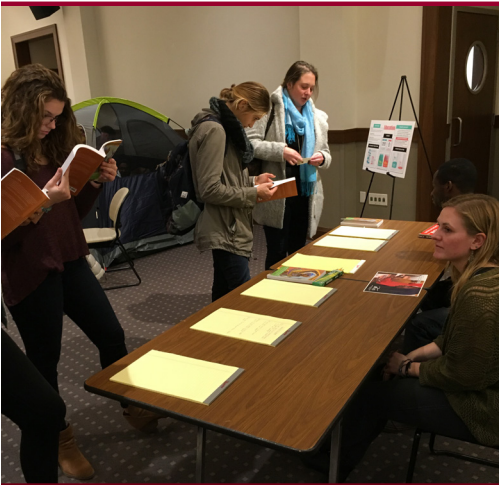


BOSTON COLLEGE
 **CHRIJ** Center for
Human Rights
and
International Justice

2018 Summer Newsletter and
2017-18 Migration & Human Rights Project Annual Report



IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Co-directors	2
About Us	4
Center Notes	5
MHRP Annual Report	6
Student Awards	15
Center News	16
Fall 2018 Events	20

Letter from the Co-directors

Dear Friends,

We have never felt more challenged, often overwhelmed—but also inspired and energized—by the need for a renewed commitment to the work of the Center than we have this past year. This is especially true in the realms of the rights of migrants, the rights of women, and the need for humanitarian protections for those fleeing persecution, violence, and oppression. More broadly, we feel acutely aware of the need for strong voices to be heard in support of the most basic ideas of rights themselves, as well as a vigorous reaffirmation of the ideals of democracy, justice, diversity, and equality.

It is hard to know where to begin to sum up the whirlwind events of the second year of the Trump administration in the United States. As professors, we try to be measured and careful in our work, as we try to teach our students to be precise in their understanding of complex social problems. But we must also not shy away from harsh realities: as we write, we are in the midst of what is perhaps the most sustained, organized, cynical, and brutally cruel assault on migrants and asylum seekers—and their families and communities—that this country has ever seen. Even those of us who saw this coming are shocked by the violence, the brazenness, and the sheer cruelty of what we have witnessed in the past year and a half:

- Babies have been taken from their mothers who are applying for asylum from brutal violence in Central America including sexual violence or femicide, as well as human trafficking;
- Long term legal residents are being deported for old, minor offenses, even when they have family members who file visa petitions for them;
- Massive detention centers are hidden from elected officials, journalists, lawyers, and social workers;
- The “Dreamers”—people who came here innocently, as young children, and who

have succeeded in achieving the so-called “American Dream” —by any measure continue to live in a state of uncertainty and fear; and,

- Current immigration detentions are now at historically unprecedented levels—some 50,000 people per day. And the corporations that detain people for deportation are profiting beyond their wildest dreams. (Some 65% of all immigration detainees in the US are housed in privately-owned facilities.) As one investment analyst recently noted, “The deportation crackdown is doing very good things for these companies.”¹

As a University Center, a major part of our mission is to understand these phenomena and to offer our students skills of critical engagement. In our academic seminar and our programming, we have sought to examine how we have come to this point and what is to be done? This understanding transcends partisan politics, though we strongly believe there is much to criticize about current government policies. We are experiencing the culmination of what amounts to a long crisis over immigration and human rights in this country and around the world. Around the world, human rights—in theory and in practice—are under siege from political philosophies that embody nationalism, authoritarianism, disregard for the rule of law, and from increasing xenophobia and racism. These trends put enormous pressure on moderate politicians, such as Germany’s Angela Merkel, who seek to defend the Post-War international human rights system and principles of humanitarian law as these institutions are currently besieged politically. They connect with distressing ease and fluidity to a resurgence and expansion of crude, fast-track, rights-infringing systems of exclusion, detention, and deportation.

During this year, Professor Kanstroom has been writing a book, entitled *Deportation World*, that explores this as a global phenomenon.

Some examples—apart from some current US exclusion and removal practices—are the Australian offshore detention of asylum-seekers, the tendency of some Israeli government officials to use the term “infiltrators” to refer to asylum-seekers, whom they then offer the stark choice between indefinite detention in a desert prison or immediate removal to countries such as Uganda or Rwanda for processing of their claims, and the outsourcing of exclusion and removal practices—often with minimal (if any) human rights protections—from Spain to Morocco, from Italy to Libya, and from the US to Mexico. Such trends fundamentally challenge the relationship between executive power and law, especially in regard to human and civil rights. The most obvious fear is that of a violently divisive politics and a progressive delegitimation of legal process and of rights claims. This, we think, is a fear worth having and worth paying attention to. Around the world, migrants are the proverbial canaries in this coal mine. Simply put, we face a particularly brutal assault on the rights of noncitizens through a massive and harsh expansion of exclusion and deportation systems that were already harsh and oppressive by any normative, comparative or historical measure. We believe deeply that it is our job and our responsibility not only to protect people as best we can from this but also to challenge our leaders to brake these policy changes that portend a dissolution to the underlying principles upon which the US was founded, with catastrophic consequences not only for migrants but for all who live and work within our borders. This is a moral imperative. But it is also a *pragmatic legal imperative* if we are to preserve the most precious, hard won aspects of human rights, due process, equality and, indeed, of constitutional democracy. Put simply, our task is not one of charity or protection; it is one of solidarity and preservation.

Professor Brinton Lykes has just completed a book co-authored with her colleague, Dr. Alison Crosby of York University in Toronto, about the multiple long-term consequences of

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/10/your-money/immigrants-prison-stocks.html> (quoting Terry Dwyer, an analyst with KDP Investment Advisors.) See also <https://www.thenation.com/article/how-private-prisons-game-immigration-system/>

racialized and gendered violence during Central America's longest war, that is, the more than 36 years of armed struggle in Guatemala. Many of those fleeing violence in Guatemala today were young children when the US government directly or indirectly supported violent dictators responsible for the "acts of genocide" committed during this armed conflict.² Among the survivors of this genocidal violence were 54 Maya women from four different regions of the country speaking six of its 23 languages who chose to break silence about their experiences of sexual slavery, rape, forced displacement, etc. after almost 30 years. The authors facilitated eight years of participatory and action research with these women seeking to document their experiences post-genocide, with a focus on their engagement with transitional justice processes—including truth-telling commissions and the prosecution of some of the perpetrators of these crimes through the local court system—and in the documentation of their local understandings of justice- and truth-seeking drawn from their Mayan beliefs and practices. The book, to be published in early 2019, also documents the work of local Guatemalan intermediaries including feminist lawyers, psychologists, and feminist activists who accompanied these women in these processes—exploring the dialogic, transnational relationships that were formed—including with us as researchers "from the North"—while also speaking "against the grain" of Euro-American dominated transitional justice processes that prioritize victims' testimonies, all too frequently forcing survivors or protagonists who fought for transformative changes prior to and throughout the armed conflict to bury their stories of resistance—or to risk marginalization from justice-seeking and redress mechanisms. Thus the book includes a discussion of some of the local or indigenous justice-seeking processes within and beyond Guatemala and how they might enhance practices that have become normative within Euro-American transitional justice as it is increasingly practiced.

