

**Centre de recherche et
d'enseignement sur les droits de la
personne**

**Human Rights Research and
Education Centre**

Annual Report
2011



uOttawa

Table of Contents

General Information	3
Mandate & Objectives	3
Governance	4
Membership	4
Activities	
a) Visiting Researchers	6
b) Events	6
c) Projects	7

General Information

In 1981, upon the initiative of Yvon Beaulne, Canada's former Ambassador to the United Nations, and with the support of Gordon Fairweather, then Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the idea of a human rights centre at the University of Ottawa was born.

The Human Rights Research and Education Centre was created through the joint initiative of the Faculties of Common Law, Civil Law and Social Sciences, and reports to the Office of the Vice-President Research.

The HRREC strives to bring together educators, researchers and students not only from the faculties of Law and Social Sciences, but also from other disciplines. It benefits from a bilingual and bijuridical environment. It is the only institutional human rights research centre located in the National Capital Region. This strategic location supports the Centre at all levels of its initiatives, whether they be local, national or international.

The annual budget is comprised of financial contributions from the founding faculties, the Office of the Vice-President Research, endowment funds and grants.

The HRREC has been able to grow over time through the dedication and talent of its past directors: late Senator Gérald A. Beaudoin, late Judge Walter Tarnapolsky, Prof. Ed Ratushny, William F. Pentney, Prof. William W. Black, Prof. Errol Mendes, Prof. Constance Backhouse; Prof. Shelia McIntyre, Marie-Claude Roberge and Prof. Joanne St. Lewis.

In 2009, through a CFI grant received by Prof. Lamarche, the Centre underwent extensive renovations. In addition to its 6 offices, the Centre now houses a video-conferencing room with a capacity for 16 people, 16 student workstations, and large meeting room.

Mandate & Objectives

In 2010 the Centre adopted a governing Constitution. As stated in the Mission Statement of the Constitution, the general mandate of the HRREC, as a unit within a university-based research and teaching institution, is to provide and support human rights research training, and promote the creation and dissemination of knowledge and analysis in relation to human rights.

In the execution of this mandate the HRREC has committed itself to undertake activities with human rights values in mind, including: human dignity; equality; respect for fundamental freedoms; social justice and the right of each person to economic, psychological, physical and democratic security; and the right of peoples to self-determination.

The HRREC recognizes the need to approach issues regarding human rights from a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspective, both in order to respect human rights as well as to explore the conditions upon which they rest in a complex and interconnected world. To this end, the Centre places a particular emphasis on public policy questions concerning peace,

migration and immigration, health, environment, international trade and investment, poverty and vulnerable groups.

In addition, the HRREC uses the following strategies and objectives to provide a framework for its activities:

- Alignment with the University of Ottawa Strategic Plan;
- Strategic use of new communication technologies;
- Consideration of the different contexts of today's world: local, national, regional, international and global;
- Use of resources to support the research needs of graduate students;
- Development of strong partnerships with academic researchers, community and government collaborators that share our mandate and values;
- Creation of a rich and welcoming environment for graduate and undergraduate student members, visiting researchers and guests.

Governance

The general administration of the Centre is undertaken by a Management Committee, while the day to day administration of the Centre is conducted by the Director of Research and the Assistant Director with the support of the Management Committee.

a) Administration

Director of Research, Lucie Lamarche (July, 2009 - present)
Assistant Director, Sonya Nigam
Administrative Assistant, Ginette Chatelain
Communications Officer, Michèle Phillips
Finance Officer, Naomi Telfort

b) Management Committee

Prof. Lucie Lamarche, Director & Gordon F. Henderson Chair in Human Rights
Sonya Nigam, Assistant Director, HRREC
Cecelia Jenkins, Director, Research Chairs, Centres and Awards, Office of the V-P Research
Prof. François Rocher, Faculty of Social Sciences Representative
Prof. Penelope Simons, Faculty of Common Law Representative
Prof. David Robitaille, Faculty of Civil Law Representative
Benoît Frate, Student Representative, HRREC

Membership

Members can be academics, students or members of the wider community. Membership is granted by way of application to the Management Committee.

