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BOSTON COLLEGE

CHRIJ

Center for Human Rights and International Justice

2017 Summer Newsletter and 2016-17 Migration & Human Rights Project Annual Report

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Letter from the Co-directors

Dear Friends,

This has been a year of changes at the Center for Human Rights and International Justice. As you know, David Hollenbach, S.J., left the directorship to take up a position as the Pedro Arrupe Professor, Walsh School of Foreign Service and Senior Fellow, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. We became Co-Directors of the Center and have worked with our partners to sustain ongoing programs from previous years as well as develop some new initiatives. Among the latter is this annual report, which reflects the integration of the traditional format of the Center annual report and the report from our Migration and Human Rights Project, previously reported in a separate publication. We trust that this new format extends the reach of each report while evidencing the connections within and across the Center's research, educational, and programmatic work.

As all of you know this has been an historic year for transitions in US politics with near catastrophic consequences for many of the transnational and mixed status families with whom we work, and for migrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum in the US more generally. The multiple executive orders of our 45th president temporarily refusing entry to citizens from seven, then six, countries, all of which have large Muslim populations, created immediate havoc for hundreds of travelers and sowed fear among thousands more. These edicts have been coupled with less widely publicized initiatives directing US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to intensify strategies introduced by previous presidents to detain and deport increasing numbers of lawful migrants living in the United States. Many of those being targeted fled violence and poverty from Central America and Mexico and are targeted in the US for having overstayed a visa or entered this country without proper documentation. The fear and threat experienced in migrant families and communities—documented in multiple studies conducted by our Center research team and our community partners—have deepened, and generated significant increases in the numbers of detainees and deportees. Center staff has engaged in a range of professional presentations, community workshops, advocacy and activist initiatives alongside these communities and migrant organizations protesting these increasingly repressive policies and practices. We have also developed a set of resources—and posted those developed by other professionals in the field—to assist students, faculty, professionals, community activists and organizers and migrants in responding to these threats. Visit http://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/lsoe/sites/chrij/resources/post-election.html for this resource.

Our Center luncheon lecture series was an additional response to these changes, bringing together legal and social science researchers and professionals to address the topic: After Obama: What is the Future of Our "Nation of Immigrants"? Martha Guevara, a Boston-area community activist, initiated the series with a report back on a delegation from the greater Boston area to El Salvador where they deepened their understandings of the multiple factors—including some of the highest murder rates in the world—pushing a growing number of unaccompanied adolescents and young adults to the US. Kalina Brabeck, Associate Professor of Counseling, Rhode Island College, and Center Visiting Scholar reported on her research with middle childhood Latinx school children in the greater Providence, RI, communities in the second session of the series. Her surveys of parents, teachers and children indicate increased levels of stress within those families with at least one undocumented parent and somewhat surprising levels of concern among families whose members are legally in the country. In-depth interviews with a smaller group from among this sample highlighted the extraordinary poignancy of US citizen children seeking to make sense of the growing uncertainties regarding whether or not and, if so, when their parents will be taken from them, while parents continue to struggle with protecting children in contexts increasingly out of their control. Roberto Gonzales, Assistant Professor of Education at Harvard University, shared some of the results from his longitudinal study of undocumented children coming of age in the United States and the multiple challenges they face—and resilience they evidence—as they learn of their undocumented status. His interviews with undocumented children and youth in Chicago and California have revealed the discovery process these young people undergo when they turn 18 years old or "come of age" "out of status" in the US, realizing how many of their dreams will be deferred indefinitely. The series concluded with a presentation by Mary Waters, M.E. Zukerman Professor of Sociology at Harvard University who spoke about the war on crime and the war on immigrants in the US, that is, the confluence of racial and legal exclusion that characterize life in the 21st century in this country. As federal immigration enforcement is expanding, the diverse responses at the state level are ever more important for individual migrants—and it is critical that those who work with and support them, understand and are positioned to respond to these differences. To this end, the Center co-hosted a conference with the Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy at the BC School of Law exploring state and federal tensions in immigration enforcement and heard from experts in a variety of professions about how they are organizing to enhance responses and resources in this changing climate.

Several additional programs extended the focus on migration to explore refugee law as well as how religious and educational institutions seek to articulate the multiple and complex meanings of situating themselves as welcoming or sanctuary communities within a broader environment increasingly hostile to migrants and asylees. Alex Aleinikoff, Director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at the New School for Social Research, and former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, shared a series of proposals that he is developing to reimagine refugee law at the international level chal-

lenging nation-states to be more receptive to migrants' needs in their policies. Laurie Johnston, Boston College Visiting Professor, and Center Visiting Scholar reported on research she and several Center undergraduate research assistants had completed exploring religious hospitality vis-à-vis Muslim students at Catholic institutions. And focusing here in the greater Boston area, the Center hosted several workshops on campus for students working as ESOL teachers in volunteer service positions and staff participated in multiple presentations about our ongoing work with the ESOL Know Your Rights Tool Kit with local teachers and community advocates.

The Post-Deportation Human Rights Project launched a new online portal in late 2016 – the Deportation Global Information Project, at www.postdeportation.org. The portal hopes to become a "go to site" for those seeking resources, developing research and advocating for the rights of deported and expelled persons globally. Drawing on the Center's work on drafting the Declaration on the Rights of Deported and Expelled Persons, staff has already compiled academic scholarship from a variety of disciplines as well as statistics and reports issued by state governments, nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations. The portal hosts multiple searchable databases and our vision is that the Deportation Global Information Project will serve not only as a repository for information, but also as an active platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and strategies among scholars and advocates.

Finally, in response to our ongoing collaborations in Guatemala, the Center's interdisciplinary research team launched a new initiative in collaboration with the local Guatemalan migrant communities of Greater Boston. Previous work has documented the challenges and stressors generated by current immigration policies and practices on transnational and mixed-status families. This new pilot study seeks to understand the day-to-day lived experiences of Guatemalans with a particular focus on understanding the multiple ways, both local and transnational, in which they are rethreading their lives. Through developing more systematic knowledge about participants' current lives in multiple contexts, the study hopes to generate knowledge on their engagement with their families and communities in Guatemala through communication, travel, and provision of resources and to explore whether or not and, if so, how social capital developed in the US is translated and/or takes root in their communities of origin in Guatemala.