Our work within the United States and internationally continues to focus on these and related problems. As you will see in this report, we have been actively engaged in a wide range of activities, both theoretical and practical. We

have offered a series of lunch presentations that have deeply engaged with all of these issues. Professor Kanstroom traveled to Mexico and Guatemala to interview people facing deportation from Mexico to Guatemala and other countries in Central America. He also traveled to Geneva for a day-long meeting about global deportation organized by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. He continues to brainstorm, develop, and publicize our Declaration on the Rights of Expelled and Deported Persons. He has given many public presentations about the rising deportation trends this year, including major presentations at various universities including the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he was appointed as Distinguished Interdisciplinary Scholar for a week long residency. This work will continue into the future.

We have continued to develop the Deportation Global Information Project, at www.postdeportation.org. It is available to those seeking resources, developing research and advocating for the rights of deported and expelled persons globally. We have 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 serves both as a repository for information and as an active platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and strategies among scholars and advocates.

As discussed in this report elsewhere Professor Lykes traveled to Guatemala with Dr. Crosby to facilitate a final workshop with the women involved in the Sepur Zarco trial in Guatemala that successfully prosecuted two military perpetrators responsible for the deaths of some of their husbands and of the sexual violence perpetrated against them—a first ever legal prosecution of this kind. She also spent several months in the rural community of Chajul where she has been engaged in long-term participatory and action research with survivors of the genocide against the Ixil communities of the area. She has continued to facilitate community processes with these women and their children and to document their strategies for sustaining themselves and their children as

well as their protagonism rethreading community despite the gross violations of their human rights and ongoing impunity as well as violations of their local mineral resources and water. The work this summer included interviews with the adult children of some of the 18 women still living who authored *Voices and Images: Maya Ixil Women of Chajul* (refer to <http://tinyurl.com/mblykes>). In addition to her fieldwork, writing, and publishing, Lykes was an invited speaker in a number of local and national universities as well as at conferences in Peru, Spain, and Canada. In the latter, the Society for Community Research & Action of the American Psychological Association awarded her the Seymour B. Sarason Award for Community Research and Action in recognition of her over three decades of community-based participatory action research and activist scholarship within the United States and transnationally.

Our path-breaking legal work in support of the rights of deported people has also continued, supported by our able Supervising Attorney, Heather Friedman, and Professor Kanstroom. Together with Center alumnus (and current partner at the law firm of Nixon Peabody) Ronaldo Rauseo-Ricupero, we achieved a monumental victory—bringing home a wrongly-deported Honduran man who had been a long-term US legal resident (See report in this issue by Heather Friedman).

Professor Lykes has continued to coordinate the research team of Boston College students who participate in our community-based participatory and action research in the US and Guatemala during 2017-18. She continues as co-editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Transitional Justice* that our Center co-edits collaboratively with the Center for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation in South Africa. Our Center has continued to revise our "Know Your Rights (KYR) Tool Kit" to help address the fact the multiple more intense effects of deportation within the contemporary era, still threatening undocumented and mixed-status families with separation. The Tool Kit bundles rights and legal literacy content into an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) resource that serves as a supplement for the broad range of ESOL teaching/learning curricula used throughout

² CEH (Comisión para el Esclarecimiento Histórico). 1999. Guatemala: Memory of Silence Tz'inil Na'tab'al. Guatemala: Guatemala. Retrieved from https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/migrate/uploads/mos_en.pdf

the United States. These resources are available at our website and we are currently developing a process for evaluating them with local teachers of ESOL. Visiting Scholar Kalina Brabeck and former legal staff, attorney Jessica Chicco, and Lykes collaborated in delivering a continuing education presentation for teachers from Boston Public Schools, a resource we hope to extend in the upcoming academic year. Finally, Center staff, such as Assistant Director Timothy Karcz, and students continue to facilitate workshops for Boston College undergraduates who volunteer as ESOL instructors and in other service placements working with immigrants throughout the greater Boston area, ensuring that they have at least a rudimentary understanding of immigration issues so that they can better respond to the students with whom they volunteer. These resources are available to the wider public and we look forward to your contacting us if you are interested in this work.

As ever, we view this work as consonant with the longstanding goals and traditions of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice of Boston College. As our Center continues into its second decade, we will continue to work hard to achieve justice, fairness, and human rights for all people, especially the most marginalized noncitizens among us.



M. Brinton Lykes

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's 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.

Additional newsletter contributors: Audrey Hersman, Elizabeth Wollan and Gaurie Pandey. Photos courtesy of BC Media Technology Services.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication contains material from the CHRIJ summer newsletter, produced biannually, and the annual report for the Center's Migration and Human Rights Project (MHRP), combined into one publication to help widen dissemination of these important initiatives.

For more on the MHRP, visit <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/centers/chrij/research/projects.html>

www.bc.edu/humanrights

Center Notes

- The Center is pleased to welcome Lynch School of Education Professor **Gabrielle Oliveira** as an affiliated faculty member of the Center!

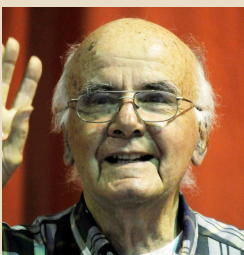
Professor Oliveira's research focuses on immigration and mobility—on how people move, adapt, and parent across borders. Her expertise includes gender, anthropology, transnationalism, and bilingualism with a concentration on Latin America. Merging the fields of anthropology and education through ethnographic work in multiple countries, Oliveira also studies the educational trajectories of immigrant and first-generation children.

She is currently working in two different projects. The first one is with Brazilian immigrants in Framingham, Massachusetts, examining how a Portuguese language program at a school can broker family participation and impact educational aspirations for children of immigrants. The second involves working with immigrant families and children who have been impacted by immigration policy that separates parents from children.



- The Center welcomes two new undergraduate research assistants for the 2018-2019 academic year, **Audrey Hersman** and **Elizabeth Wollan**. Audrey is a senior double majoring in Biology and International Studies double major, with a concentration in global health, and Elizabeth is a senior majoring in Political Science with a double minor in International Studies and Hispanic Studies. Welcome to them both!
- In January 2018, the Center hosted the editors of the International Journal of Transitional Justice, for which Center co-director Brinton Lykes serves as co-editor-in-chief. It was the third of these annual meeting held at BC, since the Center and the Lynch School of Education began serving as the institutional home for the journal.

Center Visiting Scholar Falla Honored with Festschrift



Center Visiting Scholar Ricardo Falla, SJ, a renowned Guatemalan anthropologist, had a festschrift published in his honor, which was celebrated at an event at the Universidad Rafael Landívar in Guatemala

in February 2018. Center co-director Dr. Brinton Lykes contributed a chapter entitled "*Identidades de "allá" y de "acá": jóvenes mayas migrantes transnacionales, capital humano y el futuro de Guatemala*" [Identities "here" and "there": Transnational Maya migrant youth, human capital and the future of Guatemala]. Falla will visit BC for a pair of presentations on October 16-17, 2018. Visit the Center's website at www.bc.edu/humanrights for more information.

The Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice Presents:

Ricardo Falla, SJ

The renowned Guatemalan anthropologist comes to BC for a pair of presentations:



LECTURE

Accompaniment and Solidarity in Contexts of War:
Experiences from the Ixcán, Guatemala

Tuesday, Oct. 16 • 7:00PM • Fulton Hall 511

RSVP at tinyurl.com/falla16

Co-sponsored by the School of Theology & Ministry



"RIGHTS IN CONFLICT" LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

Defining Genocide is Always Problematic:
The Case of Guatemala

Wednesday, Oct. 17 • 12:00-1:30PM • Gasson 100

Lunch to be served - RSVP required at tinyurl.com/falla17

Co-sponsored by the Faith, Peace & Justice Program

More details on both events at tinyurl.com/CHRIevents

CONTACT: CHRIJ 617.552.8491 | HUMANRIGHTS@BC.EDU
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Migration and Human Rights Project

2017-2018 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 the following projects concerning 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

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Seeking Justice and Reparations for Sexual Violence: Accompanying Mayan Protagonists in and Beyond the Sepur Zarco Trial

BY M. BRINTON LYKES & ALISON CROSBY



During the past eight years we (Brinton at Boston College and Alison at York University) have accompanied a group of 54 Mayan women who survived sexual violence during Guatemala's 36 year armed conflict. Among that group were approximately two dozen Maya Q'eqchi' women from among thousands of others who survived sexual violence and/or gross violations of human rights during the 1980s at the height of the conflict. Fifteen Q'eqchi' women from the Sepur Zarco community were joined by several Guatemalan NGOs, including local attorneys, to bring charges against Esteelmer Francisco Reyes Girón, former second lieutenant of the Sepur Zarco military outpost, and Heriberto Valdez Asig, a former area military commissioner, for specific violations committed against them.

On February 26, 2016, the High Risk Court 'A' in Guatemala City found Reyes Girón and Valdez Asig guilty of crimes against humanity in the form of sexual violence and domestic and sexual slavery. Fourteen of the 15 surviving Q'eqchi' women plaintiffs and their many supporters listened as Judge Yasmín Barrios delivered the verdict. Reyes Girón and Valdéz Asig were sentenced to 120 and 240 years in prison respectively, and at a reparations hearing the following week, the court mandated that the Guatemalan government provide a series of collective reparations, including health and educational resources, and that those found guilty pay individual reparations.

Demecia Yat, one of the plaintiffs, described her feelings on hearing the verdict:

"We felt happy that the court allowed us in, listened to us, especially us women, because we never thought that they would grant us that right or give us that space. ... Then I felt calm and at the same time I cried from the effort. I remembered those of us who

were sitting, watching and listening. When we rejoiced the most is when the judge issued the ruling, because we fulfilled our struggle and I felt calmer because I heard how many years the culprits were sentenced to serve in jail. ... knowing that they will pay for what they did to us."

Yet, despite this relief and joy at the verdict, and the unprecedented legal victory, these women and so many other hundreds of thousands of victims of acts of genocide in Guatemala, have been persistently frustrated by their inability to secure the redress they are seeking for these gross violations. The Jalok U Collective in Sepur Zarco and the NGOs who accompanied the women are demanding "transformative reparations," seeking, among other things, the women's access to the title to the land for which their husbands had been fighting when they were killed or disappeared and the women violated.

We have documented these women's struggles and demands for redress over eight years (see Crosby & Lykes, in press) and were able to facilitate a workshop in August 2017 with the 14 Q'eqchi' plaintiffs from the trial in their community of Sepur Zarco. The workshop followed the same participatory methodology with which we had accompanied these women in previous years. Creative exercises were designed to facilitate their expressing their underlying desires in the wake of the trial through drawings, creative storytelling, and dramatizations. In one exercise, we asked them to draw their conceptions of "justice," "reparation(s)," and "memory," which were then collectively analyzed, and subsequently performed through dramatizations. Despite the trial having ended over a year earlier – and the two accused having been prosecuted and imprisoned – one group of Q'eqchi' women represented "justice" through the ever-presence of harm suffered: the women's dead husbands were pictured, as was the destruction of their homes, animals and nature itself, which was also their refuge (see photo). One participant commented on the group's drawing, with tears in her eyes: "We hid in the mountains from the planes. The tree is large because I lived for six years in the mountains to hide from the airplanes... for this reason I survived." Although some reported relief, even happiness, when the two perpetrators of violence against them had been convicted and sentenced, the underlying structural crimes of impoverishment, widowhood, and landlessness, among others, remain unpunished and the harms suffered have not been redressed.

Underscoring this last point, the group who represented "reparations" focused on the women's demands for land, housing and infrastructure. As one among them commented: "we put the land here because it's for the fight for land that our husbands died."

We, the authors, conclude in praise for these 15 women's efforts to gain reparations for the harm inflicted on them in the context of a Guatemalan society that has historically dispossessed Mayan peoples. Though the systematic exclusion and oppression of the Mayan people in Guatemalan society continues and is a much larger struggle, the reparations claims made by the women have made some positive changes locally, engaging young people in this history, creating support networks among the survivors, and helping the women to thread and rethread community after the severe damages inflicted during the war.

Center Continues Education Efforts on Immigration and Refugee Issues through Workshops

BY TIMOTHY KARCZ

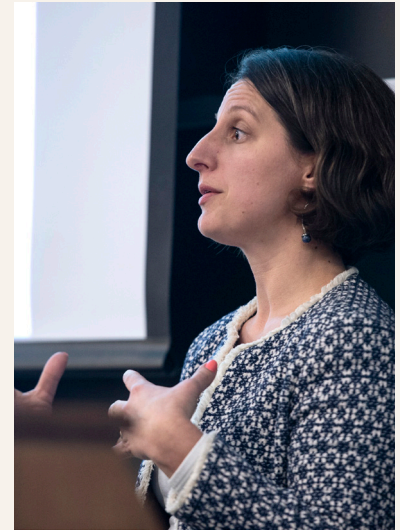
This past year the Center continued its recent initiative offering workshops to educate the Boston College community on practical realities on immigration and deportation in the US, and included a new effort on the reality of refugee issues around the world.

In April 2018, the Center offered a workshop on immigration in the US aimed at students working in service programs, such as PULSE and 4Boston, in which they served immigrant populations, but which was open to anyone interested. The workshop featured a brief overview of the immigration and deportation systems in the US by immigration attorney, formerly with the PDHRP, Jessica Chicco, and a presentation on how Catholic Social Teaching should inform an ethical US response to migrants seeking a place in the US by BC Theology Professor Kristin Heyer, among other interactive and informative activities.



