



Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability



2017 Program Report

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Forward

During the past year we have endured the continuation of the politics of “post truth” and “alternative facts.” This turn to politics motivated by emotions and the rejection of empirical evidence is at the base of growing xenophobia in many countries. The rejection of evidence is perhaps more extreme, but it is not unprecedented. Experience with historical memory suggests that such lies have limited shelf life and their main impact is to have contentious consequences. This has gone hand in hand with the aggravated assault on human rights and the challenges facing decency.

Disputes over historical memory have often contributed to the persistence and reawakening of violence. Such disputes over narratives are too often ignored. Many interstate and intrastate conflicts are grounded in historical animosity, in disputes over truth, facts, and alternative facts. Over the last year the historical animosity in the US has deteriorated further, and captured public attention most notably in Charlottesville when the right-wing extremists turned a debate over Civil War memorials into a racist rallying cry. It has become a national historical dialogue being debated in numerous localities to aim to determine its own morality and politics through the historical prism.

Conflicts over historical memory are pervasive globally. Beyond sharing conflicting perspectives of the past that infuse contemporary conflicts the situations vary enormously. In some cases, the previous mass atrocities are predictive of imminent conflict, in others a seemingly assurance of never again. Conflict resolution professionals seem to incorporate the past as a risk factor but 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. Resolving conflicting narratives in a post truth society is becoming increasingly challenging.

Yet there is hope. Civil society pays growing attention to the memory of violence and emphasizes the importance of truth in the long run. This advocacy is manifested in various ways from commemoration to performance, from politics to education. The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability program (AHDA) has continued its research project of mapping these efforts, which we hope will serve as a resource for research and activism, as well as contribute to and publicize this scope of multifaceted activism.

Governments also attend to historical memory that drives conflicts, at times aggravating the conflict but at other times

promoting reconciliation. One of the few bright spots in international human rights over the last few years has been the peace process in Colombia. As part of the negotiation, a formal Historical Commission was initiated, and it issued a report that contributed to confidence building among the parties. Violence remains pervasive, but a new truth commission has been appointed and there is hope that these developments exemplify where historical dialogue can contribute to conflict transformation even during violent conflict.

The memory of past atrocities receives greater attention in human rights advocacy and scholarship. This recognition is motivated by the belief that continuous historical injustices have to be acknowledged in order to endeavor to resolve the conflict and challenge structural discrimination. AHDA seeks to further these developments, and to recognize and include historical memory as significant factor in conflict resolution.

It is thus a great pleasure to be able to report on AHDA's seventh year. This relatively new field expands chronologically and methodologically on the work of conflict resolution and prevention on the one hand and transitional justice on the other. It aims go 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. The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR) is very pleased to report on AHDA's activities, which included a semester long International Fellowship program, the seventh annual international conference, and our growing web presence, which serves as a clearing house to learn about a range of activities related to historical dialogue around the world.

We could not have done it without our partners and funders: Robert Bosch Stiftung; the Auschwitz Institute; Zochrot; 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.

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

Introduction



2017 AHDA Fellows on the steps of Low Library, Columbia University

The Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) is an innovative approach that brings together students, civil society organizations, journalists, educators, artists, policy makers, and other interdisciplinary scholars who work on the issues of historical dialogue in conflict, post-conflict, post-dictatorial societies and also established democracies. These individuals address political ramifications of the historical legacy of conflicts, as well as the role and impact of the memory of past violence on contemporary politics, society and culture. The growth and interest in the program reflects increasing recognition on the part of stakeholders that addressing violent past and conflicting narratives about the past is integral in the work of reconciliation and democracy promotion.

The AHDA program is unique. It is created from various components that weave together wide spectrum of research and practice. First, the program uses available resources at the Columbia University and initiates its own classes, workshops, film screenings and speaker series. Second, AHDA has an extensive virtual network of scholars, students and practitioners who build the knowledge database online and in-person. Third, AHDA organizes a flagship conference that permits individual researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas, practice and research with others in the field. Fourth, AHDA is at the forefront of advancing research by using contemporary means. The latest digital initiative – the Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP) – serves as a tool to identify work being done in the field and is a collective resource for best practices and contributes to understanding of the impact of historical dialogue initiatives in the field of conflict transformation. Fifth, AHDA alumni are playing a

pivotal role in expending alumni network. The conference in Berlin made it possible for alumni and fellows to meet in one setting. AHDA will be focusing on expanding the Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP) and developing geographically specific regional networks.

Finally, AHDA's flagship fellowship program continues to welcome to Columbia University an international group of practitioners working in fragile environments. The fellows benefit from the curriculum, capacity building, project development and networking opportunities at the Columbia University to foster their field related projects. The fellows serve as an inspiration at the University and back home – their projects and collaborations initiated at the Columbia University continue long after the program ends.

The work of AHDA program represents diversity of initiatives in the field of historical dialogue as it takes place in various disciplines such as journalism, education, history, new media and many others. All AHDA activities contribute to the goal of expanding public discussion about the past, understanding the instrumental use of history and providing a framework for communities to reflect, share and debate on their past in the quest for a more democratic future.

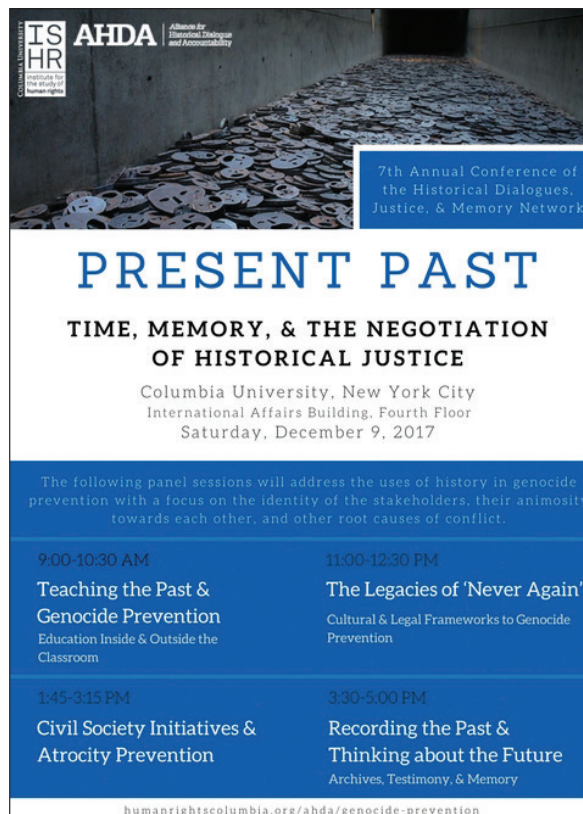
Our deepest appreciation for AHDA's success goes to all fellows, alumni, participants, contributors and supporters. We are looking forward to continuously successful collaborations in the future!