We close by thanking Jessica Chicco, longtime Supervising Attorney of our Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (PDHRP), for her many years of collaboration with the Center and the PDHRP, as she departs BC this summer. She has given generously of her time, her expertise and her energy to the multiple projects in which she has collaborated, while mentoring several generations of students on both BC campuses. We welcome Heather Friedman and Rogelia Cruz to their new positions as Supervising Attorney for the PDHRP and Human Rights Fellow, and look forward to collaborating with them over the next year.

Many of these programs and initiatives are described more in depth elsewhere in this report. We encourage you to be in touch with us if you would like to learn more about the Center and our work, and thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Daniel Kanstroom and M. Brinton Lykes
Co-Directors
Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice

ABOUT US

The Center for Human Rights and International Justice addresses the increasingly interdisciplinary needs of human rights work through academic programs, applied research, and the interaction of scholars with practitioners. The Center' Co-Directors are Law School Professor Daniel Kanstroom and Lynch School of Education Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology M. Brinton Lykes. Mr. Timothy Karcz is the Assistant Director.

CHRIJ Newsletter contributors: Lori Niehaus and Michaela Simoneau. Photos courtesy of BC MTS.

SPECIAL SECTION

This year, the Center's summer newsletter will include a special section for the Migration and Human Rights Project (MHRP) annual report. Typically printed as a separate report, we hope that its inclusion here will help you to learn more about this important Center initiative.

To learn more about MHRP, please visit www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/lsoe/sites/chrij/research/projects.html

Center Notes

Heyer

Photo from IJTJ editors meeting at Boston College, January 2017

- The Center is excited to announce the addition of its newest Affiliated Faculty Member, BC **Theology Professor Kristin Heyer!** Prof. Heyer specializes in theological ethics and is an expert in Catholic Social Thought, relating to issues such as the common good, the human rights of migrants and the ethical responsibilities of societies toward the poor and the "stranger." Please join us in welcoming her to the Center.

- The Center marked its second year hosting the annual meetings of the editors of the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* this past January. The Center, along with the Lynch School of Education, are the institutional homes for the journal. Managing Editor Lucy Hovil presented at a Center event on her book while at BC (see page 13 for story).

  Statistics from Oxford University Press show that the journal's impact factor has increased to 1.725 in 2016, the first year the journal had its institutional home at BC, up from 1.250 in 2015. The impact factor is a measure of how often the journal's recent articles were cited in other academic papers in a given year. Its impact factor now ranks it 28th of 147 journals in the Law category (risen 17 places from 2015), 19th of 86 in International Relations (risen 6 places), and 46th of 165 in Political Science (risen 3 places). Congratulations to the journal's editors for all their hard work being recognized!

- The Center welcomes its new undergraduate interns this summer, **Lori Niehaus MCAS '18**, and **Michaela Simoneau MCAS '18**.

Co-Director Lykes receives award from American Psychological Association

Join us in congratulating Center Co-Director M. Brinton Lykes, who was presented with the 2017 Seymour B. Sarason Award for Community Research and Action by the American Psychological Association (APA). The APA's press release on the award follows:

[Dr. Lykes'] work has made a crucial contribution to Community Psychology through its interrogation and documentation of culture, positionality, power, structural violence, human rights, and community. Dr. Lykes's scholarship and action is rooted in epistemology and theory and engages in community-based participatory and action research that is responsive to deeply-rooted structures of inequality and oppression, particularly in the global South. Her work exemplifies the importance of interrogating whiteness/privilege in intercultural research and practice. This in turn models how community psychology can move towards deeper reflexive modes of work that attends to and seeks to ameliorate the various ways in which power is expressed in research and practice. Dr. Lykes has published more than 100 research articles and book chapters, edited and/or authored several books, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for her long-term participatory and action research responding to humanitarian crises across transnational contexts.

Migration and Human Rights Project
2016-2017 Annual Report

ABOUT THE MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT

The Migration and Human Rights Project is part of Boston College's Center for Human Rights & International Justice. It encompasses a number of interdisciplinary projects surrounding deportation and forced migration in the United States and beyond, including:

- **The Post-Deportation Human Rights Project**: Through research, legal and policy analysis, as well as outreach to lawyers, community groups, and policy-makers, the project's ultimate goal is to reintroduce legal predictability, proportionality, compassion, and respect for family unity into the deportation laws and policies of the United States.
- **Human Rights of Migrants Project:** This partnership with community-based organizations in the Boston area brings together Central American immigrant members of community organizations, staff organizers from the groups, lawyers, psychologists, and social workers to document how immigration enforcement is affecting immigrants and their families and communities. The aim of this participatory action research (PAR) project is to develop human rights research and advocacy skills among immigrant community members within the United States while simultaneously generating action oriented data and educational and organizing resources for and with local communities. The project has included dozens of collaborative community-university meetings and multiple collaborative projects. Boston College faculty and students associated with the project have produced scholarly work in the fields of law, psychology, action research methodologies, and social work.