In November 2017, the Center offered a refugee camp simulation based on a module by the Jesuit Refugee service entitled "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." The simulation offered stations in which participants could try to imagine, for a moment, what life in a refugee camp is like, with demonstrations on typical food, water, shelter, healthcare and education allotments in camps. The simulation also provided a look at the huge scope of the forced displacement phenomenon worldwide, and how the US' response has significantly diminished since the Trump administration took office. Representatives from Catholic Charities Resettlement Services were also present to talk about their work resettling refugees here in the US.

The Center is continuing these efforts in 2018-2019, planning similar workshops in conjunction with BC student groups to continue to bring attention to these important but often out of view issues, so that they become part of the BC community's consciousness.



English for Speakers of Other Languages/Know Your Rights Tool Kit (ESOL/KYR) update

BY JESSICA BARNES

Throughout the past several years, the Center has developed an interactive toolkit for teaching English to speakers of other languages. In several modules, this curriculum integrates concepts of human rights with a range of issues impacting migrants' lives in the US, in the process of English instruction. Students are able to use their own experiences to become involved in critical discussions of social issues affecting their everyday lives. In this past year, this Toolkit was updated to create a more unified format and a more cohesive curriculum. We then turned our focus to outreach, with the hope that the curriculum could be used in whichever capacity organizations in the Greater Boston area saw relevant to their needs. Team members met with individuals from the Harvard Education Collaboration, who are involved with organizations around the Greater Boston area that hold ESOL lessons, and presented the curriculum to them. With their support, about 25 connected organizations were reached with this effort to disseminate the toolkit. In the future, we aim to keep in touch with organizations currently using the curriculum to understand how we can improve it for use going forward. We are also planning trainings for those who use our curriculum, as well as those who are interested in using it, to create a larger network and support system for the growth and development of the KYR/ESOL Toolkit. This coming year we will also examine options to expand the toolkit, such as by addition of a new module.

Co-Director Kanstroom researches deportation in Mexico and Guatemala and attends UN meeting about deportation in Geneva

BY DANIEL KANSTROOM

As part of the research for my new book, *Deportation World*, (forthcoming Harvard University Press, 2019), I traveled in early 2018 to Tapachula, Chiapas, a medium-size manufacturing and commercial city on the southern border of Mexico. My aim was to learn about increasing numbers of deportations of Central Americans from Mexico. I also went to Tecún Umán, a northern border town in Guatemala, of some 30,000 permanent residents and an equal or greater number of "floating" residents. The town, though now desperately poor and crime-ridden in the way of many border towns, was named after one of the last indigenous rulers of the K'iche' Maya people. One encounters there a powerful mix of historical pride and present-day sadness.

In recent years, Mexico has dramatically increased its migration enforcement, so much so that in 2015 more Central Americans were removed from Mexico than from the United States. This energetic

Mexican approach to deportation has been significantly supported by money, training, and collaboration from the U.S. Thus, I knew that I was researching both Mexican deportations and an evolution of U.S. exclusion and deportation practices with which I have been concerned for many years.

I was aided by Guatemalan filmmaker, Luis Argueta, and a team who helped arrange interviews, facilitated access to government deportation stations, etc. I spent my first night in the region at the Casa del Migrante (Migrant House) in Tecún Umán, a shelter that was originally built in 1995 as part of the Scalabrini International Migration Network. For many years, the Casa del Migrante has functioned as "a haven for those migrants towards North America who have seen the American Dream come to an untimely end." (In the original Spanish, "un refugio para todas la personas migrantes que migran-do hacia el Norte ven truncado el sueño americano.")

After a pleasant dinner at a restaurant described by the priest who hosted us as "a favorite of local drug dealers," I met the next morning with a group of about 20 migrants who were having breakfast in a spartan, open dining room. Though all Central Americans, they were a rather diverse group—mostly Guatemalans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans. Most were young men. But there were also a couple of older men, a few women, and two families with children. Many described a dangerous flight from dreadful poverty and hopelessness and a willingness to take any kind of better paying work, either in Mexico or in the U.S. Others were fleeing for their lives. One father from Honduras, accompanied by his wife and daughter, said he had witnessed the public murder of a human rights organizer who had protested brutal exploitation and unjust conditions. This man felt that he would be next and so, he said, he had no choice but to flee with his wife and child in tow. Others talked in distressingly casual ways of the prevalence of kidnappings, threats by gangs and cartels, and terrible detention conditions in Mexico. Some described threats by Mexican authorities that if they even dared to ask for asylum in Mexico they would be held in detention for at least three months and probably much longer. All of this, I am sad to say, was both unspeakably demoralizing and tragically typical of conversations I have had with migrants and refugees for more than a quarter century as a lawyer and a researcher.

But then an older man (maybe 30 or so) stood up and asked me a poignant question quite specifically and personally. He said, "I am not a well educated person but I want to ask you a legal question." "Please," I said, "go ahead." He continued, boldly, before the whole group: "Why does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights say 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights?'" I must have looked a bit puzzled by this precise recitation of a foundational aspect of international human rights law. So he continued, humoring my obvious ignorance, "What I really mean is why does it say that and yet we are still here in this situation?"

I must confess that I struggled a bit at that moment as I thought about how to explain the structure of nation-state ("State") sovereignty, the often oppressive aspects of border control regimes, the difference between enforceable rights and aspirational rights statements, etc. But I found myself replying in simple terms due, in part

to my less than perfect Spanish, but also due to the moving complexity of the question itself: “Human rights are a powerful idea,” I said, “but they are also, basically, a struggle (*una lucha*).”

Much of my work—scholarly, legal, and activist—has been an attempt to answer the simple question posed to me by this north-bound migrant in the Casa del Migrante in Guatemala: What do—and what can—human rights mean in the harsh, dynamic contexts of migration and deportation? Why are these systems so large, so impenetrable, so often inhumane? What can be done about this? This work is inspired by him and by millions of others like him: brave, energetic, optimistic souls against whom the deck is stacked in ways that those of us lucky enough to live in safety in wealthy countries can scarcely imagine.

I also was privileged this year to be invited to participate at an experts’ consultation on global deportation hosted by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. Needless to say, this was an experience of a completely different sort. But it was equally eye-opening and informative. We sat around a large table all day and presented aspects of work from around the world, including major presentations by the UN Rapporteurs on Torture and on Migration. I presented work developed by the Center, particularly our Declaration on the Rights of Expelled and Deported Persons. I also discussed current developments in the United States and common aspects of deportation systems around the world. Other experts discussed European developments, Africa, Afghanistan, Thailand, etc. We struggled to conceptualize and to develop human rights-based responses to a world-wide rising tide of exclusions, detentions, and deportations. We also debated the rise of so-called voluntary return mechanisms that are being led largely by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The meeting was a beginning that was designed to inspire and facilitate future collaborations and future reports by the UN and others.

