

CHRIJ

International Justice



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.

CHRIJ Newsletter Contributors: Meredith Hawkins, Mary Noal and Sarah Engelberg-Nolan. Event photos courtesy of Chris Soldt and BC MTS.

Center News & Notes

» Grant Announcement

» The Center is pleased to announce that it has received a grant in excess of \$15,000 from a private foundation to support the operations of partner project the Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights, and to support grant(s) to the Kelsey Rennebohm Fellowship for student summer research!

» Summer Research Grants

» The Center is offering summer research grants to BC undergraduate and graduate students once again this summer! Application deadline March 4. More details and how to apply on the Center's website: [http://www.crhij.org/summer-research-grants](#). Thanks to the above grant, the Center anticipates being able to award multiple Rennebohm Fellowships this summer! Details at: [http://www.crhij.org/rennebohm-fellowship](#)

» Internship Opportunity

» Are you a BC undergrad who would like to intern with the Center this summer and the 2020-21 academic year? If so, apply by February 20! Details and how to apply on the Center's website here: [http://www.crhij.org/internship-opportunity](#)

Migratory Tour of Love and Memory

On October 29, the Center hosted a performance of the “Migratory Tour for Love and Memory” by Fernando López and Gabriela Álvarez Castañeda as part of an East Coast tour of the duo. Featuring López on the guitar and on vocals, and Álvarez Castañeda giving an interpretive dance performance, the audience was treated to a tribute to those who defend and exercise their right to migrate in search of a better life and join the efforts of this legitimate struggle for justice, memory, and love.



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Center hosts workshop as introduction to US immigration issues



Attorney Heather Friedman addresses a group



Prof. Andrés Castro-Samayoa presents US immigration history

Summer Research Grant Reports

Brief summaries of research findings from our 2019 summer research grantees. Our Summer 2020 application deadline is March 4.

Reyes sought to analyze the attainment of social, economic, and cultural rights among vulnerable populations in communities that find themselves at the nexus of extreme structural and physical violence and economic impoverishment. The project focused specifically on the experience of artisans in Acapulco, Mexico, which is considered one of the most violent places in the world. Through conducting eight interviews with individuals working within artistic and cultural disciplines, Reyes investigated questions of economic, social, and cultural rights as well as personal experiences of violence. Many of the individuals interviewed lacked “formal” employment aside from their artistic trade and indicated an inability to obtain basic resources due to the per diem financial nature of being an artist, bureaucratic payment processes, and maltreatment from employers. Reyes found that it was necessary to supplement artistry with a more traditional job in order to assure basic survival for the individual and their family; only those with a “traditional” job are covered by Mexico’s Social Security, health insurance, and housing plans. While many artisans reported flexible schedules and the ability to enjoy cultural activities, they also indicated a greater need for professionalization of the field – including more formal education, better working conditions, and quality payment and protection measures. While a few individuals endured experiences of discrimination or physical violence, many cited structural victimization as a reason for their impoverishment and the waning interest in art amidst times of economic and political turmoil as their pressing issues. Reyes’ conclusion asserts that to be an artist (without supplemental “formal” employment) in Acapulco, means to live in vulnerable socioeconomic conditions, with this position of precariousness being produced and perpetuated by poor economic conditions and the failure of government on state and local levels to ensure formal and fair work conditions. The preliminary results of this study were submitted, accepted, and presented at the III Forum on Cultural Policies, “Cultural and Artistic Rights in the Context of the Political Transformations,” organized by the Observatory of Art and Culture (OAC) and held on November 14 and 15, 2019, in Mexico City.



Schnebelen’s research focuses on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, or the “Rez,” which has been home to the Oglala Lakóta since they were forcibly removed from their native lands. He strives to tell the stories of this community who have been deprived of their voice and ancestral lands as a result of the genocide committed against native peoples by the creation and expansion of the United States. He begins by discussing the multiple facets of oppression faced by those on the reservation, the physical manifestations being found in the low life expectancy for Pine Ridge’s 40,000 tribal members as well as the lack of working electricity and running water. The Oglala Lakóta County also has the lowest per capita income of any county in the United States at \$8,768. The Lakóta understand one of the only routes to a modest living means working for the government, most often the military, or the other option is to abandon the reservation to work in border towns. Through his research, where he spent time at the Rez working with a man from the Oglala Housing Development, Schnebelen found that approximately 85% of families experience alcoholism on the reservation, and one in four children are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The implications of this are devastating, with about 8 in 10 people experiencing substance abuse or violence in the home. In a poignant phrase, he points to these generations of oppression as “the scar tissue of ‘Manifest Destiny’.” Schnebelen’s research leads him to insist that the reality of life on Pine Ridge must evoke a reckoning and that we, as a nation, must answer to our history by redressing our wrongs and using a restorative approach to justice.