Sandra Paunksniene
Interim Director AHDA

Digital Presence

The **Historical Dialogues, Justice, and Memory Network** (www.historicaldialogues.com) encourages interdisciplinary research and advocacy on issues relating to the memorialization and historicization of conflicts, historical and transitional justice, the promotion of sustainable peace, participatory democracy and conflict transformation. The goal of the network is to connect practitioners, scholars and others interested in the field of historical dialogue, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between disciplines, between national and local contexts, and between theory and practice. The Dialogues is a joint initiative of the Historical Justice and Memory Research Network (HJMRN), formerly housed at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, in Melbourne, and currently under the auspices of the Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability (AHDA) at Columbia University. Aside from a biweekly newsletter, the Network's website contains resources including book reviews and an emerging scholars' paper series. The site is home to various projects (described below), resources and contains information about the Network's conferences, its members, and events and opportunities related to the field of historical dialogue.

The Mapping Historical Dialogue Project (MHDP) (www.historicaldialogues.org/mhdp) is a digital visualization project that seeks to better understand how engagement of the memory of conflict can be used as an opportunity to develop conflict transformation mechanisms. Based on a crowdsourcing model, the map seeks to gather data about projects that engage in historical dialogue work. The information collected also enables 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 doing so, 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. During past few years, thanks to a generous grant from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the MHDP has grown significantly and now contains information for over 600 projects from 100 countries. In addition, we have



AHDA Conference “Present Past: Time, Memory, and the Negotiation of Historical Justice” took place on December 7-9. The conference featured 34 panels, four panels dedicated to “Uses of History in Genocide Prevention.”



The Mapping Historical Dialogue Project

over 20 research affiliates who are working on components of the map in their specific areas of expertise. A group of these researchers attended the conference in December and contributed to a roundtable discussion about the work of the MHDP and its relevance to their research.

The Political Apologies Archive (www.humanrightscolumbia.org/ahda/political-apologies) examines the ways in which apologies have become part of the political and historical landscape. This ongoing initiative was launched by political scientist Graham Dodds, and includes an archive of political apologies in modern historical contexts. The site was made more user friendly and additional entries were made in 2017.

“I learned that historical dialogue is about reflecting on our past, taking lessons from it and using those lessons to try and shape a better future. It is not easily definable but has to do with learning from our history to make a better future by avoiding the mistakes of the past. It is a continuous conversation from the past to the present and onwards. The program is so enriching. Thank you for the opportunity to come learn and share experiences.” – LYDIA MUGAMBE

POLITICAL APOLOGIES ARCHIVE

How does the act of apologizing enable societies to come to terms with their past?

Political apologies can be a powerful tool in the re-examination of a nation's history, and the significance this history has on democratic processes. The project includes a working list of political apologies throughout history that political scientist Graham Dodds has researched and compiled.

This is a working list of major political apologies and related events. The selection criteria for compiling the list are somewhat loose, but the intent is to include any and all apologies that involve states, nations, or major political groups and actors, generally for significant public wrongs. Thus, apologies by individual politicians for more narrow matters (e.g., alleged personal or criminal failings) are generally excluded.

Should you wish to add to the list, please e-mail ahda@columbia.edu.

Start Year: End Year: Keyword search:

Date of Apology	Title	Summary	Source
1077	Church-State Conflicts	Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV apologizes to Pope Gregory VII for church-state conflicts by standing barefoot in the snow for three days.	"Once More, With Feeling." Time. September 21, 1998.
1403	1403 Proclamation Apologizing to the Peasantry	Queen Margaret I of Denmark issues a proclamation apologizing to the peasantry for the "great burden and much toll" caused by the "wantonness, greed and willfulness" of her clerks, balliffs, and herself.	Moberg, Vilhelm A. A History of the Swedish People. University of Minnesota, 2005. Vol. 1, p208. I am indebted to Steven Pinker for this reference.
1697	Salem witch trials of 1692	One judge and twelve jurors apologize for the Salem witch trials of 1692, as the colony declares a	Norton, Mary Beth. "The Called It Witchcraft." New York Times. October 31, 2002. A27.

Political Apologies Archive

Events, Initiatives and Collaborations

Annual Conference

In December, the Historical Dialogues, Justice and Memory Network, in collaboration with AHDA program held a three-day international conference that brought together various affiliates, scholars and practitioners who work in the field of historical dialogue. These individuals used this opportunity to present their projects, ongoing work, scholarly papers and case studies. The conference provided space for networking, sharing knowledge and experiences, and established the Network's identity as a forum for historical dialogue. The conference was also used to explore different topics and challenges within the field and to reach out to a cross-section of practitioners and scholars working in the field.

The seventh annual conference entitled "Present Past: Time, Memory, and the Negotiation of Historical Justice" took place on December 7-9, 2017 at Columbia University in New York City. The conference featured 35 panels, six roundtables, one movie screening and one luncheon. The conference hosted over 150 panelists from various countries and regions around the world, including Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The conference sought to explore expansive list of topics. Some of the topics touched upon new and old public memory initiatives, institutional memories of violence, past narratives contribution to accountability, reconciliation and victims' rights and the impact that these institutionalized means have on confronting the violent past.

Four panels entitled "Uses of History in Genocide Prevention" gave special consideration to the topic of history and genocide prevention. These panels mark the public launch of a larger project that AHDA is undertaking on using history in genocide prevention, including inauguration of new website housed here: <http://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/ahda/genocide-prevention>

The 2017 conference featured two keynote speakers. First keynote was delivered by Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, who is Professor and Research Chair for Historical Trauma and

Transformation in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the Stellenbosch University of South Africa. She is an author and editor of numerous acclaimed works, including 'A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness' (which explores the interweaving of remorse, apology and forgiveness) and 'The Cry of Nomonde Calata: Traumatic Memory, Legacies of the Past and Contemporary Ruptures.'

Another keynote speaker – Ambassador Sarah Mendelson – presented discussion on 'Closing the Policy Gap around the Present Past: Lessons Learned While Serving.' Ambassador Mendelson shared experience from previously held appointments as the US Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the lead on human rights, humanitarian affairs and international development at the US Mission to the United Nations and the Deputy Assistant Administrator on democracy, human rights, and governance at the USAID.

Under the auspices of the conference, AHDA supported the launch of an exhibit entitled "Breaking the Silence of a History Denied: An Armenian Family's Story Reimagined," which chronicled a history of a family from 1870s through Armenian Genocide at the beginning of 20th century.

In addition, the conference featured the film 'Bones of Contention' by Andrea Weiss from the City College of New York. The film told the story of unmarked graves in which over a hundred twenty thousand victims of the Franco regime are buried in Spain, including famous poet Federico García Lorca.

Memory Laws Conference

A two-day conference entitled "Memory Laws: Criminalizing Historical Narratives" took place on October 27-28th, 2017 at the Columbia University, New York City. The conference featured five panels with over 15 speakers. The conference explored narratives that engage the memory of past violence in contemporary policies and the politics surrounding the legislation of historical memory. It took a comparative perspective and engaged cases of genocide, mass atrocity, colonialism and transitions to democracy. Given the central role that the Holocaust and other mass atrocities have played with regards to human rights concepts today, the memory laws that address these topics similarly



AHDA Conference featured keynote speakers – Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, author and Professor at the Stellenbosch University, South Africa and Ambassador Sarah Mendelson.

raise important questions about the theory and practice of human rights, as well as about the role of history in conflict resolution. The participants of the conference paid particular attention to the censorship and punitive measures that aim to constrain counter-narratives to established national identities and to freedom of expression.

Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research

The Center for Human Rights Documentation & Research (CHRDR) is the official repository for the archives of major human rights organizations such as Amnesty International USA, Human Rights First, and Human Rights Watch. The director of the Center and archivist Pamela Graham serves as a resource and advisor for fellows and others interested in working on archival projects in their home countries, and regarding documentation projects for digital and physical materials that are at risk of disappearing or being destroyed.

AHDA Alumni Network

AHDA’s ongoing collaboration with alumni of the fellowship program has expanded significantly this year. There were numerous initiatives that took place and involved the program alumni.

Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP)

Regional Network for Historical Dialogue and Dealing with the Past (RNHDP) was established in 2012. It was born out of a collaboration between AHDA program, the Istanbul

based NGO Hafiza Merkezi (Truth, Justice, and Memory Center), and Columbia Global Centers/Turkey. RNHDP is a regional network open to civil society professionals, scholars and students working in MENA and Caucasus regions. The Network focuses on issues relating to dealing with the past, such as historical dialogue, memory studies, truth and accountability. The program relies on the support of AHDA alumni network.

Besides working on joint projects with RNHDP, AHDA is organizing and hosting discussions at Columbia University with alumni who return to support Alliance’s initiatives throughout the year. Furthermore, AHDA sponsored five Columbia University students who were engaged in internships with AHDA alumni organizations in 2017.

AHDA Alumni Meeting in November 2017

The Bosch Global Community Forum brought together partners from all over the world who are dedicated to establishing Truth, Justice and Remembrance in post-conflict societies. The goal of the forum was to encourage lively debates with selected international guests reflecting the most pressing issues and challenges in the field. The forum sought to establish a global community of peace actors to help strengthen the impact on the ground through the exchange of best practice. Thirty -five AHDA’s alumni and fellows participated at the forum. This event was organized by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

The Fellowship Program

Historical Dialogue is a growing field of scholarship and practice that emerges from the legacy of historical violence and its ties to contemporary politics. AHDA fellowship program seeks to contribute to the field of historical dialogue by building a network of advocates working in the field; 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 past in their respective societies. The success of 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 AHDA 2017 fellow Laura Alvarez noted: *"Best about the program for me was the opportunity to sit down and talk to human rights advocates/human rights organizations from around the world."*

The AHDA curriculum is organized around four components. First, in seminars with scholars and experts in historical dialogue the fellows explore the major theoretical and methodological issues relating to historical dialogue as a field. Second, the program juxtapositions theoretical and methodological issues with on-the-ground case studies. Third, the fellows learn in capacity building workshops and during site visits that focus on practical skills and networking opportunities with organizations and individuals whose work is relevant to historical dialogue. Finally, the fellows audit Columbia University courses that are relevant to their particular context or approach to historical dialogue. As members of the Columbia University community, the fellows give presentations about their work over the course of the semester. In addition, each fellow develops a project proposal with expectation that the project will be implemented upon their return to their home community.

AHDA Fellows (1) visited Washington D.C. (2) attended conference in Berlin (3) participated in interactive workshops and networking events at Columbia University and (4) reunited with AHDA program alumni.





AHDA Fellows presented the final project proposals to faculty and guests at the end of the program in December.

We see these components to the program as essential to expanding the impact, efficacy and implementation of work in historical dialogue as an emerging field.

Ten fellows who formed the class of 2017 were selected from a pool of approximately 130 applicants. They came from a variety of professional backgrounds and from a wide range of places: Burma, Colombia, Israel, Kosovo, Serbia, Turkey, Uganda and Zimbabwe. All 2017 fellows already worked on issues related to historical violence, transitional justice, dealing with the past and conflict transformation before coming to Columbia University. The professional and geographical diversity of the group is one of the strengths of the program with fellows learning from and sharing with their peers as well as with broader Columbia University human rights community.

In the following section, we asked 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. The Institute for the Study of

Human Rights staff contributed their time and expertise to develop AHDA curriculum and to shape the program: Ariella Lang, the former AHDA director, developed AHDA curriculum and led a series of workshops for AHDA fellows with the support of the Interim Director of AHDA, Sandra Paunksniene; Elyse Greenblatt, Program Coordinator, provided critical program support to fellowship activities; Professor Elazar Barkan, the Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and the founder of AHDA program, led seminars over the course of the semester; other staff and board members of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, including Andrew J. Nathan, David L. Phillips, Liz Ševčenko, and John Washburn generously dedicated their time and networks to fellows and shared their expertise on a wide range of topics.

A special thanks to members of the Columbia University community who helped us to welcome fellows, who agreed to meet with them and who served as advisors, mentors, and experts in a wide range of fields. These individuals are acknowledged by name in Networking@Columbia.segnet.



LAURA ALVAREZ

Institute of Intercultural Studies, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana
Colombia

Ford Foundation Fellow

Before I began working as a political scientist, I volunteered with organizations that support families who were displaced because of violence. I listened to the testimonies of several victims which was a defining moment for me. It made me realize what I want to dedicate my life for. Recently, I have been working with the Institute of Intercultural Studies (*Instituto de Estudios Interculturales*) of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana as a researcher with projects that are focused to peace building and applied research with communities that have been victims of Colombian conflict. These communities are in a process of reconciliation and reconstruction of social fabric. My job continuously challenges me to grow as a leader who can handle and solve complex problems in the field while establishing professional relationships of trust with individuals, government and social organizations.

I am originally from Cali (Colombia). As a political scientist my emphasis is on democratic governability and international relations. The institute that I work with is known for its involvement in both scholarly and advocacy work. Recent projects that I was engaged with include establishing a dialogue between indigenous communities and sugar cane industrialists and creation of a regionally-focused post-conflict development plan in Montes de Maria area in cooperation with government, organizations working with women and victims, farmers, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

My final project at the Columbia University was entitled "*Hidden Stories from the Colombian War.*" I developed a project proposal that is focused on collecting stories and testimonies from victims in Colombia who have been displaced by violence, suffered human rights abuses and later became heroes in their own communities fostering reconciliation and peacebuilding. My project also includes testimonies from perpetrators, especially those recruited as children. These stories will be presented in the report to Colombia's Post-Conflict Truth Commission. In addition, the stories will be made public through various media resources, so that they are preserved and known, and the victims of violence acknowledged.



Networking@Columbia:

Andy Nathan, Department of Political Science

Bruce Shapiro, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

David Phillips, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Eduardo Moncada, Barnard College

Gustavo Azenha, Institute of Latin American Studies

Classes:

From Oral History to Literacy Narrative, Jerald J. Albarelli

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Right

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

The Advocacy Project

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Introduction to Human Rights,” speaker, lecture of Prof Andy Nathan, Columbia University

“Historical Dialogue as Conflict Transformation,” presenter, seminar of Prof Elazar Barkan, Columbia University

‘Totally Not a TED Talk,’ presenter, panel at International House, Columbia University

“Hidden Stories from the Colombian War,” presenter, Columbia University



EYLEM DELIKANLI

Research Institute on Turkey

Turkey

ISHR Fellow

I was four years old during the 1980 *coup d'état* and I clearly remember witnessing the post-coup era with its immense human rights violations and vigorous struggles to fight against it. As a young adult, I experienced the '90s in Turkey with massive forced disappearances, the war against Kurds and socialists and the assassination of many irreplaceable intellectuals. Later I witnessed how Islamic movement (which initially flourished and was supported by the Junta against dissent through the '80s), gained power and won consecutive elections since 2000. Now, as an adult I witness a country that is coming to an end as I know it. I did not become an activist - it became a natural state of survival, especially now when I cannot freely travel to my homeland.