People

FACULTY DIRECTORS

Daniel Kanstroom
Boston College Law School
Professor of Law
Director, International Human Rights Program
Co-Director, Center for Human Rights & International Justice

M. Brinton Lykes
Boston College Lynch School of Education
Professor of Community-Cultural Psychology
Co-Director, Center for Human Rights & International Justice

AFFILIATED FACULTY

Kalina M. Brabeck
Rhode Island College
Department of Counseling, Educational Leadership & School Psychology

Mary Holper
Boston College Law School
Associate Clinical Professor of Law

Rachel E. Rosenbloom
Northeastern University Law School
Associate Professor of Law

AFFILIATED ATTORNEY

Aimee Mayer-Salins
Associate Attorney
Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen, & Loewy LLP

HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOW

Jessica Chicco
Boston College
Post-Deportation Human Rights Project

ADVISORY BOARD

(organizations for identification purposes only)

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Kevin R. Johnson, UC Davis School of Law

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Michelle Karshan, Chans Altenativ / Alternative Chance

Dan Kesselbrenner, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Nancy Morawetz, New York University School of Law

Judy Rabinovitz, ACLU Immigrant Rights Project

Rachel E. Rosenbloom, Northeastern University School of Law

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Jay W. Stansell, Evergreen State College

Carola Suárez-Orozco, University of California, Los Angeles

Marcelo M. Suárez-Orozco, University of California Los Angeles

Manuel D. Vargas, Immigrant Defense Project

Michael Wishnie, Yale Law School

Launching a new online portal

BY JESSICA CHICCO

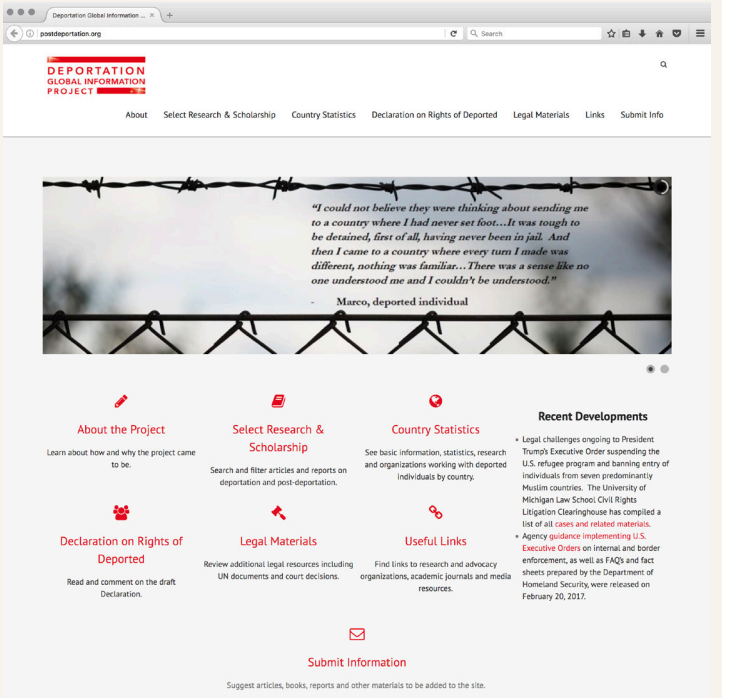
In late 2016, the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project launched a new online portal—the Deportation Global Information Project. This new endeavor stems from the PDHRP's long-standing work on deportation and post-deportation issues, and most recently our work on drafting the *Declaration on the Rights of Deported and Expelled Persons*. The portal aims to gather, organize, and make accessible data and scholarship regarding the phenomenon of deportation around the world and the challenges and obstacles faced by deported and expelled persons and their families in order to increase awareness of and facilitate discourse and comparative analysis on this topic.

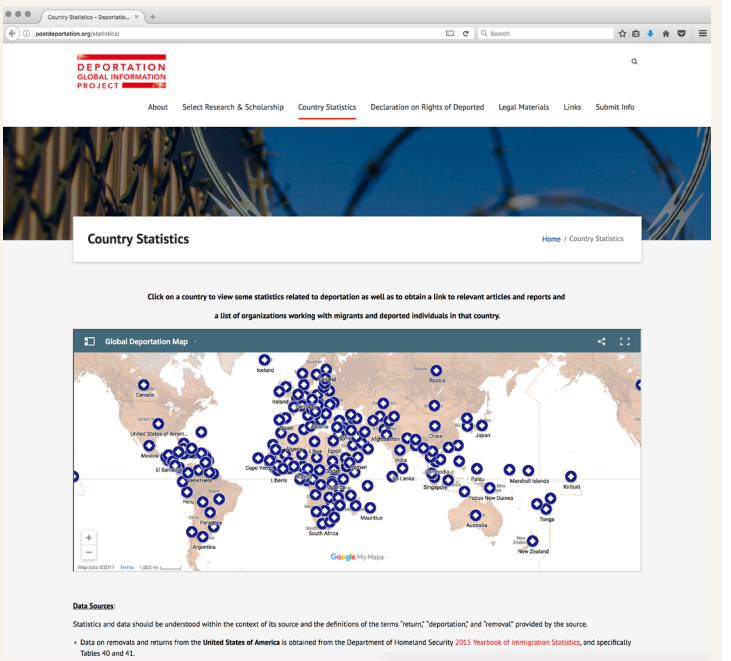
In our Select Research & Scholarship collection, we have compiled a significant amount of resources on the topics of deportation and post-deportation. Such resources include academic scholarship from a variety of disciplines (including law and social sciences) as well as reports issued by state governments, nongovernmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. Each resource has been "tagged" with one or more topics—such as due process, refugees and asylum seekers, gender—and is searchable by topic as well as by relevant region or country. The research page is, of course, not meant to be exhaustive on the topics of deportation and post-deportation. Rather, its purpose is to highlight foundational as well as emerging scholarship. The resource page also includes a listing of recent relevant books as well as films and documentaries on the subject.

Further, the portal provides information on related legal materials, such as the United Nations Draft Articles on Expulsion of Aliens, and select decisions from international courts and human rights bodies, as well as links to advocacy and research organizations that center their work on migration and deportation. Finally, the site contains some key deportation statistics organized by country along with links to local organizations working with migrants and deported individuals around the world. Finally, yet importantly, an interactive version of the text of the draft *Declaration on the Rights of Deported and Expelled Persons* is posted on the portal to allow scholars and affected individuals to comment on the document and suggest edits or additions.

Our vision is that the Deportation Global Information Project will function not only as a repository for information, but as an active platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and strategies among scholars and advocates.