Members

Faculty

Name	Faculty	Area of Expertise
Jabeur Fathally	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	Arab-Muslim Law, Comparative Law
Lucie Lamarche	Faculty of Law (Common Law & Droit civil)	Director & Gordon F. Henderson Chair in Human Rights
Pacifique Manirakiza	Faculty of Law (Common Law)	Africa & Human Rights
Sylvie Paquerot	Faculty of Social Sciences, Dept. of Political Science	Environment & Human Rights
David Robitaille	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
François Rocher	Faculty of Social Sciences, Dept. of Political Science	Immigration, Citizenship & Diversity
Peter Showler	Faculty of Law (Common Law)	Externally funded human rights project
Penelope Simons	Faculty of Law (Common Law)	Corporate Social Responsibility
Joanne St. Lewis	Faculty of Law (Common Law)	Director, Externally funded project on gender equality and African women
Sophie Thériault	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	Environmental Law and Human Rights

Graduate Students

Name	Faculty	Role / Supervisor
Olabisi Akinkugbe	Faculty of Law	PhD, Discourses of law and development in assessing Regional Trading Blocs in Africa / Mark Toufayan
Heather Curran	Faculty of Law	PhD, Corporate Social Responsibility / Penelope Simons
Benoît Frate	Faculty of Law	PhD, Human Rights to and in the City / Lucie Lamarche
Evelyne Jean-Bouchard	Faculty of Law	PhD, Protection of Women's Rights in Failed States in particular the DRC / Lucie Lamarche
Laura Porras Santanilla	Faculty of Law	PhD, Social and Transitional Justice in realtion to Street Vendors in Colombia /

Anne Dagenais Guertin	Faculty of Law	Marie-Eve Sylvestre Masters, Human Rights and Prostitution in Canada / Lucie Lamarche
Alexandre Davignon Roussille	Faculty of Law	Masters, Environmental Justice and Human Rights Internationally / Sylvie Paquerot

Undergraduate Students

Name	Faculty	Role
Charlotte Chicoine Wilson	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Human Rights online course
Gaston Segakiga	Faculty of Law (Common Law)	Summer Internship with Amnesty International and the Canadian Centre for Internal Justice
Jean-François Landry	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	RA, The Quebec Human Rights Tribunal
Anaïs Tobalagba	Faculty of Law (Civil Law)	Human Rights Commissions in Canada

Activities

The objectives of the Centre are to (1) promote research training and support, and (2) create and disseminate of knowledge and analysis about human rights. The involvement of students is always a prime concern when designing new projects and events.

a) Visiting Researchers

In 2011 the Centre had two visiting researchers. The Office of the Vice-President Research and the Faculty of Law, both Common Law and Civil Law, created a Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice which is housed at the HRREC. Prof. Meredith Turshen visited the Centre under this program from September to December. Her area of research was the role of women in war economies in Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During her visit she made valuable contributions by interacting with graduate students and other members of the Centre as well as delivering a public lecture.

In addition, Allan McChesney, a Law Foundation of Ontario Community Leadership in Justice Fellow from 2010 continued to work with the Centre in the area of disability rights.

b) Events

All of our research dissemination events were open to the public. Last year, in addition to a number of standalone events, we had three lecture series: International Human Rights, Human Rights in the City and Human Rights and Environmental Disruptions. For two of the series we partnered with other University of Ottawa units (the Centre for International Policy Studies and

IUCN Academy of Environmental Law) to explore interdisciplinary areas. The video-conference series were designed by students: Human Rights in the City by Benoît Frâte, a PhD candidate, and Environmental Disruptions by Sean Stephenson, a 3rd year civil law student. Both students found the experiences challenging and invaluable, as they had an opportunity to test how new technology can be used to quickly advance conversations and exchanges of ideas with key players who would not have been available had physical presence been required.