I am a founding member and an oral historian at the Research Institute on Turkey (RIT), a grassroots research cooperative based in New York City. RIT's work focuses on commonization practices for social change in Turkey with an emphasis on social and economic justice, gender equality, sexual rights, cultural and political recognition, and ecological sustainability from a critical historical perspective. I am also a co-author of the oral history book *Keşke Bir Öpüp Koklasaydım* (with Ozlem Delikanli) about the 1980 *Coup D'État* in Turkey, which was published in 2013. As an oral historian, I co-created numerous interviews of stories of loss, trauma, resentment and conflict. An important part of my memory studies and work thereof aim to bring out these stories that were otherwise censored, manipulated or forced to remain silent. I believe that historical accountability, reconciliation or coming to terms with our past all start with breaking the silence.

My project at the Columbia University was entitled "*Institute of Silence, Digital Archive of the 1980 Coup D'Etat.*" The project displays crucial historical moments of Turkey on a web platform. The web archive will be based on the research "Project Left Behind" which is an ongoing work of the Collective Memory working group at the Research Institute on Turkey (www.RITurkey.org). The project seeks to address the silence around the 1980 *coup d'état* by making the oral history interviews of those targeted by the Junta publicly available. The hope is that these interviews paired with the official documents will expose and teach users about the human rights violations and mass atrocities that occurred in Turkey during this time. Throughout the project I utilized my experience in oral history to break the silence and open space for historical dialogue covering the issues of conflict.



Networking@Columbia:

Khatchig Mouradian, Middle Eastern,
South Asian, and African Studies

Classes:

Urban Space and Conflict in the Middle East,
Khatchig Mouradian

Power and Hegemony, Partha Chatterjee

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and
Reconciliation (AIPR)

City University of New York Professional Staff
Congress Union

Ford Foundation

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

International Trauma Studies Program

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History
and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

PEN International

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and
Human Rights

Scholars at Risk

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention
and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Impossible Harms: A Conversation with Henry
Therault” – participant, event with President
of the International Association of Genocide
Scholars, co-sponsored by RIT/Columbia
University Armenian Center/National
Association for Armenian Studies
and Research/ISHR

“Institute of Silence,” presenter, at Prof Andy
Nathan class “Introduction to Human Rights,”
Columbia University

“Narrating in the Times of Fascism,” panelist,
AHDA conference 2017, Columbia University

“Institute of Silence, Digital Archive of the 1980
Coup D’Etat,” presenter, Columbia University



DEBBY FARBER

Zochrot

ISRAEL

ISHR Fellow

I became an activist to keep myself questioning and learning. This comes with being a part of the community, listening to and talking to others. I define historical dialogues as processes of familiarization with traumatic memories of catastrophes, discrimination, human rights violations or occupation. Often these memories are the bedrock of an ongoing or past conflict. Historical dialogue is the process of dealing with this past in order to promote personal and political change and build foundations for a post-conflict society.

I continued researching my own history, coping with questions regarding Jewish identity and power relations with Palestinians. As part of this process, and with the aim of raising awareness of my society's silenced past and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, I naturally chose to become a member of Zochrot, and later to work there. Representing Zochrot in International Transitional Justice conferences and workshops taught me that there is strong relationship between the ability to address legacy of human rights violations and the potential to develop sustainable peace, as prior experiences in the world have demonstrated. I learned that acknowledgment and accountability regarding the Nakba could have a vast impact on our lives here, enabling everyone to live in the Middle East as equals. Learning about the Nakba is a process that constantly challenges my own perception of myself and my heritage. Above all, it brought me hope by enabling me to envision a different and more positive future. And hope is surely lacking in both Israel and Palestine.

Currently, I am a curator of Zochrot NGO ("Remembering" in Hebrew), an Israeli organization working to promote acknowledgement and accountability for the ongoing injustices of the Nakba, the Palestinian catastrophe of 1948. Between 2012 to 2014, I served as a program director with Civil Transitional Justice in Zochrot where I established the first unofficial truth commission in Israel to uncover events of 1948 in the Negev area. I also am a PhD candidate at the Politics and Government Department at Ben Gurion University.

My final project at the Columbia University was entitled "Ground Truth." It details steps how Zochrot aims to reveal and raise awareness of the myriad forces and actions that displaced Palestinian Bedouins who for generations lived in the Negev, Southern area of Israel. The Interdisciplinary Historical Archive for Unrecognized Bedouin Villages in the Negev, a project that aims to raise awareness of the Bedouins' struggle and human rights violations against them, suggests opportunities for redress and serves as a resource for research and advocacy on behalf of Bedouin land rights.



Networking@Columbia:

Amy A. Starecheski, Oral History Master of Arts

Brian Boyd, Center for Palestine Studies

Elsa Stamatopoulou, Indigenous Peoples' Rights Program

Gil Hochberg, Department of Anthropology

Helen Molko, Center for Palestine Studies

Juan Francisco Saldarriaga, Center for Spatial Research

Nadia Abu al-Haj, Center for Palestine Studies

Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Department of Anthropology

Niza Yanay, Department of Sociology

Nora Akawi, Center for Palestine Studies

Marilyn Ivy, Department of Anthropology

Rashid Khalidi, Center for Palestine Studies

Sally Yerkovich, Department of Anthropology

Classes:

Power and Hegemony, Partha Chatterjee

Art, Aesthetics and the Political Formations, Marilyn Ivy

Networking/Site Visits:

Alliance for Middle East Peace

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Culture and Communication Department, New York University

Ford Foundation

Jenin Friends of the Freedom Theatre Committee

Global Arts Corps

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Human Rights Watch

Hunter College, City University of New York

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum Residency Unlimited

The Native and Refugee Project

United Nations

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United Nations Democracy Fund

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Vera List Center for Art and Politics

WITNESS

White & Case Law Firm

Speaking Engagements:

"Introduction to Zochrot's Gallery," presenter, Prof Marilyn Ivy's class, Columbia University

"The Politics of the Archive," presenter, Prof Gil Hochberg's class, Columbia University

"Zochrot - Introduction," presenter at a fundraising event at the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation

"Ground Truth," presenter, Columbia University



SRDJAN HERCIGONJA

Four Faces of Omarska

SERBIA

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

I personally experienced what it means to live in a region in which countries were in processes of creating ethnically purified societies. Serbia was involved in three wars, its society produced war criminals, but was silent about tremendous injustices the “others” went through during the wars. I could not stay silent about this injustice, so I became involved in the projects that are “dealing with the past.” I want to live in a country and society that is tolerant, in a society whose members are not ignorant or silent, but rather express their solidarity with those who have been suffering. My own way to contribute to this vision of society is by being an activist.