Immigration Detention in the Age of Trump: Cruel Policies Get Crueler

BY MARY HOLPER

In fifteen years of representing immigration detainees, I always had thought that the US government maintained a cruel and bloated system of immigration detention. It is a system that has grown exponentially, jailing a daily average of 6,800 people in 1994, a number that climbed to roughly 34,000 in the past decade. It is the largest immigration detention system in the world. Although seemingly punitive, immigration detention is not “punishment,” and therefore detainees do not receive procedural protections that a criminal defendant would get if jailed for a crime, such as the right to a court-appointed lawyer. And yet, in the words of one former ICE detainee, “prison is prison no matter what label you use, and prison breaks people’s souls, hearts, and even minds.”

It has gotten worse in the Trump administration. Within his first week in office, President Trump issued two executive orders calling

for stricter immigration enforcement and a stronger border. Both the executive orders and their implementing memos recommend more detention. In response, ICE jailed a daily average of nearly 40,500 people in fiscal year 2017. The White House has requested increased funding to bring that number above 51,000 in fiscal year 2018. All prior prosecutorial discretion memos, which had freed parents of minor children and pregnant women from detention, are rescinded.

And now, officially marking the height of cruelty, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced a policy of separating children from their parents at the border. Parents are being prosecuted; their children torn from them in efforts to deter future families from crossing the border, even though many are fleeing unspeakable violence in Central America, and even though a court in 2015 told the government it could not use detention as a deterrent to future border crossers. A five-year-old boy shouldn’t have to cry himself to sleep after ICE took his parents away, yet that cruel result is the inevitable consequence of the detention priorities in the age of Trump.

One has hope that the judiciary, as a check on the executive branch, will slow down the Trump administration’s detention machine by imposing more process prior to detention. In the past year, federal judges have required prompt bond hearings for unaccompanied minors who are re-arrested based on unsubstantiated allegations of gang membership and have allowed a lawsuit challenging the separation of families at the border to move forward. The Supreme Court, however, when considering whether prolonged immigration detention without a bond hearing is legal, disagreed with the lower court’s manner of granting such hearings, sending it back for a ruling on whether prolonged detention violated the detainees’ constitutional rights. The Court also suggested that it may not sanction the litigation of immigration detention issues by class action; such a ruling would make it significantly harder to challenge systemic injustices in the immigration detention system.

The good news is there are lawyers challenging the Trump administration’s detention policies at every turn, judges willing to hear the claims, and community groups that continue to challenge immigration detention in the court of public opinion. The bad news is they may have a lot more work to do.

** Mary Holper is Associate Clinical Professor, Director, Immigration Clinic, BC Law School, and an Affiliated Faculty Member of the Center.*

Center's Post-Deportation Human Rights Project Helps Wrongly Deported Man Return to US in Major Legal Victory

BY HEATHER FRIEDMAN

In May, the Center's Post Deportation Human Rights Project celebrated a victory in a wrongful deportation case. In its representation, the Post-Deportation Human Rights Project team—including co-director Daniel Kanstroom, lawyers Jessica Chicco, Aimee Mayer-Salins, and Heather Friedman -- was joined by pro bono co-counsel Nixon Peabody LLP—including attorneys Ronaldo Rau-seo-Riscupero (BC Law '07), Danielle McLaughlin, and Brianna Nassif (BC Law '17).

The case originated with the wrongful deportation in 2005 of a young man from Honduras who had been a lawful permanent resident in the United States since childhood. After learning in 2010 about a Supreme Court decision that he suspected might be relevant to his own legal situation, the client contacted PDHRP.

The client's persistent belief that the legal error that had resulted in his deportation both *should and could* be reversed inspired the legal team to persevere during the subsequent eight years in which the case wound back and forth between immigration court, the Board of Immigration Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

The team overcame myriad legal and logistical hurdles in the way of their client. After initially failing in their efforts to compel the immigration court to revisit its deportation decision, the legal team achieved a major milestone when the Fifth Circuit invalidated a government regulation – known as the “departure bar” - which the lower courts had relied on in refusing to reopen the client's case. Even with this win in hand, the legal team had to litigate for more than four additional years before a February 2017 legal decision “re-opened” the client's case, paving the way for the client to be able to present his long-overdue defense to deportation.

With support from immigration law clinics at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and the University of Houston Law Center, the team painstakingly prepared for the client's day in court. In support of the client's defense, the team recruited and prepared expert and lay witnesses, drafted legal documents, and gathered documentary evidence from family members, employers, government agencies, human rights monitors, media outlets and international institutions.

Simultaneously, the legal team marshalled diplomacy, determination and patience to navigate the US government's byzantine “process” for gaining approval for the client to be able to reenter the United States lawfully to attend court. The team negotiated with officials within multiple US government agencies over several months. Finally, in late March 2018, the client was able to travel to the US. Leaving his wife and three children behind in Honduras, he arrived in the US almost thirteen years after his wrongful deportation. The US government detained him immediately upon his arrival.

The client retained his positive spirit even while detained, seeing his loss of liberty as a sacrifice that would be eventually vindicated by a legal victory in his case. His optimism was rewarded on a Monday morning in early May, when an immigration judge announced a decision granting the client the right to retain his lawful permanent resident status in the United States. In the month since his victory, the client has returned to his childhood home and found employment. He now looks forward to the day when he is able to bring his wife and sons to the United States to rejoin him.



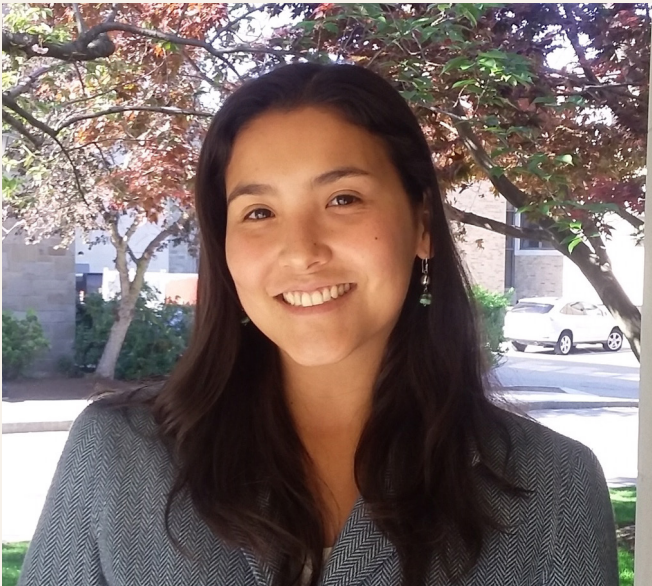
Center Certificate Student Reflects on Her Experience with Participatory Action Research

BY GABRIELA TÁVARA VÁSQUEZ

Although I have been learning about participatory action research (PAR) ever since I started my training as a community psychologist, it was not until my doctoral dissertation that I had the opportunity to conduct a PAR study. Between April and December of 2017 I worked with a group of Andean women knitters in a feminist PAR group. The group had the goal of exploring how a newly founded knitting association and a group process could be a means for facing the legacies of an armed conflict as well as confronting ongoing forms of racialized gender and economic violence. Together with this group of women we engaged in several participatory workshops in which we used creative and artistic techniques (e.g. collective drawings, collages, body sculptures, dramatizations, among others) to explore several topics related to the research focus. Through these spaces we collectively constructed knowledge about their lived experiences as Andean women in a post-conflict context. However, beyond the knowledge constructed in these PAR workshops, interpersonal ties were also formed. The participatory activities facilitated processes in which the women both experienced themselves in a different way, and experienced new ways of relating to one another. They conducted conversations with active listening to each other, and they inquired of others and themselves, which led to seeing things from different perspectives with a critical lens.