TABLE OF EVENTS			
Date	Format	Speaker	Nom de l'événement
Jan 11-12	Workshop	Sylvie Paquerot, Coordinator	The environment and the notion of the commons
Jan 27	Public Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	Peggy Hicks, Global Advocacy Director, Human Rights Watch, New York	"Human Rights at the United Nations"
Feb. 2	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights in the City Video-Conference Series</i>	Prof. Gerald Gall, University of Alberta, President, John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (CPHR) Renée Vaugeois, Executive Director CPHR	"The Edmonton Human Rights City Project"
Feb 7	Public Lecture	Gariballa Mohamed, LL.M. Candidate	"A state is born: The Path to the New Southern Sudanese State"
Feb 9	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights in the City Video-Conference Series</i>	Ejim Dike, Director, Human Rights Project, Urban Justice Center (New York City)	<i>Human Rights and the City: The "Human Rights Project of the Urban Justice Center"</i>
Feb 10	Public Lecture <i>(Black History month)</i>	Dr. Jeffrey Perry	"Hubert Harrison"
Feb 11	Public Lecture	Prof. Don McRae, Faculty of Law (Common Law)	"Recent development at the International Law Commission in Relation to Human Rights"
Feb 16	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights & Environmental Disruptions Lecture Series</i>	Prof. Heather McLeod-Kilmurray, Faculty of Law (Common Law) & Amissi Manirabona, Postdoctoral Researcher, Université de Montréal	"Strengths and weaknesses of Federal institutions responsible for implementing sustainable development" / "Forces et faiblesses des institutions fédérales chargées d'élaborer et de surveiller la mise en œuvre du développement durable"
Feb 24	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights</i>	Michele Morel, Ph.D. candidate, Ghent	"New Legal Frameworks and Policy Options for Environmental

	<i>& Environmental Disruptions Lecture Series</i>	University & Nicole de Moor, Ph.D. candidate, Ghent University	Migrants: Protecting Environmental Migrants: Findings from the UNU-EHS Summer Academy”; “Circular Labour Migration for Vulnerable Communities: The Case of Colombia”
Feb 24- 25	Training Session	Jayne Stoyles, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for International Justice (CCIJ) & Sébastien Jodoin, Fellow, International and Training, CCIJ	ICC Legal Tools Database
Feb. 25	Public Lecture	Prof. Jeremy Levitt, Florida A&M University	“Illegal Peace: An Inquiry into the Legality of Power-sharing with African Warlords & Rebels”
March 1	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights in the City Video-Conference Series</i>	Manuel Brinquis & Guida Obrador Solé, Dept. of Equality and Citizenship, Barcelona Provincial Council	“The Network of Towns and Cities for Human Rights”
March 3	Public Lecture	Feliciano Reyna, Executive Director, Action in Solidarity, and Sinergia, Venezuela	Human Rights in Venezuela
Mars 8	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights and Work Lecture Series</i>	Christian Brunelle, Professeur titulaire, Faculté de droit, Université Laval, Chercheur au centre de recherche interuniversitaire sur la mondialisation et le travail (CRIMT)	“Le droit à la dignité : un vecteur de la citoyenneté au travail”
Mars 14	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights and Work Lecture Series</i>	Guylaine Vallée, Professeure titulaire, École de relations industrielles, Université de Montréal, Chercheure, Centre de recherché interuniversitaire sur la mondialisation et le travail (CRIMT), Chercheure associée, Centre de recherche en droit public (CRDP)	“De la citoyenneté industrielle à la citoyenneté au travail : incidences sur les institutions des rapports collectifs du travail”
March 16	Public Lecture	Prof. Meredith Turshen, Rutgers University	“The Millennium Development Goals: A feminist Critique”