Historical dialogue/dealing with the past represents social interaction between a political community’s violent and disturbing past and its present. It is a method of defining how injustices from the past and/or violent past influence present social actions and interactions. In my opinion, the most important principles and methods for a successful historical dialogue are participation of all social actors directly or indirectly affected by turbulent past with the aim to reach a social consensus about the past and the elimination of the injustices certain members of society might be exposed to from different types of injustices from the past.

I am a junior researcher at the Belgrade-based Center for Comparative Conflict Studies and the founder and Director of *Four Faces of Omarska* (formerly the Initiative for Contemporary Art and Theory (ICAT)). Prior to joining ICAT, I worked with local non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights issues and transitional justice, the UNDP in Serbia and the Center for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths University (London, UK). Both as an activist and scholar, my work is focused on conflict transformation, arts and politics in the context of post-conflict and post-genocide societies. I have a particular interest in memorialization process as it relates to war crimes and memory studies. As an AHDA fellow, I have focused on the ways in which victims of war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina employ memory activism as a form of memorialization where no public recognition of atrocities has emerged.

My project at the Columbia University was entitled “*Omarska Camp Digital Archive*.” The project aims to promote memory activism as a form of memorialization. It appeals to justice after de-escalation of violent conflict by creating archival project of Four Faces of Omarska which acknowledges unmarked sites where mass atrocities took place.



Networking@Columbia:

Dennis Klein, Kean University

Kerry Whigham, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Sally Yerkovich, Department of Anthropology

Stephanie Grepo, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Tanya Domi, Harriman Institute

Classes:

The Politics of History and Reconciliation, Elazar Barkan

Trauma and Violence, John Broughton

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York University Public Archives

MMuseumm

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Rutgers University

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

Speaking Engagements:

“Can Genocide be Prevented?” panelist, Kean University

“Ethical Issues in Museums,” presenter at Prof Sally Yerkovich’s class, Columbia University

“Four Faces of Omarska,” presenter at Prof Andy Nathan’s class, Columbia University

“Four Faces of Omarska,” presenter at Harriman Institute, Columbia University

“Four Faces of Omarska,” presenter at Human Rights Writing Seminar, Columbia University

“Four Faces of Omarska: Employing Memory Activism as a Form of Memorialization,” panelist, AHDA Conference, Columbia University

“Omarska Camp Digital Archive,” presenter, Columbia University



KYAW SAN HLAING

Peace and Development Initiative (Kintha)

BURMA

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

In 2012 deadly communal violence claimed the lives of over 200 innocent people from both the Rohingya Muslim and Rakhine Buddhist communities. Around 140,000 people, mostly Rohingya Muslims, were displaced by two rounds of violence. After I completed AHDA program, I will continue to reach out to the victims of 2012 communal violence in Rakhine State and documenting their stories through a memorial gallery. My goal is to encourage youth to visit the memorial gallery and through understanding narratives of victims and witnesses to counter hatred and violence in Rakhine State. The memorial gallery will ideally create empathy and sympathy among Burmese youth and, thus, humanity towards the victims and families. This approach will contribute to the understanding of what it means to be responsible citizens, explore the dangers of remaining silent, and develop an awareness of the value of ethnic and religious pluralism and diversity in Burma.

Historical dialogue embodies the narrative we use to confront past conflict and human rights abuses that continue to influence current generation socially, economically and politically. It also refers to a methodology that addresses conflict and promotes human rights. Our method is to build peaceful relationships among communities in conflict through social and economic integration and promote human rights awareness and tolerance. We believe this approach will contribute to building sustainable peace among communities in conflict and to reducing human rights violations.

I am the Founder and Executive Director of the Peace and Development Initiative (Kintha) in Rakhine State, Burma. As a teenager, I participated in the protests against Burma's military-led government activities which led to my arrest and imprisonment for 5 years. This period has been followed by my exile to Thailand for nine years. Since my return to Burma in 2012, I founded the Peace and Development Initiative (Kintha) in response to deepening religious and ethnic divisions taking root throughout Rakhine State.

My project at the Columbia University entitled "*Sittway Memorial Project*" is related to the Peace and Development Initiative (PDI) - Kintha. The project aims to invite the communities in Rakhine State to recognize experience of victims on all sides of the conflict; develop a common remembrance about the truth of the event, victims' stories and damaged religious structures; advocate for desegregation in communities and permit victims' families in Rakhine State to seek accountability from perpetrators. The project leads to the creation of a memorial gallery designed to help youth to develop an understanding of the importance of ethnic and religious pluralism, responsible citizenship and empathy.



Networking@Columbia:

David Phillips, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes:

International Perspectives: Peace and Human Rights Education, Felisa Tibbitts

The Politics of History and Reconciliation, Elazar Barkan

Networking/Site Visits:

American Jewish World Service

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Burma Task Force

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Ford Foundation

Fund for Global Human Rights

Human Rights Watch

Independent Diplomat

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

National Museum of African American History and Culture

PEN International

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Mission to the United Nations

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

White & Case Law Firm

Yale University

Speaking Engagements:

“Presentation on Burma,” presenter, the US Mission to the United Nations

“Presentation on Burma,” presenter, the Fund for Global Human Rights Board Meeting

“Discussion on Human Rights,” panelist, “Human Rights Clinic,” Columbia Law School

“Presentation on Burma,” panelist, Harvard University

“Presentation on Burma,” panelist, Yale University

“Presentation on Burma,” presenter, at the film screening, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

“Sittway Memorial Project,” presenter, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University



TONDERAI KAMBARAMI

Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

ZIMBABWE

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

I am a senior researcher at the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, an umbrella organization that provides leadership and support to a coalition of twenty-one human rights organizations in Zimbabwe. In 2015, I coordinated community outreach activities which resulted in delivering citizens' recommendations on the operationalization of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) to Parliament. This work ultimately led to an improved draft of the bill that directly reflected the conclusions of the community outreach campaign. Since 2014, I initiated and coordinated the National Dialogues on Zimbabwean Conflicts, a series of truth-telling and memorialization initiatives that create space for citizens within Zimbabwe and among diaspora to address the legacy of violence resulting from major conflicts in Zimbabwe's history.

Historical Dialogue can be described as a combination of mechanisms located at the post-conflict phase that aim at transforming structural violence in the interests of non-recurrence.

My reasons for believing in and supporting human rights stem from my experiences during my high school years in Harare, Zimbabwe during Presidential elections that took place in 2000. As students, we were chased through the streets by police and political party thugs, so we could be forced to vote for the 'right' political party. To date, my country is still afflicted by state supported major human rights abuses amidst an increase in militarization of the state. There has never been an election free of violence in Zimbabwe. And I firmly believe it is up to the youth and like-minded individuals such as myself, who have the will and opportunity to redress the human rights abuses of the past if we are to ensure that a state of peace, accountability, transparency and justice occurs throughout the continent in our future. Zimbabwe has been marred by the violence and impunity that has been the legacy of political upheaval since pre-colonial times, as evidenced by the War of Liberation, the Gukurahundi era, the land redistribution program, Operation Murambatsvina and before every major election in the nation. The cyclical nature of the occurrence of violence in Zimbabwe ensures that history matters.