Also, the workshops were spaces where the women shared relevant information about community activities, and were they laughed and engaged with each other in playful ways.

Important aspects of this feminist PAR also happened outside the workshops in everyday interactions with the participants. The fieldwork gave me the opportunity to share with the women as I accompanied them in their daily activities, knitting and talking in the market, visiting them in their homes, attending family and community celebrations, and even playing volleyball with them during the weekends. These more informal *encuentros* [encounters] were related to each other more horizontally; we shared thoughts, feelings, and experiences. These *encuentros* are at the heart of feminist PAR. They are forms of relationality that challenge us as researchers to move beyond the traditional (and somewhat distant) professional role to closely connect with the people and communities we work with, in ways that are more human and real. This feminist PAR methodology taught me many things beyond just research. It taught me about seeing and understanding people in a different way and about connecting across differences, and it is these lessons that I hope to never forget.



Gabriela Távara Vásquez

Thank you!

Thank you to **Timothy Karcz**, Assistant Director of the Center for Human Rights and International Justice, and **Heather Friedman**, Supervising Attorney for the PDHRP, for all their work with the project! A special thanks also to the many students who worked with us this year! **Kathryn Droumbakis** (Boston College Law School, Class of 2018) and **Benjamin Wishnie-Edwards** (Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2020) worked on research for the Deportation Global Information Project. **Jessica Barnes** (Lynch School of Education, Class of

2018); **Sriya Bhattacharyya** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral student); **Emilia Bianco** (School of Social Work, doctoral candidate); **Kevin Ferreira** (Lynch Graduate School of Education, doctoral candidate); **Maya Joyce** (Lynch School of Education, Class of 2018); **Liliana Mamani Condori** (School of Theology and Ministry, Class of 2017; and Law School, Class of 2019); and **Gabriela Távora 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.

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Web: www.bc.edu/postdeportation

Student Awards

CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

On May 16, 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 eight students, listed below. Congratulations to them all and best wishes on their future endeavors.



1. **Patricia Pinto Albuquerque**, Master of Laws, Law School; 2. **Gabriella Benvenuti Carroll**, Master of Theological Studies, School of Theology and Ministry; 3. **Adam Miller Dirnberger**, Candidate for Master of Divinity, School of Theology and Ministry; 4. **Colleen Mary Melaugh**, Master of Theological Studies, School of Theology & Ministry, and Master of Business Administration, Carroll School of Management; 5. **Rebecca Mary Winters Mitchell**, Juris Doctor, Law School; 6. **Kelly Charlotte Morgan**, Master of Social Work, School of Social Work and Juris Doctor, Law School; 7. **Ammy E. Sena**, Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling, Lynch School of Education; 8. **Peilun Wu**, Master of Social Work, School of Social Work

SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

The Center has 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:

Hannah Cazzetta, MA student in International Higher Education, Lynch School of Education
"Fighting Food and Housing Insecurity in the University Capital of the U.S."

Peter Fay, PhD candidate in Theology, Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences
"The Victimization of Major Mental Illness in the United States: A Christian Social Virtue Ethics Response"

Ellen Gutowski, Ph.D. candidate, Counseling Psychology, Lynch School of Education
"Workplace Sexual Harassment in the Context of 21st Century Precarity"

Evey Satterfield, B.S. in Psychology, Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences '20
"Clinical Administration of Ketogenic Diet as an Alternative Cancer Therapy in India"

KELSEY RENNEBOHM MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

This year marks the sixth 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 recipient and topic of study are:

María Emilia Bianco Galíndez, PhD candidate in Social Work, School of Social Work
"Mothering across Borders: The stories of Central American mothers who crossed the US-Mexico border with their children and are seeking asylum in the US."

Center News

Center Continues “Rights in Conflict” Luncheon Series

During the spring 2018 semester, the Center continued its luncheon discussion series exploring the theme “Rights in Conflict.” Series speakers reflected on their academic work and the ways they see rights claims coming into conflict in it. These conflicting claims can raise important issues for human rights activists to consider in their advocacy, as proper understanding of the intricacies of issues can affect matters of interpretation, legitimacy, and strategies and tactics in seeking broader effectiveness. The series is hosting speakers from a variety of disciplines this year to examine instances of this phenomenon and to engage in conversations on the topic with attendees. The following are briefs from this past spring semester’s presentations. The series will continue in the fall 2018 semester.



BC School of Social Work Professor Theresa Betancourt presents

“Retaliation Nation: How Government Action Aimed at Restricting Immigration Intrudes on Foundational Democratic Principles

On March 16, the Center hosted Dina Haynes, Professor of Law at New England Law, for a presentation for the series. Haynes has spent her career working in post-conflict reconstruction, humanitarian law, and migration as an international human rights lawyer and professor. Through her work in Rwanda and Bosnia, she challenged the growing theory that multiethnic societies lead to conflict, demonstrating instead the threat nativism and nationalism pose to peace within multiethnic societies. Focusing on the US, Haynes expressed grave concern for the nationalist trends, increased othering, and fearmongering that now plague the nation, threatening immigrants and their families. She drew together the commonalities of her work in these

settings with her opening statement, “It matters a great deal how we treat people, particularly during their most vulnerable moments.”

As anti-immigrant sentiments have grown over the past few years, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has intensified detention efforts with little regard for the rights and dignity of migrants. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has increased scrutiny at various work sites, performed collateral sweeps, and even entered K-12 schools, demanding children share information about their families. Executive orders such as the refugee ban are being enforced by the Department of Homeland Security in a manner of cruelty uncalled for by the ban, including sep-



Dina Haynes, Professor of Law, New England Law

arating parents from young children, handcuffing babies and the elderly, and detaining

Continued on page 17

“Protecting Human Rights Through Rankings and Reporting: *Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Media Corporations*”

On March 1, the Center invited Erika George, Professor of Law at the University of Utah, to discuss corporate social responsibility and her work as a consultant to Human Rights Watch. Throughout her work, George has analyzed the governance gap between regulations and human rights standards along with the relationships of businesses and the countries affected by subsequent corporate conduct within their country. This governance gap has emerged as businesses have developed when human rights expectations between home and host countries are incompatible, particularly with cultural concepts or social media in democratic societies. In 2005, this issue took center stage when Yahoo provided the Chinese government with personal information for a Chinese journalist who had been sending information about Chinese censorship laws to pro-democracy organizations in the United States. The journalist was then apprehended and sentenced to 10 years in prison for threatening national security. George cautioned, to that end, that while some organizations, such as Facebook, have chosen not to operate in a specific region, others have aligned themselves with state regulations that conflict with human rights of freedom of speech and privacy for fear of removal.