Please visit the site at **www.postdeportation.org**.





Sample pages from the site.

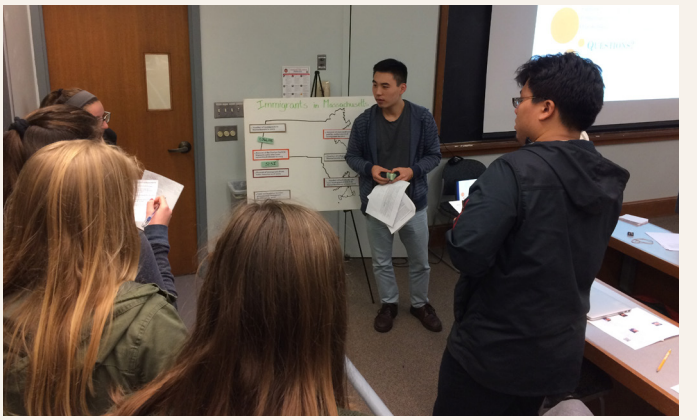
Student Workshops on Immigration & Deportation at Boston College

BY MAYA JOYCE

This year, the Center for Human Rights and International Justice once again organized workshops aimed at educating the Boston College community on realities around immigration and deportation in the US. Workshops were held in collaboration with student programs and groups including PULSE and 4Boston (two large service learning programs on campus), the Arrupe Program, and the School of Social Work.

Jessica Chicco, supervising attorney of the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project, kicked off the workshops by providing a brief overview on the legal realities of the immigration process in the United States. She also offered definitions and explanations of the various types of immigration statuses and different pathways to legal status in the United States. Following the presentation, participants were divided into small breakout groups to facilitate activities and conversations on topics related to immigration.

The first station consisted of reading the first-person narratives of four individuals who had different experiences within the immigration process. Subsequently, it was revealed what the ultimate outcome of the process was for each individual, which ranged widely between positive and negative outcomes. The second station quizzed participants on statistics about immigration in Massachusetts, such as the amount of local and state taxes paid by the undocumented population in the state (nearly $200 million a year!). The third activity called on participants to reflect on the experiences of undocumented immigrants, and especially how those experiences might differ in adults and children. After cycling through the various stations, workshop participants came back together to debrief on the information shared and received during the workshop and to share their reactions.



The Center plans to continue with similar workshops with student groups in the Boston College community next year in hopes of providing more context to this important topic, especially for students who are or will be providing service to immigrant communities during their years at Boston College.

Launch of Research on Guatemalans in the Greater Boston Area

BY ROGELIA CRUZ & COURTNEY LLOYD

In the spring semester of 2017, the Center launched a research project to explore the extent to which and the ways in which Guatemalan migrants in the greater Boston area have integrated into their communities. The pilot study seeks to better understand their journey to the Boston area, how they are thriving, and the issues they are confronting. The study is particularly interested in work and family life, neighborhood and social networks, engagement in work and economic activities, and participation in social activities both locally and transnationally. This includes how they are faring economically, what types of activities they are involved in when not working, how they engage in their culture and language, and what access they have to services and resources for themselves and their families.

The interdisciplinary research group—composed of Center co-director Prof. Brinton Lykes, Guatemalan researcher Rogelia Cruz, Center Post-Deportation Human Rights Project attorney Jessica Chicco, and a team of graduate and undergraduate students—aims to interview 40 individuals who self-identify as of Guatemalan descent and who live or have lived in areas that have significant Guatemalan populations. These are Waltham, Lynn, and three Boston neighborhoods (Allston/Brighton, Hyde Park, and East Boston). The study will focus in particular on Guatemalans who belong to the Maya or ladino ethnic and linguistic communities. Data will be collected through an open-ended, semi-structured interview process that draws on two personal mapping protocols, one focusing on the participant's family relations in the US and in Guatemala, and the second focusing on the participant's activities here in the greater Boston area. Interviews are being conducted in either English or Spanish based on the participant's preference and are currently underway.

This research study aims to understand the day-to-day lived experiences of Guatemalans in the Boston area and how they conceptualize their transnational community. We hope that, in addition to providing information on participants' current life in the Boston area, the study will generate knowledge on their engagement with their families and communities in Guatemala through communication, travel, and providing resources. Furthermore, there are historical tensions between Maya and ladinos in Guatemala and through this study we also seek to explore if this divide persists in a similar way in the Guatemalan communities in the Boston area. Ultimately, the study hopes to build a foundation of research that leads to a community action research project to celebrate community successes and addresses challenges that may arise in the current political climate surrounding immigration.

Post-Election Resources Page

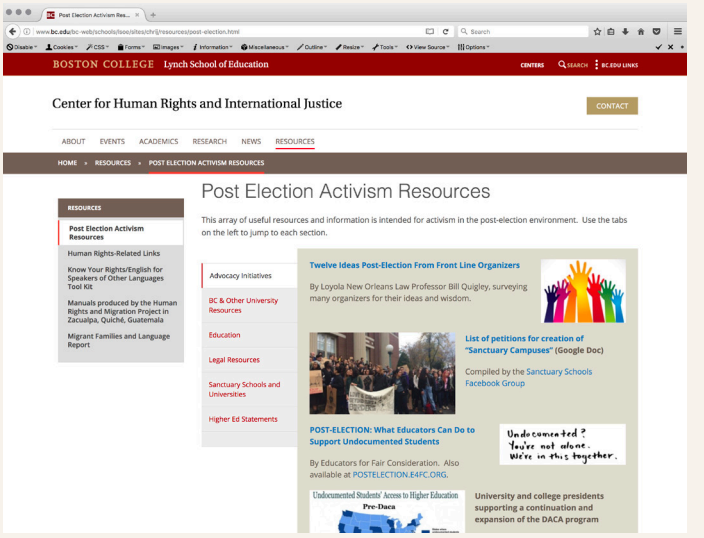
BY TIMOTHY KARCZ

In the wake of the 2016 national elections in the US, which saw the racist and xenophobic messaging of Donald Trump elevated to the office of the presidency, the Center sought to redouble its commitment to human rights research and advocacy and stand against the regressive policies that were suddenly on the verge of being enacted.