My project at the Columbia University was entitled "*Dealing with Our Past Through Dialogue and Memorialization Around Past National Conflicts.*" The project aims to promote reparation for past national injustices in Zimbabwean communities, specifically the Gukurahundi Massacres (Matabeleland Atrocities) (1980-1990) through dialogue and memorialization mechanisms.



Networking@Columbia:

Bakary Tandia, African Services Committee

John Hirsch, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

Greame Simpson, Columbia Law School

Mamadou Diouf, Institute for African Studies

Paul Martin, Barnard College

Rhiannon Stephens, Department of History

Classes:

NGOs and the Human Rights Movement, Louis Bickford

Networking/Site Visits:

AIDS United

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

Milano School of International Affairs, Management and Urban Policy, The New School

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York University Public Archives

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

The Advocacy Project

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Agency for International Development

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

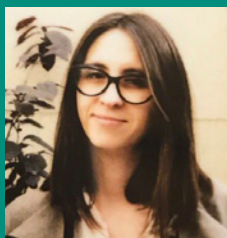
WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Introduction to Human Rights,” presenter, class by Prof Andy Nathan

“Human Rights Writing Seminar Presentation and Workshop,” presenter, Columbia University

“Dealing with Our Past Through Dialogue and Memorialization Around Past National Conflicts,” presenter, Columbia University



LURA LIMANI

Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN)
KOSOVO

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

Historical dialogue is as an attempt to develop a dialogic relation to the past with the ultimate goal of illuminating the truth behind what is claimed, remembered and commemorated. Dealing with the past is a basic tenet of restorative justice – the right to know is critical for any sort of reparation for victims of systemic abuse. Dealing with the past also enables people to understand the nuanced history of the community and its relationship to power, whether the said community was victimized, marginalized or victimized and marginalized others.

My upbringing had a lot to do with me becoming an activist. My parents strongly believed in individual progress by improving collective wellbeing. They chose to stay in Kosovo and continue to pursue teaching, even after they had been fired from their daily jobs in the early '90s. Their example instilled in me a sense of social responsibility and civic duty: I saw myself as an integral part of my community and I understood that rights must be extended to all, otherwise they would be only privileges. This thinking crystallized during the Kosovo war when I became a refugee at eleven years old. After this dehumanizing experience, I am empathetic to the plight of other people.

Currently, I am the editor-in-chief of Prishtina Insight, an English online magazine published by the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) in Kosovo. For the past ten years, I worked as a journalist, writer, translator, researcher, and editor in Kosovo and Germany. I also contribute as an editor to independent publications and research affiliate to the Kosovo Oral History Initiative.

At Columbia University I was developing a multimedia oral history project about Kosovo and the fall of former Yugoslavia that was entitled "1989: Oral Histories of the Breakup of Yugoslavia." The project focuses on memories of the 1989 Yugoslav crisis as it unfolded in Kosovo through short video documentaries and an oral history book.



Networking@Columbia:

Amy Starecheski, Columbia University
Oral History Master of Arts

Bruce Shapiro, Dart Center

David Phillips, Institute for the Study of
Human Rights

Etienne Balibar, Department of Philosophy/
Comparative Literature

Joscelyn Jurich, Communications
PhD candidate

Mary Marshall Clark, Oral History Master
of Arts

Tanya Domi, Harriman Institute

Classes:

Oral History Workshop, Amy Starecheski

Revolution: Future Past?, Etienne Balibar

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and
Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and
Human Rights

TOW Center for Digital Journalism,
Columbia University

Ford Foundation

Heinrich Böll Foundation

Human Rights Watch

Hunter College, City University of New York

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

Museum of Jewish Heritage

New York University, New School

New York University Public Archives

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History
and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and
Human Rights

Southern Connecticut State University

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention
and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial
Museum Meeting

United States Institute of Peace

Speaking Engagements:

"University Writing," presenter, class of
Prof Rebecca Wisor, Columbia University

"1989: Oral Histories of the Breakup of
Yugoslavia," presenter, Columbia University



LYDIA MUGAMBE

Judiciary of Uganda

UGANDA

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Fellow

Historical dialogue has to do with understanding the past and drawing from lessons of this past to find lasting solutions for the future. It concerns deconstructing past myths and realities and harnessing a different narrative of conflict resolution, reconciliation, peace and democratization for the future. It involves different experts like academicians, historians, victims and activists coming together to find ways of moving society away from the path of conflict and war. For it to succeed the new generations must be involved. It is a useful tool for the achievement of human rights protection and democracy in any society.

I became an activist after reading about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and also while working with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). I served as a Legal Officer in Chambers and later as an Appeals Counsel under the Appeals Division in the Office of the Prosecutor from 2006 to 2014. In July 2013 I was appointed a Judge of the High Court in Uganda.

From reading historical documents and understanding how events evolved, I learnt that the 1994 genocide was a repeat genocide in Rwanda. I grasped that if only the Rwandans had sought to find solutions to the previous occurrences of genocide, then the one in 1994 would not have happened on the scale that it did. I learned from these experiences that history matters because it helps all stakeholders understand the nature and context of any conflict.

My project at Columbia University was entitled “*Recovery Through Historical Dialogue for Women and Children in Northern Uganda.*” The project seeks to address the issues of women in Northern Uganda who suffered severe human rights abuses, including rape, during the civil war that affected their community.



Networking@Columbia:

Sarah Knuckey, Human Rights Institute,
Columbia Law School

Classes:

Economic, Social, Cultural Rights-Policy and
Practice, Prof Mila Rosenthal

United Nations Human Rights Bodies: Impact -
Reform - Advocacy, Prof Inga Winkler

Networking/Site Visits:

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and
Reconciliation (AIPR)

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human
Rights

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Ford Foundation

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History
and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York University Public Archives

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and
Human Rights

The Aspen Institute

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention
and the Responsibility to Protect

US Department of State

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Lessons from the United Nations International
Tribunal for Rwanda,” presenter, Kean
University

“Recovery Through Historical Dialogue for
Women and Children in Northern Uganda,”
presenter, Columbia University



ORYEM NYEKO

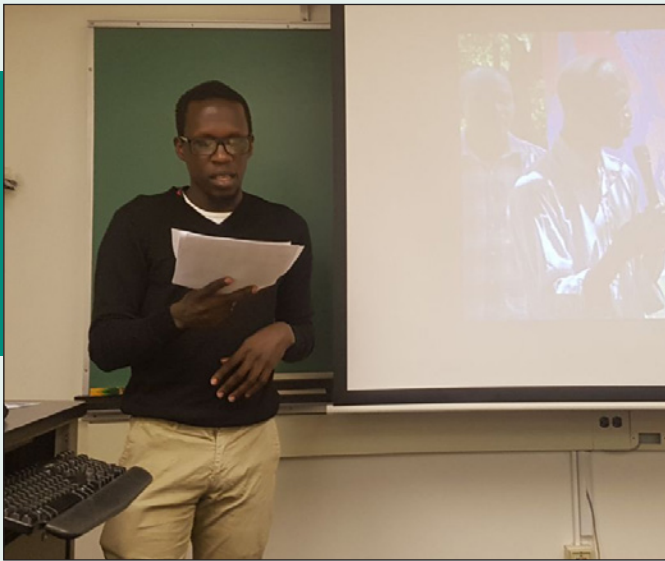
Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP)
UGANDA

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

Historical dialogue involves recognizing the value of historical memory and using what is remembered as guidance for what needs to be done today to achieve peace. In this way, dialogue allows people to understand the root causes of conflict and acknowledge past experiences of people to create a shared understanding of what happened and deal with the past so that we can collectively work towards a better future. Historical dialogue redresses human rights violations by allowing previously unspoken truths to come to light – thereby giving opportunities for accountability.