Conversely, George acknowledged that so-

cial media has also been utilized as a platform for disseminating false information and hate speech. In light of the allegations of interference in the 2016 US presidential election, governments are anxious about how social media is or is not being used in democratic societies. George argues that “rights are wrapped up with social media firms and our interests in privacy, expression, and democratic processes.” The intersection of social media and democracy has guided George’s research and highlights the muddled waters of corporate social responsibility. The UN principles have outlined that a company should, at minimum, avoid engaging in abuses, must address them where they are likely to occur, and should remedy the party that has been harmed. In 2011, the United Nations Human

Rights Committee endorsed this policy, which was enacted as a “soft law” in the international forum. The results were tripartite: states hold the responsibility to protect, corporations have a duty to respect, and individuals have the right to remedies should need for reparations occur. This expectation that business will not enable or be complicit in human rights violations led to the development of ranking as a mechanism to both incentivize greater commitments to human rights and expose businesses with poor human rights rankings. Early results have shown that these human rights rankings, based on criteria such as digital rights, have increased corporate transparency, stakeholder concerns for human rights standards, and greater human rights engagement.



Erika George, Professor of Law at the University of Utah

Continued from page 16

individuals indefinitely. Haynes was highly concerned by the use of racial profiling by CBP officers, targeting nonwhite riders on buses or trains and asking to see passports for identification. All these efforts feed xenophobic ideation and create an aura of fear around immigration. On top of this inhumane treatment of immigrants, Haynes argues that Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ recent amendment to the 1974 Privacy Act serves to limit the ways people can advocate against unjust immigration policies or treatment of migrants, allowing government officials to access data from your electronics at security checkpoints. This forces lawyers and advocates concerned about privacy and client confidentiality to only take so-called “burner phones” when travelling internationally.

Haynes concluded her presentation with the reminder that the US Social Security system is reliant on immigrants’ contributions for solvency, specifically those who are undocumented and who will most likely never see a return. She also highlighted the inhumane double standard that US immigration policy holds as it utilizes migrants for economic gain while continuing to claim that the presence of these same people constitutes a grave threat to national security. In light of this, Haynes sees it as her responsibility as an immigration lawyer and a human rights advocate to stand in solidarity with migrants and refugees, to defend against unconstitutional racial profiling and inhumane detention, and to remind Americans, particularly younger generations, about the spirit of freedom and opportunity on which the US was founded, encouraging them to challenge current immigration platforms that are antithetical to democracy.

Promoting the Mental Health of Children and Youth Facing Adversity: *Perspectives from Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa to Refugees in the U.S.*

On April 4, the Center hosted BC School of Social Work Professor Theresa Betancourt for a presentation for the series. Throughout her professional career, Betancourt has championed efforts to promote the mental health of youth facing adversity, particularly for vulnerable youth in Sub-Saharan Africa and refugees in the United States. Betancourt explored the rights of children to mental health, well-being, education, and life opportunities in low resource settings and settings affected by conflict. Recognizing the vitality of learning from the ground up and understanding cultural constructs in research, Betancourt relies on community engagement to identify factors contributing to risk and resilience in children, families and communities facing adversity globally with an emphasis on leveraging and expanding existing strengths and capacities.

While global trends have seen a decrease in infant and child mortality rates in recent years, countries facing armed conflict, refugee crises, or rampant HIV/AIDS incidence are the exceptions. Addressing discrepancies in child development in Sierra Leone, Betancourt has worked on a longitudinal and intergenerational study of children affected by armed conflict. During the

eleven year Civil War (1991-2002), thousands of children were abducted by the Revolutionary United Front to serve as child soldiers. Many were raped, pressured to use drugs or alcohol, and forced to injure or kill loved ones, effectively severing ties to their community. Betancourt's research focuses on the impact of accumulated war-related and post-conflict risk factors on outcomes such as community reintegration and psychosocial adjustment. The co-occurring PTSD, anxiety, and other mental health symptoms create a unique psychological situation that required a transdiagnostic model of assessment. Evidence gathered by Betancourt and her team supporting "readiness" interventions for underserved and vulnerable youth helped galvanize political support for the Youth Readiness Intervention to address the gaps in support for youth.

Shifting her focus to Rwanda, Betancourt then discussed her work developing the evidence-based Family Strengthening Intervention for vulnerable home settings, specifically families living in extreme poverty. Harnessing the country's strong political will and commitment to childhood development and poverty reduction, Betancourt identified gaps in the home



Professor Theresa Betancourt

environment and developed a flexible, family based intervention to support responsive parenting, promote early childhood development, and prevent domestic violence.

Bringing these methods home, Betancourt's team has expanded their community-based participatory research to Somali Bantu refugees in New England, who fled due to violence and poverty and now have to contend with stigmas and prejudices against refugees. Betancourt's team works to promote resilience and healthy parent-child relationships within refugee families through a community-based participatory research study and intervention model. As her research demonstrates, Betancourt strives to close the implementation gap and support development of high quality, effective, evidence-based programs and policies that attain cultural validity, encourage collaboration, and build capacity in low resource settings around the world.

The Exclusionary Israeli Asylum Regime in a Comparative Context

On April 9, the Center hosted Dr. Tally Kritzman-Amir, a researcher and lecturer with affiliations with Brandeis, Harvard and the College of Business and Law in Israel, for the last series presentation of the academic year. The presentation explored the exclusionary mechanisms and deportation schemes employed by the Israeli government currently designed to both relocate African asylum seekers in Israel to third countries in Africa, as well as to discourage future asylum seekers from coming. Dr. Kritzman-Amir opened her lecture noting this issue is not a contemporary crisis, but rather a historically-rooted and systematically-perpetuated process of bureaucratic exclusion stemming from the stream of Holocaust survivors migrat-

ing to Israel in the early 1950s and Israel's engagement with the 1951 Refugee Convention. Despite their historic support of refugees, the Israeli government is currently employing a combination of social, spatial, and bureaucratic exclusion to deter asylum seekers, primarily from Eritrea and Sudan, with many in Israel citing a need to preserve the "Jewishness" of the country as part of their rationale for doing so.

Israel's historic and contemporary struggle, according to Dr. Kritzman-Amir, is one of a nation refusing to come to terms with its international obligations. In 2013, a wall was erected on its border with Egypt, serving as the first layer of exclusion and deterrence against refugees and asy-

lum seekers, primarily those of African descent. Since its creation, only 20 people have crossed the border, and those who succeeded were taken to detention facilities for prolonged periods of time as an additional method of spatial exclusion. While courts have since struck down detention periods longer than three months, the government has implemented additional layers of bureaucratic exclusion by only providing conditional release papers that prohibit refugees from living or working in Tel Aviv or Eilat, both of which are Israeli economic and social hubs. These papers also require monthly renewals, which total an average of over 50 hours of refugees standing in line awaiting paper renewal. In addition to bureaucratic exclusion, migrants

grapple with economic exclusionary methods, such as the deposit law enacted in May 2017. According to this law, 20% of the wages of asylees is deducted and put into a deposit account made available to them when they leave the country. These salary deductions, compounded with significantly low wages, bar migrants from much of Israeli economic activity. Over three-quarters of families have opted out of healthcare because they can no longer afford it.

