs and Harriman Institute

David Phillips, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes

Religion and International Development, George Rupp

Networking Organizations:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Buzzfeed

Cardozo Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

Ford Foundation

Freedom House

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Consortium for Investigative

Journalists

IREX

Museum of Chinese in America

The Museum at Eldridge Street

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Scholars at Risk

UNDEF

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Institute of Peace

White & Case

WITNESS

Woodrow Wilson Center

Speaking Engagements

Co-existence of Kosovo Albanians and Serbs through Dialogue, AHDA Mini-Conference 2015

Moderator and respondent, *The Making of 'Thinking of You': Screening and Discussion with Anna Di Lellio*



(Top Left) The fellows with Peter Fredlake, Director of Teacher Education and Special Projects at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (Top Center) AHDA fellows meet with representatives at the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation. (Top Right) AHDA fellows after a full day of meetings in Washington, D.C.

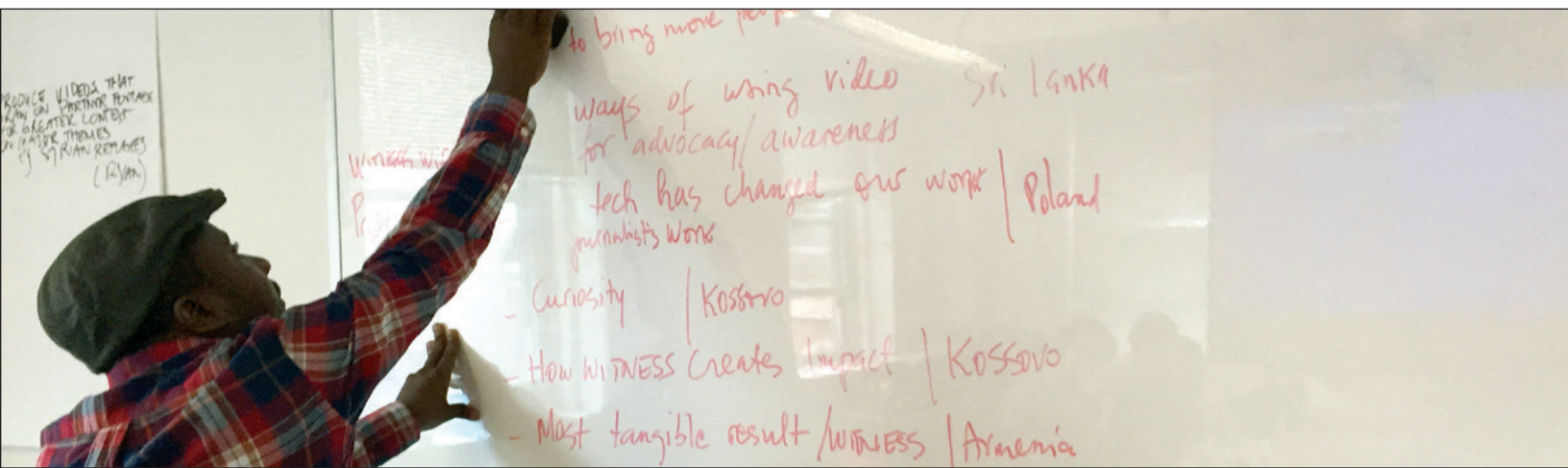
AHDA Fellows Washington, DC Trip 2015

In November 2015, AHDA fellows participated in an exciting and meaningful three-day trip to Washington, D.C. The purpose of the trip is to allow fellows to spend time together, outside the formal structure of the program in New York. In addition, as the American capital, Washington not only has lots to see; there are numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations whose work intersects with that of the fellows. The trip thus provides an opportunity for fellows to network and meet relevant key figures in their areas of expertise, to learn about best practices, and to explore the possibility of future collaboration and support. The fellows were able to discuss and gain valuable insight into issues regarding historical dialogue, human rights and peace building for their specific regions and areas of focus as well as general exposure to a wide array of institutions. Below is a list of organizations and institutions with whom the fellows networked:

Washington, D.C. Networking

- Alliance for Peacebuilding
- American Association of University Women
- American Friends Service Committee
- Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict, George Mason University
- Enough Project
- International Consortium for Investigative Journalists
- IREX
- Mediators Beyond Borders
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Program on History and Memory of Conflict, George Mason University
- Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights
- South African-Washington International Program
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- United States Institute of Peace
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- Woodrow Wilson Center

“I truly enjoyed meeting and getting to know the fellows and learning from them. Being part of a global grouping like this one was a rewarding and very interesting experience.” – Besiana Xharra



Bukeni Waruzi explores video advocacy and the methodologies that WITNESS uses in their work.