Before the fellowship I worked as a leader for Communications and Advocacy Team with the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) in Gulu, Uganda. With the JRP, I implement projects on peacebuilding and transitional justice in post-conflict Northern Uganda. Lately, I was working on a project entitled, “*Let’s Talk, Uganda*,” which is aimed at facilitating dialogue among young Ugandans on transitional justice and reconciliation. To this end, my work involves traditional and new media. I regularly write and blog on the various aspects of dealing with the past in the post-conflict settings. Similarly, I am also engaged in surveying indicators for peace through “Everyday Peace Indicators” initiative.

As AHDA fellow, my project proposal at Columbia University was entitled “*Let’s Talk, Uganda: A space for conversation on justice and reconciliation*.” This oral history project is designed to provide some space for ordinary Ugandans to share their perspectives on commonly told narratives related to war, political transition and peace in Uganda’s tumultuous history. Besides providing the space, the project builds the tools for young people in Uganda to engage in meaningful dialogue on the country’s conflict history, present and future.



Networking@Columbia:

Elazar Barkan, School of International and Public Affairs

Classes:

From Oral History to Literary Narrative, Gerald Albarelli

Grief Diaries, creative writing workshop

Jurisprudence of War, George P. Fletcher

NGOs and the Human Rights Movement, Louis Bickfordi

Networking/Site Visits:

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Ford Foundation

Fund for Global Human Rights

Global Arts Corps

Human Rights Watch

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Peace Institute

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

New York University Public Archives

Open Society Foundation

Open Society Justice Initiatives

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

The Aspen Institute

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

White & Case Law Firm

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements:

“Presentation on Uganda,” presenter, African Students Association Meeting, Columbia University

“Introduction to Human Rights class,” presenter Prof Andy Nathan class

“Totally Not a TED Talk,” panelist, International House Panel, Columbia University

“Lessons Learned on Regional Reconciliation Efforts in Northern Uganda,” panelist on Genocide Prevention panel, AHDA annual conference

“Let’s Talk, Uganda: A space for conversation on justice and reconciliation,” presenter, Columbia University



GINA ROMERO

Ocasa - Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy
(Redlad)

COLOMBIA

Robert Bosch Stiftung Fellow

For me, personally, the historical dialogue takes the form of empowering citizens to understand their past to be better prepared to act in their present and to project their future. Historical Dialogue can be a tool for reconciliation, but also to help to recover confidence after period of conflict, which is particularly important in my country, Colombia.

I have always had a great social awareness and sensitivity. I understood very young that there were thousands, millions of people who could not live a decent life. That is - they could not live well (with basic material conditions for existence), could not live as they want (following their life plan), could not live without humiliations (in safe environments and conducive to their development). This inspired me to become a member of many groups that worked with social issues. When I was graduating from the university, I realized that I wanted to dedicate my knowledge, skills and time to improving people's quality of life, to help them live a dignified life. To look for justice and reconciliation I also was inspired by a family loss, in what we now recognize as a state crime.

Currently, I am the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy, an association of over 400 civil society organizations, networks, activists, youth, and academics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The group seeks to strengthen democracy through human rights, sustainable development and social cohesion. I serve on the Board of Directors of *Fundación Mujeres por Colombia and Corporación Ocasá*. Besides I continue to be a social activist, social entrepreneur and expert in civic education, youth empowerment and democracy strengthening.

My final project proposal at Columbia University was related to Ocasá's work through promotion of transparency, integrity and social control in Colombia. I developed a project that focuses on empowering young people to serve as leaders for intergenerational historical dialogue. This project will be implemented in the context of historic 2016 Colombia Peace Accord between the Government of Colombia and the FARC.



Networking@Columbia:

Kristina Eberbach, Institute for the Study of Human Rights

Classes:

Decolonizing Methodologies, Prof Paige West

Human Rights and Peace Education, Prof Felisa Tibbitts

Power and Hegemony, Prof Partha Chatterjee

Revolution: Future Past?, Prof Etienne Balibar

Networking/Site Visits:

Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Center for Urban Space

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Ford Foundation

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

International Center for Transitional Justice

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

MMuseumm

National Endowment for Democracy

National Museum of African American History and Culture

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR)

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

United Nations Democracy Fund

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Meeting

United States Agency for International Development

United States Institute of Peace

WITNESS

Speaking Engagements

“Memory and Activism in Post-Conflict Societies: Colombia,” presenter, mini-AHDA conference



AHDA Fellows – Oryem, Kyaw San, Srdjan, and Laura – at the National Mall during Washington D.C. visit.

AHDA Fellows Trip to Washington D.C. November 2017

In November 2017, the AHDA fellows took a three-day trip to Washington, D.C. The purpose of the trip was to bond together as a group outside the formal structure of the program in New York and to take advantage of historical and networking opportunities that Washington D.C. has to offer. During the meetings and visits, the fellows were able to gain valuable insights into areas of focus related to historical dialogue, human rights and peace building for their specific regions as well as general exposure to a wide array of institutions.

Below is a list of organizations and institutions that the fellows interacted with:

Washington D.C. Networking:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Alliance for Middle East Peace | School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution,
George Mason University |
| Alliance for Peacekeeping | The Advocacy Project |
| Center for Strategic and International Studies | The Aspen Institute |
| Heinrich Böll Foundation North America | United States Agency for International Development –
Human Rights and Governance Division |
| Fund for Global Human Rights | United States Holocaust Memorial Museum |
| National Endowment for Democracy | United States Institute of Peace |
| National Museum of African American History and Culture | |
| Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights | |

“Our organization has been implementing community social cohesion activities, including youth empowerment, civic education, and music and art as a tool for expressing grievances and sharing experiences with other youth. We have been intentional about taking an intergenerational approach to our development programs because we have been facing waves of communal violence based on religious and ethnic different, poor interpretations of historical narrative, and systematic government segregation for decades. Our method is to build peaceful relationships among communities in conflict through social and economic integration and promote human rights awareness and tolerance.”

– KYAW SAN HLAING



AHDA Fellows and alumni met at the conference in Berlin.

AHDA Fellows Trip to Berlin, Germany November 2017

The Global Community Forum brought together partners from all over the world who are dedicated to establishing Truth, Justice and Remembrance in (post-) conflict societies. The goal of the Forum was to encourage lively debates with selected international guests reflecting the most pressing issues and challenges in the field. It sought to establish a global community of peace actors to help strengthen impact on the ground through the exchange of best practice. The forum was organized by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Approximately 35 alumni and fellows of AHDA fellowship program met in the auspices of the forum. Besides being able to discuss and gain valuable insights into European context of historical dialogue, human rights and peace-building, the fellows took advantage historical diversity and networking opportunities in Berlin.