These interconnected mechanisms of exclusion create the foundation on which the Israeli deportation schemes were developed. Kritzman-Amir shed light on the negotiations to deport refugees and asylum seekers in Israel and resettle them in Rwanda and Uganda. One major concern with this agreement is that upon arrival in these third countries, asylum seekers' claims are not being properly adjudicated. In response, Israelis, refugees, and leaders throughout the

international community have protested these actions. As the global refugee crisis – marked by xenophobia, racism, and nativism – remains an ongoing issue, Kritzman-Amir challenged her audience and nations around the world to consider their shared responsibility to protecting human dignity.

Post-Deportation Monitoring: the case of the EU-Turkey deal

On January 10, Dr. Jill Alpes addressed the necessity of monitoring post-deportation risks in the case of the European Union-Turkey deal in her presentation “Post-deportation monitoring: the case of the EU-Turkey deal.” Four primary opportunities Alpes presented to challenge deportations included legality, legitimacy, effectiveness, and implementation, which each present their respective challenges of inhumane and degrading treatment, economic and psycho-social risks, re-emigration, and insecurities in the hands of state agents. Alpes highlighted the breadth of migrant experiences with regard to the types of returns migrants experience, ranging from though not limited to non-admission at the borders; a readmission of third country nationals to transit countries; failed asylum seekers; and “Dublin returns.” The

EU-Turkey deal mandates that individuals who arrive on Greek islands after March 20, 2016 are obliged to file their asylum applications in fast-track border procedures. If the outcome of the asylum application is negative, these individuals are subject to returns to Turkey directly from the border. Furthermore, Greece can reject asylum applications of individuals who passed through Turkey as being inadmissible and shift the responsibility of merit assessments to Turkey. The data results of Alpes' team concluded that an average of 36% of all individuals returning from Greece to Turkey between April 2016 and October 2017 were registered as not having wanted to apply for asylum. Eleven out of 23 individuals reported not having been given a chance to apply for asylum before their deportation, and UNHCR, Amnesty International,

Human Rights Watch, and the Greek Council for Refugees have documented similar cases. As Turkey is one of the four countries worldwide to apply a geographical limitation to the 1951 Refugee Convention, UNHCR was in charge of carrying out refugee state determination and organizing the resettlement of recognized refugees. The new legal framework maintains the geographical limitation but creates a new status for non-European refugees, labeling them as “conditional refugees.” Alpes' future prognosis for post-deportation risk research recommends more robust sharing of evidence and policy between academics, NGOs, and human rights advocates in order to address the breadth and variance of post-deportation risks.

Voices That Heal

On April 23, the Center hosted a screening of *Voices that Heal*, with special guests. *Voices That Heal* is a documentary film which focuses on the wisdoms and traditions of four indigenous communities located in the Southeast Amazon of Peru. The film's objective is to preserve the healing rituals deep within the Amazon Rainforest of an almost extinct culture whose language is only spoken by twenty or so people. The documentary observes the healing practices of the rainforest Huachipaeri society. Although the Amazonian rainforest area and its therapeutic plants have been revered and respected by the rituals of the Huachipaeri people, the traditional practices are threatened by the loss of biodiversity within the rainforest region. A primary objective of the documentary is the role of the endangered language and culture of the Huachipaeri people and how curanderismo (a system of traditional healing) relies on this language and culture. The healing through language is manifested through ceremonial songs, such as the “Eshuva Prayers”, and in the use of certain vocabulary. The semantics and poetics of the words are the primary form of orally transferring the healing powers of the curer. The Huachipaeri tongue and the “Eshuva Prayers” constitute a valuable and essential element of their culture, which illuminates their traditions and beliefs.

Director, photographer, and producer José Huaman Turpo and fellow producer Alejandrina Calcancha Monge joined Chief and Healing Elder of the Huachipaeri community Alberto Manqueriapa Vitente, all from Peru, were in attendance and answered audience questions after the film.

The Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice Presents:

Screening of
“Voices that Heal”
 with special guests

Monday, April 23
 6:00PM
 Devlin 101
 Boston College

Voices That Heal is a documentary film which focuses on the wisdoms and traditions of four indigenous communities located in the Southeast Amazon of Peru. The film's objective is to preserve the healing rituals deep within the Amazon Rainforest of an almost extinct culture whose language is only spoken by twenty or so people.

People from Peru involved in the film will be on hand to do Q&A after the screening.

Film trailer: <https://tinyurl.com/VTHTrailer>
 RSVP at tinyurl.com/VoicesThatHealBC

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
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Fall 2018 Events



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

“Motherhood across Borders: Immigrants and Their Children in Mexico and New York” Book Presentation

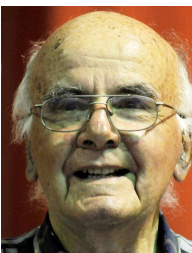
With **Gabrielle Oliveira**, Assistant Professor at Boston College Lynch School of Education
4:30 PM • Boston College, Campion, Room 139



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

“Freedom of Religion: Kurdistan, Kathmandu and the Masterpiece Cake Shop Opinion: An International Human Rights Law Odyssey”

With **H. Victor Condé**, MA, JD, LLM, International Human Rights Lawyer-Educator
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM • Boston College, Barat House, Newton Campus



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Accompaniment and solidarity in contexts of war: Experiences from the Ixcán, Guatemala

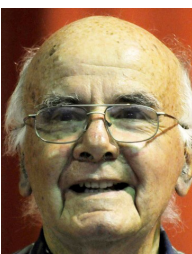
Lecture by renowned Guatemalan anthropologist **Ricardo Falla, SJ.**, Co-sponsored by the School of Theology and Ministry
7:00 PM • Boston College, Fulton Hall, Room 511



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Towards Transitional Justice: Recognition, Truth-telling, and Institutional Abuse in Ireland

Conference, Co-sponsored by the Center
November 1 & 2 • Boston College, McElroy Commons, Room 237, and Gasson, Room 100



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

“Rights in Conflict -Defining Genocide is Always Problematic: The Case of Guatemala”

With renowned Guatemalan anthropologist **Ricardo Falla, SJ.**
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM • Boston College, Gasson, Room 100



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

“New Wars and New Challenges: Addressing the human rights implications of the overlap between armed conflict and terrorism”

With **Fionnuala Ni Aolain**, Regents Professor and Robina Chair in Law, Public Policy, and Society
University of Minnesota Law School
10:30 AM • Boston College, McGuinn, Room 521

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