The Center first released a statement on the election itself, which reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the cause of human rights and its solidarity with migrant communities, communities of color, and all affected by armed conflict and forced migration in the US and around the world.

Along with issuing the statement, the Center launched a special post-election resources page on its website, targeted to people concerned with what is happening politically in the country and who want to get educated and take actions to protect human rights in the face of it.

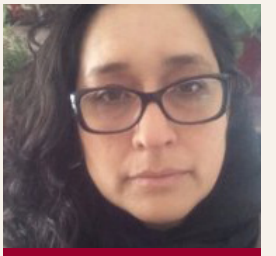
The page contains a number of resources available for this purpose, in categories such as advocacy initiatives, resources at BC and other universities, educational resources, legal resources, sanctuary schools and universities information and statements by institutions of higher education on the election.



We welcome you to visit the site, which also contains the Center's statement on the election, at the following link: **www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/lsoe/sites/chrij/resources/post-election.html**.

Welcome to New Staff!

WE WELCOME TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS TO THE MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT FOR 2017-2018!



Cruz Estrada de Quinn

Friedman

Rogelia Cruz Estrada de Quinn will be joining the project as a researcher in the position of Human Rights Fellow. Rogelia Cruz is a Guatemalan anthropologist with a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Rural Development, both degrees obtained in Mexico where she grew up as a refugee from Guatemala. She is currently leading research in conjunction with the Center learning more about the strategies that the local Guatemalan population uses to survive, economically and culturally, in the greater Boston area. Through developing more systematic knowledge about participants' current lives in multiple contexts, this research seeks to better understand their engagement with their families and communities in Guatemala through communication, travel, and provision of resources and to explore whether or not and, if so, how social capital developed in the US is translated and/or takes root in their communities of origin in Guatemala.

Heather Friedman will also be joining the project as Supervising Attorney of the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project (PDHRP). She comes to the Center with extensive experience in the field of immigration law, particularly regarding detention, deportation, criminal history, and mental health. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Friedman worked at the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) in Boston for over six years defending indigent immigrants from deportation. Previously, Ms. Friedman handled a wide variety of family and humanitarian-based immigration cases as an associate with the Boston-based immigration law firm Graves & Doyle. Ms. Friedman was also Associate Director of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School where she co-supervised the human rights law clinic and helped to run the Center's program of workshops, conferences, and fellowships. Ms. Friedman is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College.

As Supervising Attorney with the PDHRP, Ms. Friedman will work closely with Professor Kanstroom and other Center staff to advance the rights of deportees worldwide. Ms. Friedman is also co-counsel on the Center's pro bono cases along with leading law firms in Boston, manages the Center's Deportation Global Information Project website (see page 7), and contributes to the Center's other efforts to protect and promote the rights of deportees.

Thank you!

Thank you to Visiting Scholar **Rogelia Cruz Estrada**, whose research focused on Guatemalan migrants in the United States.

A special thanks also to the many students who worked with us this year! **Kathryn Droumbakis** (Boston College Law School, Class of 2018), **Fariha Kabir** (Boston College Law School, Class of 2019), and **Benjamin Wishnie** (Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2020) worked on the launch of the Deportation Global Information Project. **Jessica Barnes** (Lynch School of Education, Class of 2018); **Sriya Bhattacharyya** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **María Cristina Fernández** (Woods School, Class of 2018); **Kevin Ferreira** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral candidate); **Jiani Hou** (Lynch School of Education, Class of 2017); **Maya Joyce** (Lynch School of Education, Class of 2018); **Liliana Mamani Condori** (School of Theology and Ministry, Class of 2017); **Gloria McGillen** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, M.A. Counseling Psychology, 2017); **Lourdes María José Serrano** (Woods College of Advanced Studies, Class of 2017); and **Gabriela Távara Vasquez** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral candidate) worked with the participatory action research teams.

Inspired to make a tax-deductible donation to the Migration and Human Rights Project?

We welcome your interest and support in every form.

Make a donation

All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Please send checks to the address below, made payable to Boston College and with "CHRIJ" in the memo line.

Boston College
Stokes Hall N410
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: +1.617.552.9261
Fax: +1.617.552.9295
Email: pdhrp@bc.edu
Web: www.bc.edu/postdeportation

Student Awards

CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

On May 18, the Center hosted its year-end event in which it presented the Center's graduate Certificate in Human Rights and International Justice to its recipients. This year the certificate was earned by a 10 students, listed below, a new record for recipients in one academic year. Congratulations to them all and best wishes on their future endeavors.

1. **Sriya Bhattacharyya,** Ph.D. candidate in Counseling Psychology, Lynch School of Education; 2. **John Engelhardt Carter**, PhD candidate in Theological Ethics, Morrissey Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; 3. **Jim Darwin Gomes**, Master of Theology '17, School of Theology & Ministry; 4. **Makeda Shimelise Eshete**, Master of Laws '17, Law School; 5. **Megan Cathleen Knetemann**, Master of Arts '17 in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology, Lynch School of Education; 6. **Liliana Katery Mamani Condori**, Master of Theological Studies '17, School of Theology & Ministry; 7. **Maya Perlmann**, Master of Social Work '17, School of Social Work; 8. **Raquel Yvonne Sáenz**, PhD candidate in Curriculum and Instruction, Lynch School of Education; 9. **Maria Gabriela Távara Vásquez**, PhD candidate in Applied Developmental & Educational Psychology, Lynch School of Education; 10. **Matthew J. Tusa**, Master of Theological Studies '17, School of Theology & Ministry

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

The Center once again awarded summer research grants to both undergraduate and graduate students at Boston College this year. Here are this summer's awardees and their research topics:

Juliana Butrón, M.A. student in Political Science, Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences '18
"Damages Suits against State Terror Actors, American Institutions, and the Separation of Powers"

Kerri Evans, Ph.D. candidate in Social Work, School of Social Work
"Co-exploring Integration of Refugee Youth Served Through Foster Care"

Ellen Gutowski, Ph.D. candidate, Counseling Psychology, Lynch School of Education
"Survivor Custody Project"

Lisa Unangst, Ph.D. candidate, International Higher Education, Lynch School of Education
"Facilitating Refugee and Migrant Access to German Universities"

KELSEY RENNEBOHM MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

This year marks the fifth annual award of the Kelsey Rennebohm Memorial Fellowship, to honor the memory of Kelsey Rennebohm, a student in the Lynch School of Education who passed away suddenly in 2012. To reflect Kelsey's passions, the award goes to a student whose proposed research or activist scholarship is at the interface of psychology, mental health, gender, social justice, and human rights. This year's co-recipients and their topic of study for their joint project, "Roots of resistance and resilience: Agroecology tactics for resettlement" (to be conducted in El Salvador) are:

Matthew DelSesto, PhD candidate in Sociology, Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences

Megan Donovan, Master's of Social Work, School of Social Work; and Master's in Theology and Ministry, School of Theology & Ministry

Center News

Center visiting scholar and undergraduate interns collaborate on research on religious hospitality at Catholic institutions of higher education

This year saw new innovative collaborative research conducted by Center Visiting Scholar Professor Laurie Johnston with the Center. Johnston is Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Emmanuel College, and has also taught Ethics and Religion in International Politics here at Boston College during the past two years.

From left, Prof. Laurie Johnston, Center undergraduate research assistants Hanaa Khan and Liam Maguire, and Zainab Kiyam, treasurer of the BC Muslim Students Association

Starting in the summer of 2016, Johnston engaged the Center's undergraduate interns, Hanaa Khan, LSOE '17, and Liam Maguire, MCAS '17, on a new project exploring the degree to which Catholic universities in the US provided religious hospitality to members of other religious faiths aside from Catholicism, with a focus on Muslims. Together, the team interviewed administrators and faculty and Catholic institutions of higher education around the US, as well as Muslim students at these institutions, to gain more insight on their experiences and perspectives.

The research also has highlighted Catholic encyclicals and texts that have supported the concept of providing religious hospitality to people of other faiths in Catholic institutions of higher education, to help burnish administrators' efforts to provide resources for these initiatives. The team also produced a number of recommendations and best practices for Catholic institutions of higher education to follow, including considering the Islamic faith in relation to the institution's mission, supporting Muslim students' spiritual life, and having a proactive awareness of how the institution's public actions may be interpreted by Muslim students.

The team discussed the research and led a conversation on religious hospitality at BC on March 20 at a roundtable discussion, in conjunction with members of the BC Muslim Students Association, with Zainab Kiyam, MCAS '18 speaking as a panelist. The research team also presented their findings in April at the "Toward a Culture of University Ethics" conference held at BC.

The research project continues this academic year with Professor Johnston working with the new Center interns who have come on this summer, Lori Niehaus, MCAS '18, and Michaela Simoneau, MCAS '18. This summer, Niehaus made a research visit to Benedictine University in Chicago, a Catholic institution where nearly 30% of the student population is Muslim, and which has developed excellent interreligious dialogue programs on campus.

Johnston and the students are also embarking on a comparative research project to examine the role of Catholic educational institutions in Belgium with regard to the integration of Muslims in Belgian society. Johnston will continue that research as a Fulbright scholar in Belgium starting in January 2018.

Book Talk with Lucy Hovil: *Refugees, Conflict, and the Search for Belonging*

On January 25, the Center welcomed Lucy Hovil, the managing editor of the International Journal of Transitional Justice and a Senior Researcher for the International Refugee Rights Initiative, to discuss her new book: *Refugees, Conflict, and the Search for Belonging*. Over six years and through 1,115 interviews, Hovil compiled nine case studies concerning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the Central African Great Lakes region. This research considered Burundian refugees living in Tanzania, some of whom had been offered the unprecedented choice of naturalization as an alternative to repatriation; Congolese refugees and IDPs; and marginalized groups excluded from strict national identities prevailing in a recently-divided Sudan. Through all of these studies, the book brings together the cyclical nature of conflict and the crisis in citizenship and belonging for a concerted analysis. Hovil explained that exclusion of these populations perpetuates cycles of violence, but their inclusion is conversely a critical component of stability. Thus, these concerns factor into potential solutions for exile during conflict.

Through both a legal and policy framework that clearly recognizes refugees as a category of migrants, and a graphic lens that recognizes the shortcomings of this categorization when considering such diverse populations, Hovil wants to challenge the prevailing narratives about refugees with three important conclusions. Primarily, refugees are seeking an end to their marginalization, yet current encampment practices, political resistance, and strict United Nations Refugee Agency policy guidelines instead perpetuate their segregation. As a result, mobility is a powerful antidote to marginalization, yet fear of security threats in receiving nations limits this powerful coping mechanism. Citizenship presents an optimal solution to exile, by legitimizing the status of the displaced through full acceptance of the stranger, and allowing for full integration and a resolution for the marginalized. However, in the volatile environment of post-colonial states, this reality is not yet achievable politically on a grand scale. Refugees are resourceful, yet they are also vulnerable to forced recruitment and other dangers, so the space for integration into the host communities, given political realities at national levels, must be opened at a lower, more local, levels to encourage feelings of belonging.

Hovil

Hovil's book is available online to current BC students and faculty through BC Libraries.

Book Talk: *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*

Chuck Collins, author of the new book *Born on Third Base*, spoke in a Center-sponsored event held on February 20. Once the heir to the multi-million dollar Oscar Mayer Corporation, Collins was moved to give away his inheritance at the age of 26. Since then, he has made a career fighting income inequality throughout Massachusetts at organizations such as the Institute for Community Economics and the HOME Coalition, before founding his own organization, United for a Fair Economy. Currently serving as a senior scholar at the Institute of Policy Studies, and as the director of the Program on Inequality and the Common Good, Collins continues his mission to educate the public and break the bubble that continuously elevates and isolates the so-called 1%.