Workshops and Seminars

What are the potential advantages and impact of different vehicles and media on different types of audiences? What are the tropes, possibilities, limitations of: print publications;

school curricula and museum education programs; exhibits; websites; social media; documentary film; live events (public dialogues, processions, pilgrimages), site preservation and memorialization. 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, 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

Archives and Documentation Pamela Graham, Columbia University

Dr. Graham is a Director of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University. In her workshop with the fellows, Dr. Graham explores the Center's work archiving the materials of human rights organizations around the world and the practical applications of such work. She also discusses how archiving can become an effective tool for advocacy and coalition-building. The Columbia University houses many unique archives from around the world. The fellows were able to explore very rare human rights archives documenting historic events in their countries of origin dating few decades back.

“What I appreciated the most about the AHDA Fellowship program was having a choice to audit classes, time to do research at the library and presenting my work, which have been beneficial to me professionally and helped me think about my project and work in a different way.” – LURA LIMANI



(Left) Fellows and alumni met at the conference in Berlin; (Right) AHDA Fellows attend workshops with guest lecturers;

Designing Museums, Memorials, and Exhibits Workshop

Paul Williams, Ralph Appelbaum Associates

Dr. Williams is a Senior Content Developer at the museum design firm, Ralph Appelbaum Associates. Dr. Williams' work for Ralph Appelbaum Associates involves planning, research and conceptualization of content for globally significant new museum projects with a human rights focus. In his seminar at Columbia, Dr. Williams explored the problematics of "exhibiting" trauma, and different strategies and challenges of confronting violent pasts through visual media and museum modes.

Historical Dialogue as Conflict Transformation Seminar

Elazar Barkan, Columbia University

Dr. 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, as well as the 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 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, Rutgers University, 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 Rutgers University. In a workshop with AHDA fellows, Ms. Ševčenko focused on designing history-based dialogue and understanding further the meaning and application of historical dialogue. As former Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights and a

"Historical dialogue directly addresses human rights violations from the past, involves those who were affected by these acts of violations and helps them to be heard and included in the public debate."
– SRDJAN HERCIGONJA

“I appreciated the rare opportunity to spend three and half months with nine of the most devoted human rights practitioners dedicated to memory activism, truth and justice and to be able to learn from their work and experience in order to use it better in the context of my work in Israel/Palestine. I would love to be part of the network and I am thankful to you for making this thing happen and allowing me to be part of this amazing and most inspiring and significant experience, in my professional as well as in personal life.” – DEBBY FARBER

lecturer in the Department of History at Columbia, Dr. Lang oversaw AHDA fellowship program. The workshop with the fellows focused on the development of 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 a Director of the Columbia Center for Oral History and co-founder/ director of Columbia’s Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree program. Prior to this, she was an oral historian and filmmaker at the New York Times. 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, a faculty member in Columbia University’s Oral History program, has worked on numerous oral history projects, including the “Telling Lives Oral History Project,” and, more recently, the Rule of Law Oral History Project, documenting the state of human and civil rights in the post-9/11 worlds. His oral history workshops with the fellows focused on methodologies, interviewing and storytelling from the perspective of the oral historian.

Fellows interacted with scholars and researchers from around the world during AHDA Conference “Present Past: Time, Memory, and the Negotiation of Historical Justice,” December 7-9, 2017.

Capacity Building: Planning **Joanna Brucker, New Knowledge**

A training led by Ms. Joanna Brucker focuses on developing front-end evaluation tools for project planning, including defining intended audiences and goals for impact and indicators of success. The workshop explores topics: What categories/groups of people are implicated in the past trauma you are remembering? What social change are you trying to effect through your work? Who are you targeting in order to effect that change? Why are they the most effective group(s) to target in order to effect that change?

Teaching History and History Education **Workshop**

Karen Murphy, Facing History and Ourselves

Dr. Karen 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 and Ourselves’ employs in its work in post-conflict societies.





AHDA Fellows travelled to Washington D.C. for networking meetings.

“Personally, I developed more confidence in myself speaking in public, presenting my work.... Every meeting, every guest was an opportunity for learning and creating contacts for my organization... Learning from the challenges human rights advocates face and what do they do about it, opened the door for future collaborations between them and my organization. In general, this experience changed the way I see the world and my job.” – LAURA ALVAREZ

Video Advocacy Priscilla Neri, WITNESS

Priscilla Neri, is a Senior Program Manager at WITNESS and currently oversees the organization’s work in Latin America. Ms. Neri’s workshop provided an overview of video advocacy with different examples from around the world as well as insights regarding the challenges and benefits of the media landscape. The workshop included some practical hands-on exercises on digital advocacy and how it might fit into the fellows’ work.

Web Design, Digital Media, and Historical Dialogue Workshop Alex Gil, Columbia University

Dr. Alex Gil is a member of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University 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.

“This was a remarkable experience for me. I made some life-long friendships, learned new concepts/theories/strategies around our advocacy work and garnered many ideas about future collaboration and projects. I would very much like to be part of the alumni network and work on building a stronger and more connected community that will benefit both the current and former fellows and AHDA program. Thank you for all this wonderful work!” – EYLEM DELIKANLI



AHDA Fellowship program benefits from faculty and research resources available at Columbia University.

“What I have appreciated the most was the possibility of having the mix of classes to audit, visits (to sites) and sharing with the other fellows. With the components learned in decolonization class I formulated a project for working with indigenous women in Chile. With some Colombian partners introduced to me by Columbia faculty, we will try to implement a component of university student’s mentorship in my project.” – GINA ROMERO

Workshop with International Human Rights Funders

Fundraising for Historical Dialogue Projects

Azeen Salimi

This workshop with Azeen Salimi discussed the historical dialogue funding landscape and donor priorities. The workshop also included hands-on practice in small groups as well as learning through several examples of creative resource mobilization strategies.

“I appreciated the opportunity to meet with individuals and organizations that I wouldn’t ordinarily be able to. During the conference of the Network for Historical Dialogues, Memory and Justice (December 7-9), I learned a lot about the work of transitional justice in Cambodia. I will definitely consider adopting this approach.” – ORYEM NYEKO

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 (CDHR). 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 University 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 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 University.

ISHR Staff

Irene Atamian, Business Manager

Elazar Barkan, Executive Director

Kristina Renee Eberbach, Director, Education

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Sandra Paunksniene, Interim AHDA Director

Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public
Memory Project

Elsa Stamatopoulou, Director, Indigenous Peoples' Rights
Program

John Washburn, Adjunct Research Scholar, International
Criminal Court Program

“I have appreciated the opportunity to learn and hear from professionals in the human rights world. It was amazing for me to interact with academia and see how discourse around human rights has progressed in thinking about conflict and its root causes at the global level. Another positive for me was the wealth of experience and knowledge available through my peers (the fellows) around the various contexts and how they were willing to share this with the whole group. This was highlighted for me when we had conflict situations in fellows’ countries happening at the same time that we were all together, allowing us to interrogate these conflicts and learn intricate details attaining to cause of the conflict.”

– TONDERAI KAMBARAMI

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