Gutowski observed that many survivors of interpersonal violence (IPV) who have separated from their abusers are usually involved with the court system – regarding divorce proceedings or questions related to custody of the children, shared finances, etc. – and are often met with long-lasting distress from such involvement. In this study, Gutowski aims to examine the ways in which violence is perpetuated among survivors of interpersonal violence via, what she calls, litigation abuse: the process by which abusers continue their violence through utilizing the court system as a means of coercive control. To provide relevant and impactful counseling and policy intervention targeting this particular continuation of violence, Gutowski established the need for a large-scale quantitative measure of such abuse. Her overall goals of the investigation are threefold: first, create a clear measure of litigation abuse that highlights the true consequences of the issue; second, investigate the relationship between litigation abuse and mental health outcomes; and third, determine whether or not distress-inducing outcomes from legal decision-makers moderate the relationship between litigation abuse and mental health. In order to effectively measure litigation abuse, Gutowski engaged in initial item-generation processes, administered a survey, and conducted factor analyses to refine the items and establish the measure’s psychometric properties. She did so through conducting interviews with the study population (female, family court-involved, survivors of IPV). She subsequently conducted structural equation modeling to investigate the correlation between this form of abuse and adverse mental health outcomes. While the data collection is still underway, Gutowski anticipates the findings will demonstrate that litigation abuse is associated with mental health difficulties of PTSD and depressive symptomology for survivors. She also believes the data will indicate that judicial responses impact the relationship between litigation abuse and mental health concerns. The ultimate goal is to enhance awareness surrounding litigation abuse as a form of violence that is often unaccounted for but can have devastating consequences for families seeking protection from harm.

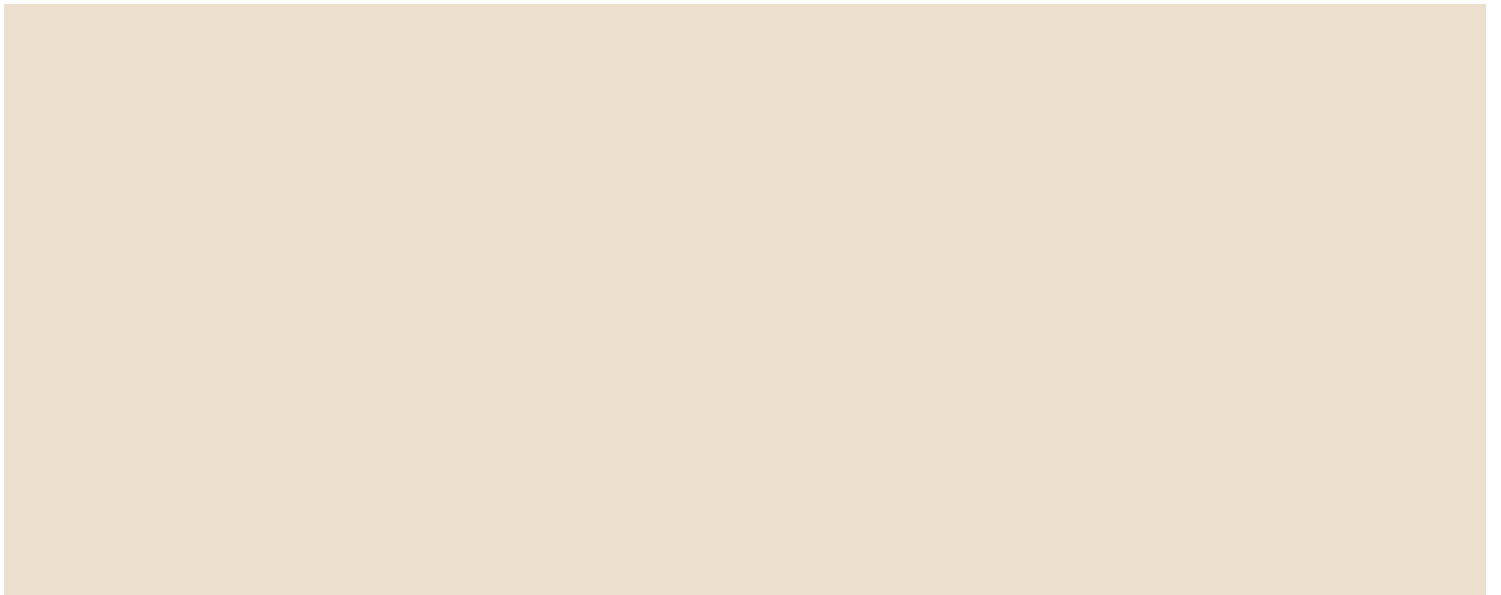


Fanning traveled to Geneva, Switzerland for one month during the summer to conduct her interdisciplinary research project, which aimed to explore the intersection of civilians’ health and human rights during times of conflict and explain the variation in responses among different actors within the international community. She compiled the views of officials and experts on the impacts of conflict on health outcomes, the role of the international community in responding to health needs during conflict, and the effectiveness of such work. Fanning conducted interviews with 27 people from internationally-focused organizations and academic institutions, including employees at the United Nations. Her interviews were composed of questions about the impacts of conflict on civilians, the factors that affect an organization’s response to a health crisis, suggestions for further case studies



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