Collins' journey to pop his own bubble began when he moved from his home of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, to begin working in trailer parks across Massachusetts. He became finely attuned to the economic plight of the ironically immobile mobile home tenants as he worked with them to collectively buy their parks from interested developers. He was particularly struck by one community that rallied to close a $35,000 debt, a sum that he could easily have written a check for out of his trust fund. The solidarity and generosity he witnessed, with some tenants giving up everything they had, opened a crack in his heart that committed him to fighting the injustice that puts people in such situations.

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Collins

Book Talk: *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura*

On February 22, author Eileen Markey presented her book, *A Radical Faith: The Assassination of Sister Maura*. Sister Maura is one of four American women, three of which were Catholic nuns, who were tortured and killed by the El Salvadoran military government in 1980. Their murders set off years of debate over US policy during the Cold War years in Central America. A related legal campaign led the deportation back to El Salvador two years ago of two high-ranking Salvadoran generals who were intellectual authors of the murders, and who had been living in the US since the late 1980s.

The deaths of the churchwomen, Sr. Dorothy Kazel, Sr. Ita Ford, Sr. Maura Clarke, and Jean Donovan, caused a large ripple in American society. Markey herself grew up learning about and being inspired by the churchwomen. Through that inspiration she started a journalism career covering poor neighborhoods often overlooked in New York City. She now focuses on how government policy affects life on the street and the lives of the poor and marginalized in the city.

In spite of the influence these women had had on her life, Markey knew something was missing. The deaths of these women caused a large ripple, but what about their lives? She describes it, "It's as though they were born in their grave." There, she says, they are silent. Yet these women in life were anything but silent. And so Markey set out on a five-year journey that would lead her through four countries and countless memories. She decided to focus on the oldest and most experienced missionary, Sister Maura, reconnecting her life to the political reality in which she lived.

Born in 1931 to Irish immigrants in Queens, NY, Maura Clarke took her vows to join the Maryknoll sisters at age 23. Those who knew Maura spoke of her ability to connect with people; when she spoke to someone, that person mattered. Indeed, as Markey points out, Maura was "formed by a radical, dangerous belief that everyone mattered." This was evident in her first overseas mission in Nicaragua. With her introduction of Familia de Dios methodology, Maura was immersed in local communities as the student-teacher dynamic transformed into a more collaborative learning experience, where she worked with, rather than for, the impoverished. The first publications of liberation theology by Latin American bishops in 1968 further helped her to understand the suffering of the poor. As Markey explained, "If this was the body of Christ, it was being tortured. Maura's response to tyranny, once she was able to look at tyranny, was solidarity."

Markey

In 1980, Maura was called by Archbishop Oscar Romero to serve in El Salvador. She worked tirelessly to protect not just those involved in the rebel movements, but anyone targeted for questioning the economic and political system. She and her fellow sisters helped Romero to document and broadcast human rights abuses, to bring relief to guerillas or suspected rebels, to help displaced persons, and even to smuggle people to sanctuary across military checkpoints.

Markey believes that the four women were killed because "they were worth killing... [They gathered] people together so that they weren't isolated in their fear, but rather they were united in possibility... that's really dangerous. Tyranny needs frightened and disorganized people." In considering the legacy of these modern martyrs, Markey says, "I think about evil, and I think about otherness, and I think about the horror we can commit." However, Markey asserted that their lives provide hope against the tragedy of their deaths, as inspiring examples of bravery and solidarity for people across the world.

Chuck Collins

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In his presentation, Collins shared startling facts about inequality in the United States. He reported that the "richest 100 households in the U.S. have as much wealth as the entire population of African Americans, totaling 14 million." Additionally, "for the last 50 years, the economy has doubled in size, and yet real wages for the bottom half of households, has pretty much stayed flat." Collins emphasized his belief that these facts affect people and change their minds. However, he also stressed that others are not affected at all. They have fallen into the "myth of meritocracy," which overlooks the role of inherited privilege granted through financial status, rather believing that difference in outcomes is almost exclusively the result of superior work ethic.

However, Collins stressed that the book is not meant to demonize the wealthy in the US. He acknowledges that privilege acts as "a disconnection drug" which prevents people from facing the problems of greater inequalities, giving them the luxury of ignorance. There is a dominant American narrative that perpetuates the idea of a meritocracy, where some people have more wealth than others simply because they work hard and others do not. Yet this justification only serves to further stigmatize poverty, making it that much more difficult to address. Collins exposes the myth in this misconception with clear statistics, explaining that "if you're not born within the top 1/5 of the population, you will have a very slim chance at the American Dream... For the last 50 years, the economy has doubled in size, and yet real wages for the bottom half of households has pretty much stayed flat. The richest 100 households have as much wealth together as the entire African-American population in this country, which is 14 million households." By quantifying these inequalities, he makes the problem impossible to dismiss.

Through his collection of stories, Collins issues a call to action, to fight back against this mythical narrative of meritocracy. He urges people to make a commitment to the local communities that really drive the economy, rather than invest in fossil fuel stocks or the "global financial casino." For those "born on third base," he encourages them to "come home, put your stake in a place." And in a wider call to everyone, he exhorted all to remain vigilant and to lobby for systemic change, until every heart is cracked open.