Workshops and Seminars

What are the potential advantages of different media on different types of audiences? What are the possibilities or limitations of: print publications; school curricula and museum education programs; exhibits; web sites; social media; documentary film; live events (public dialogues, processions, pilgrimages); site preservation and memorialization? The AHDA curriculum addresses these questions through 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 to ensure that fellows had the support and resources necessary to develop successful projects.

Archives and Documentation Pamela Graham, Columbia University and Anganga Chatterji, UC Berkeley

Dr. Graham, director of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University, led a seminar exploring 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 introduced some of the Center's current archiving projects. Dr. Chatterji, an anthropologist and historian whose work focuses on human rights and cultural survival, is Co-chair of the Research Project on Armed Conflict and People's Rights at the Center for Nonprofit and Public Leadership, University of California at Berkeley. This work includes an Archive of the Legacy of Conflict in South Asia, which has been developed with the support of ISHR and

the AHDA program. Dr. Chatterji met with fellows to speak about the ways in which archival collections and documentation can contribute to historical dialogue and coming to terms with the past.

Designing Museums, Memorials, and Exhibits Workshop Paul Williams, Ralph Appelbaum Associates

Dr. Williams is a Senior Content Developer at Ralph Appelbaum Associates, where he plans, researches, and conceptualizes content for globally significant new museum projects, including the world's first Arab Slavery Museum and the International African American Museum. In his workshop, Dr. Williams explored the problematics of "exhibiting" trauma, and different strategies and challenges of confronting violent pasts through visual media and museums.

Digital Media and Storytelling Workshop Marcia Stepanek, BrandStories

Marcia Stepanek is the president and founder of BrandStories, a new media strategy consultancy that advises social good organizations, nonprofits and companies. At Columbia, Ms. Stepanek teaches courses on new media and social media strategies. In particular, she teaches ways in which digital media and visual storytelling can help practitioners rethink development strategies and their engagement with the public. Her workshop with the fellows focused on digital storytelling, interviewing and recording, and how digital devices can be used to increase the impact of practitioners' work.

“The courses gave me more academic knowledge about transitional justice, right to truth, reconciliation processes of various conflicts, reporting on human rights issues and mass atrocities. I am sure that this will provide me a more useful framework for my future research.” – Harout Ekmanian

Fundraising for Historical Dialogue Projects Workshop

Fiona MacDonald, New Knowledge Organization, Ltd.

Trained as an anthropologist, Dr. MacDonald’s areas of interest include Indigenous material and visual culture, contemporary Indigenous art and museum studies. In addition, Dr. MacDonald is a researcher and technical publications writer with extensive experience in international fundraising, particularly in fields related to historical dialogue. Her workshops with the fellows explored fundraising concepts and strategies, and was followed by individual meetings tailored to each fellows’ geographical and professional focus.

Historical Dialogue as Conflict Transformation Seminar

Elazar Barkan, Columbia University

Dr. Elazar Barkan is Professor of International and Public Affairs and the Director of the Human Rights Concentration at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs,

as well as Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR). A historian by training, Dr. Barkan has a particular interest in historical memory. Meeting with the fellows regularly throughout the semester, his seminar examines the goals, objectives and questions raised within the field of historical dialogue.

Historical Dialogue Methodologies and Practices Workshops

Liz Ševčenko, The New School for Social Research and Ariella Lang, Columbia University

Ms. Ševčenko is Director of the Guantanamo Public Memory Project at Columbia University, and co-director of the Humanities Action Lab at the New School. 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. Ms. Ševčenko’s workshops focused on designing history-based dialogue and understanding the meaning and application of historical dialogue.



Paul Williams discusses museum, memorial and exhibit design with the AHDA fellows.