March 17	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights & Environmental Disruptions Lecture Series</i>	Solange Teles de Silva, State University of Amazonas, Brazil	"Climate Change and Environmental Refugees: Challenges for a New Category of Displaced Persons"
March 22	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights in the City Video-Conference Series</i>	Jules Patenaude, Coordinator of public Consultation, City of Montréal	"La charte Montréalaise des droits et responsabilités"
Mars 30	Public Lecture	Lisa Feinberg, Faculty of Law (Common Law), RA, Refugee Forum	"African Asylum Seekers in Israel: Infiltrators or Refugees?"
April 6	Public Lecture <i>Human Rights & Environmental Disruptions Lecture Series</i>	Antonio Benjamin, Justice of the High Court of Brazil	"Human Rights and the Environment: A Perspective from Brazil on Vital Issues"
June 11	Public Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	Mary Robinson, President Mary Robinson Foundation, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights	Climate Justice: Human Rights and Climate Change
Sept 7	Public Panel	Claire Short, Chair, Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative	"The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward"
Sept 21	Public Lecture	Prof. Meredith Turshen, Fulbright Chair in Human Rights & Social Justice, Rutgers University	Violence Against Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo: The Economic Violence of New Wars"
Sept 27	Public Lecture	Prof. Lesley Jacobs, York Centre for Public Policy and Law	"Balancing and Competing Human Rights: Towards a Policy Framework for the Ontario Human Rights Commission, A comment on the OHRC 2010 Report"
Sept 29	Public Lecture	Irene Khan, former Secretary General, Amnesty International	"Women's Human Rights: the Unfinished Agenda"
Oct 3	Public Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	Prof. Abdullahi An-Na'im, Emory University	"Human Rights, Universality & Sovereignty: The Irrelevance & Relevance of Sharia"
Oct 13	Public	William Schabas,	"International Criminal Law: Only

	Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	University of Galway	for the Winners?"
Nov 1	Meeting <i>At the request of Rights & Democracy</i>	Visit from a delegation of Professors from China	"Development and Human Rights"
Nov 10	Public Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	Marco Sassoli, University of Geneva	"Sécurité et droits humains : quelles zones de compatibilité"
Nov. 14	Round table	Co-organized with the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs	Judicial Roundtable on Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment of the Poor. <i>Programme attached.</i>
Nov 22	Public Lecture	Prof. François Rocher, Chair, School of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences	"Autour du projet de loi Québécois no 94 sur le voile intégral : les enjeux de la laïcité sont-ils bien posés ?"
Nov 24	Public Lecture <i>International Human Rights Lecture Series</i>	Patricia Feeny, Rights and Accountability in Development, and Andie Lamb, Global Witness	"Anvil Mining and Human Rights Abuses in the Congo: Seeking Justice through Canadian Courts"
Nov 25	Public Lecture	Peas Peas Ayui, President, National Achuar Federation of Peru (FENAP)	Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Peruvian Amazon versus Big Oil
Dec 8	Public Lecture	Aladar Horvath, Coordinator, Institute of Roma Civil Rights at John Wesley Theological College, & former member of the Hungarian Parl. and former Head of the Board of the Roma Civil Rights Foundation in Hungary	"Proving Roma Refugee Claims: a discussion with Roma rights expert Aladar Horvath" Roma Rights person in Ottawa

c) Projects

In 2011, in addition to the existing POWER Africa-Canada project, Refugee Forum and International Humanitarian Law summer course, and Introduction to Human Rights Online course, we added two new projects: the ICC Legal Tools Project and the Refugee Assistance Project.

The courses that the Centre manages and delivers with the cooperation of the Civil Law Section clearly contribute to the Centre's mandate in relation to provide training to students. The online course, offered in both French and English, provides direct instruction to non-law undergraduate students. This course is also monitored by upper year and graduate students providing opportunities for them to gain valuable teaching skills, as well as solidify their understanding of basic human rights principles and procedures to realize rights. Now in its, 5th year, the IHL Course continues to receive excellent evaluations.

Project Title	Centre Lead	Funding Source	Annual Budget
<i>*NEW* ICC Legal Tools Project, Co-operation Agreement with the Canadian Centre for International Justice, Faculty of Law (Common Law) and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court</i>	Sonya Nigam	-	-
<i>International Humanitarian Law Summer Course, MoU with the Canadian Red Cross</i>	Sonya Nigam	Registration fees + Contributions from Common Law and Civil Law	\$35,000
<i>Introduction to Human Rights Online Course</i>	Lucie Lamarche	-	-
<i>POWER Africa-Canada</i>	Joanne St-Lewis	Law Foundation of Ontario	\$100,000
<i>*NEW* Refugee Assistance Project</i>	Peter Showler	Law Foundation of Ontario	\$350,000
<i>Refugee Forum</i>	Peter Showler	Maytree Foundation	\$83,100