Center Co-Sponsors Conference on State/Federal Tensions in Immigration Enforcement

On April 4, the Center co-hosted a conference in conjunction with BC Law's Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy entitled "State/Federal Tensions in Immigration Enforcement: Looking Back and Looking Forward." Hosting three expert panels of judges, legislators, and educators, the event focused on tensions between state and federal legal policy enforcement, with a focus on immigration policy. Center Co-Director, and BC Law Professor, Daniel Kanstroom opened the conference with remarks detailing the tensions between increasing federal immigration enforcement and the state and local structures which might impede such "crimmigration" initiatives, and which enter into consideration regarding discussions of "sanctuary cities." He noted the alarmingly ambiguous divisions between these realms of jurisdiction, and the conflict between federal preemption and the federalist rights of states and non-citizens. Kanstroom urged all conference attendees to consider the current legal and normative dilemmas both in light of the present political context, and the historic "tectonic tensions" that underlie it.

Rappaport Visiting Professor, and former Governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley's keynote address reaffirmed his hope for the US' enduring legacy as an immigrant nation bound by the spirit of the law. He offered that although we may be facing new battles, such as detainee "iceboxes," they are based in old values. Still, he concluded with optimism, recognizing that change is possible. He concluded, "In truth, the highest office in our land is not President of the United States, it is citizen of the United States."

The first panel, moderated by Kanstroom, considered the evolving judicial aspects of immigration enforcement and the disconnect between the state and federal courts as exemplified by the situation of state convictions leading to federal deportations, part of the phenomenon known as "crimmigration." The Honorable Beverly Cannone of the Massachusetts Superior Court explained the importance of the case appearing before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that day, *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Lunn*. The case concerned a man who was held by a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer. It questioned whether the state court can hold an individual on a federal detainer request made under civil law solely on the basis of the individual's federal immigration status after criminal charges are dismissed, or whether such action would violate the state's constitutional rights and the individual's civil rights. The Honorable Robert Cordy, a retired judge of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and current partner of McDermott, Will & Emory, elaborated on the intersection of state criminal law and civil federal immigration law. He highlighted the 1978 Massachusetts statute called "an act to advise an alien of the potential consequences of a criminal conviction upon their immigration status," which strictly mandates how judges must advise defendants at the time of guilty pleas. Without prior warning that conviction could result in potential deportation, exclusion from entry into the US, or denial of naturalization, the defendant's plea may be vacated on these grounds. In debating the potential additional merits of *Padilla v. Kentucky*, which protects defendants against ineffective or prejudiced counselors, Honorable Nancy Gertner, a retired district court judge and current professor at Harvard Law School, dismissed it as symbolic but unhelpful, since discrimination is difficult to prove in replicating the facts of the case. Gertner advocates addressing the roots of crimmigration and entrenched ambiguity, which she believes stems from the compounding of federal laws on variable state systems.

The second panel, moderated by BC Law Professor Mary Holper, focused on policy and legislative issues. Director of Legislative Affairs at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Amy Grunder drew attention to recent legislation in Massachusetts: The Safe Communities Act. The Act, filed the day of President Trump's inauguration, was co-sponsored by over half of state legislators and provides a comprehensive response to concerns with federal immigration enforcement overreach, making a clear delineation between immigration enforcement and public safety. Among other things, the bill prohibits the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) or law enforcement databases to be used to support creation of any kind of federal registry based on religion, national origin, or other protected characteristics, and prohibits the use of state or

Panel discussion during the conference.

local resources, facilities, funds, equipment or personnel for immigration enforcement purposes. Asking the question, "what comes next?" in regards to expanding the standard toolkit states are now using for immigrant protection, Mike Wishnie of Yale Law School identified two major needed efforts: those directed at resisting mass deportation and those directed at building alternative communities founded on values of inclusion, respect, and dignity. To conclude, Lucas Guttentag, founder of the American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants' Rights Project, considered the federal principle of preemption as necessary to understand to distinguish properly anti-immigration laws from protection laws.

The last panel, moderated by BC Law Professor Kari Hong, viewed the debate through an academic lens. UCLA Law School Professor Ingrid Eagly detailed recent reforms in California, which understand immigration law in the wider context of the criminal justice system. Professor Stephen Legomsky of the Washington University School of Law in St. Louis argued that a narrow view of preemption dangerously and unsymmetrically works against immigrants. Yale American Studies Professor Alicia Schmidt Camacho expanded the frame of reference for the conference by encouraging a global perspective and urging attendees to address the criminalization of human mobility. Camacho named migration the most important and powerful social practice of political defiance of our time, a movement that must be scrutinized to understand the shifting "tectonic tensions" of our current context.

Videos of the entire conference can be found at http://lawmagazine.bc.edu/2017/04/sorting-out-the-tensions-in-immigration-enforcement/.

BOSTON COLLEGE
CHRIJ Center for Human Rights and International Justice

140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: 617.552.1968
Email: humanrights@bc.edu
Web: www.bc.edu/humanrights

Upcoming Fall 2017 Events

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

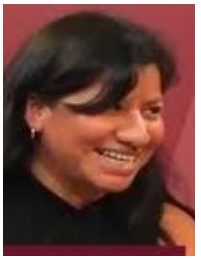
Resistance Lawyering

With **Daniel Farbman**, Professor of Law, Boston College Law School
12:00 PM • Boston College, Merkert Chemistry Center, Room 130
Part 1 of the "Rights in Conflict" luncheon series.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Origins of Cultural Genocide and White Supremacy in New England

With **Dr. Mishy Lesser**, Upstander Project
12:00 PM • Boston College, Merkert Chemistry Center, Room 130
Part 2 of the "Rights in Conflict" luncheon series.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

The Encounter of Knowledges: Challenges and opportunities for the social sciences and threats for social researchers

With **Rosa Macz**, legal researcher, AVANCSO
12:00 PM • Boston College, Merkert Chemistry Center, Room 130
Part 3 of the "Rights in Conflict" luncheon series.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Screening of "The U-Turn," a documentary film by Luis Argueta

With **Luis Argueta**, filmmaker
7:00 PM • Boston College, Fulton Hall, Room 230
Documentary following legal efforts to help undocumented people affected by the Postville, Iowa raid of 2008 remain in the US.

Visit our website at **www.bc.edu/humanrights** for updates, event details, and to join our mailing list.