(Left) AHDA fellows with Elazar Barkan after their final seminar together. (Right) Alex Gil discusses digital media, digital humanities projects, and other tools that might be useful to AHDA fellows as they develop their projects.

Dr. Lang is Associate Director of ISHR and a lecturer in the Department of History at Columbia. She oversees the curricular development of the AHDA fellowship program and works on a number of historical dialogue initiatives that seek to increase collaboration between practitioners and scholars working in the field. Dr. Lang's workshops with the fellows focus on developing historical dialogue projects and proposals.

Oral History and Human Rights: Methodologies and Practice

Mary Marshall Clark, Columbia University and Gerald Albarelli, Columbia University

Ms. Mary Marshall Clark is Director of the Columbia Center for Oral History and co-founder and director of Columbia's Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program, prior to which she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times. Ms. Clark 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,

interview techniques in oral history, and the application of oral history in historical dialogue projects.

Mr. Albarelli teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and in the Columbia University Oral History Master of Arts program. At Columbia he has worked on numerous oral history projects, including the "Telling Lives Oral History Project," and the Rule of Law Oral History Project, documenting the state of human and civil rights in the post- 9/11 world. His oral history workshops with the fellows focused on methodologies, interviewing and storytelling.

Proposal Development Workshop; Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop

Paige Arthur, Public Action Research

An author, editor, researcher, and consultant, Dr. Arthur has expertise in the fields of human rights, peacebuilding, and democratic governance, with a special interest in identity politics, ethnic conflict, and decolonization. Her most recent work has dealt with how to improve the impact of nonprofit work in all of these fields. Her workshops focused on project development, monitoring and evaluation.

"I am very pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about historical dialogue and about oral history. The workshop with Mary Marshall Clark and with Professor Barkan were very valuable for me, as they allowed me to engage critically with my work in novel ways." – Nidzara Ahmetasevic

Teaching History and History Education Workshop

Karen Murphy, Facing History and Ourselves

Dr. Murphy is the Director of International Programs for Facing History and Ourselves. Her work focuses on history education, particularly in communities where contested narratives about the past lead to pressing challenges regarding how to teach history. Her workshop explored some of the educational approaches and techniques Facing History employs in its work in post-conflict societies.

Video Advocacy

Bukeni Waruzi, WITNESS

Mr. Waruzi is the WITNESS Senior Program Manager for Africa and the Middle East; he also leads the WITNESS Global Campaign on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, where he specifically supports women's rights activists to create effective strategies to fight for gender justice through video and other technologies. His workshop focused on capacity building and media strategies for practitioners.

Web Design, Digital Media, and Historical Dialogue Workshop

Alex Gil, Columbia University

Dr. Gil is a member of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia, and is the Digital Scholarship Coordinator in the Office of the Digital Humanities. In his workshop on digital and web projects, Dr. Gil spoke to fellows about the potentials and problematics of using web and websites as a vehicle for historical dialogue projects. He also spoke about the digital resources available at Columbia for fellows interested in developing media/websites on specific topics.

“Being at Columbia was a huge privilege for me. I loved being in a learning environment, surrounded by great people and stimulating discussions. The conversations we, the fellows, had as a group were rich and allowed us to draw on one another’s wisdom and expertise. The networking opportunities and meetings will no doubt prove helpful in future. I am very grateful to everyone who was involved in making this experience possible for me.” – Friederike Bubenzer

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

Randi Aho, Program Coordinator

Irene Atamian, Business Manager

Elazar Barkan, Executive Director

Kristina Eberbach, Director, Education

Stephanie V. Grepo, Director, Capacity Building

Ariella Lang, Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

J. Paul Martin, Senior Scholar

Rachid Murad, Program Coordinator

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

Support

The institute for the Study of Human Rights is very grateful to the following for their support of the 2015 programs:

Civiltas Foundation

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

European Network Remembrance and Solidarity

Robert Bosch Foundation

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

At Columbia University

Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research

Columbia University Seminars: History, Redress and Reconciliation

Columbia University Seminar on Cultural Memory

Guantanamo Memory Project

Whitney M. Young

Acknowledgement:

We would like to thank Alexandra Wilcox and Timothy Wyman-McCarthy for their help editing this report.