



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTRE

University of Ottawa



uOttawa



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



Human Rights
Research
and
Education
Centre



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who would have foreseen a global pandemic?

In fact, some people did – including uOttawa colleagues. But as too often is the case, the warnings of threats to health and well-being – especially which entail preventive action – were ignored amidst the usual litany of excuses by “responsible” governments: due precautions were not taken. In 2020, the world paid the price both in lost lives (some 2 million) and treasure (estimated at USD10 Trillion)... and counting.

No one escaped COVID-19. From early March, we at HRREC felt the effects, quickly altering our programmes and plans only soon thereafter to suspend some. A short retreat from the office was prolonged and then made indefinite. Our routine lively inter-actions on a daily or weekly basis – at the photocopier, at guest lectures or seminars, or over lunch or coffee – simply ceased. Most significantly affected were our postgraduate students and visiting scholars for whom our Centre is more than a stimulating place of work; it is also genuinely a community and for some a sort of foster home far from their provinces or countries of origin.

The human capacity to adapt is remarkable, and so we adapted. For this, many people had to row in the same direction; small acts of assistance and care contributed substantially to our shared resilience. In fact, some



gains soon became visible through new efficiencies and acquisition of new skills, notably in means of communication. For example, while we were sad not to be able to deliver our 14th annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law, with the Canadian Red Cross we delivered instead a week-long online series; while we missed the depth and stimulation of in-person classes and a day-long simulation, we extended our reach from the typical 60 or so participants to an astounding 2,391 who connected online from 62 countries. Similarly, in celebration of the life and contributions of Professor David Petrasek, we hosted a Memorial Forum which drew on-line high-level contributors and over 800 participants from around the world. So, we learned to use remote means to continue our work.

In some respects, the pandemic has done us a favour. The indiscriminate nature of the threat affirmed (if we had not grasped it) the universal character of the human condition and, thus, the central tenet and essential importance of human rights. It also revealed a range of manifest inequalities and inequities running throughout and beyond our society. “We’re all in this together” became a common refrain. Of course, we were not and are not all “in this” the same way. And so the vital work of human rights has been underscored. Unfortunately, governments have still not much listened even if the people can see what needs to be done. Amidst calls for “universal” regimes of support, to “leave no one behind” and to live up to the promise of human rights to address fundamental human needs, interests and rights there was yielded a number of positive steps. But a human rights-based approach to the pandemic, and more generally to our governance, we have yet to see.

In the meantime, we continue to work together and make new plans, thanks to science, for some return to normalcy. To that end – to a better end, we will re-double our efforts to promote all human rights for everyone everywhere and hope that the experience of the last year will yield a more receptive ear in the halls and seats of power. Having shared this experience, I am confident we will value our shared perspective and endeavour and delight in rowing together when the return comes. We are eager to do so.

Professor John Packer

Director | Human Rights Research and Education Centre | University of Ottawa

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTRE

ABOUT HRREC

The Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) is one of the oldest such Centres in Canada and North America. Created in 1981, it comprises researchers in law, social sciences, management/business and the arts. The Centre strives to bring educators, researchers and students together with practitioners with a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspective, in order to promote the respect of human rights and explore the effective protection and enjoyment of such rights for everyone everywhere.

Our research activities include the research programs of our members as well as projects resulting from partnerships in which the Centre contributes to the production of research findings and their dissemination. To this end, the Centre places a particular emphasis on issues of public policy and social justice. Areas of preponderant interest among Centre's members are: Diversity, Identity, Inclusion & Equality; Conflict, Violence, (In)Security & War; Governance, Rights a Rule of Law; and Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The HRREC benefits from a bilingual and plurilegal environment. Its strategic location in a G7 Capital supports the Centre at all levels of its initiatives, whether local, national or international. The Centre privileges research and education partnerships with academics and civil society organizations.

OUR DIVERSITY

Chile Hebrew France Yoruba Argentina
Cameroon Romanian Bosnia-Herzegovina Irish Dioula
Peru Canada Israel English Camfranglais
Shona OJIBWE Sweedish Burkina Faso Moldova
The Netherlands Spain Bwamou Dutch Cantonese
Kirundi Kotokoli Morocco Venezuela Nigeria
United Kingdom Arabic Finland Yemen
Iran MINA Portuguese Français Ewé Spanish
Burundi Colombia German United States
Japanese Finnish Mandarin Mexico
Ireland Russian Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian
Brazil China Kabyè Togo Gyemba Australia

This image was designed to present the diversity, in terms of countries of origin, nationalities and languages of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre members.

WHO WE ARE

Our 90 members are academics, students and actors in the wider community. We are especially pleased with, and benefit from, the diversity of our members comprising over thirty nationalities and over forty languages, and our female:male ratio of 2:1.

ACADEMIC MEMBERS

Nadia ABU-ZAHRA
Faculty of Social Sciences
(Management Committee)

Eric Allina
Faculty of Arts

Jane BAILEY
Faculty of Law

Lori G. BEAMAN
Faculty of Arts

Jennifer BOND
Faculty of Law

Angela CAMERON
Faculty of Law

Larry CHARTRAND
Faculty of Law

Magda DONIA
Telfer School of Management

Karen ELTIS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Jabeur FATHALLY
Faculty of Law

Larisa KURTOVIĆ
Faculty of Social Sciences
André LALIBERTÉ
Faculty of Social Sciences

Jamie LIEW
Faculty of Law

Ravi MALHOTRA
Faculty of Law

Pacifique MANIRAKIZA
Faculty of Law

Nathalie MONDAIN
Faculty of Social Sciences

Isaac NAHON-SERFATY
Faculty of Arts

Delphine NAKACHE
Faculty of Law

Darren O'TOOLE
Faculty of Law

John PACKER
Faculty of Law

Mona PARÉ
Faculty of Law

Justin Piché
Faculty of Social Sciences

François ROCHER
Faculty of Social Sciences

Chantal RODIER
Faculty of Arts

Scott SIMON
Faculty of Social Sciences

Penelope SIMONS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Joanne ST. LEWIS
Faculty of Law

Valerie STEEVES
Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie-Ève SYLVESTRE
Faculty of Law

Meredith TERRETTA
Faculty of Arts
(Management Committee)

Sophie THÉRIAULT
Faculty of Law

Karine VANTHUYNE
Faculty of Social Sciences

João VELLOSO
Faculty of Law

FELLOWS

Andrew CARSWELL
Fellow | Director, International Rule of Law
Initiative

Jordi Valero FEO
Fellow | Project Coordinator,
Human Rights Clinic, HRREC, University of
Ottawa

Oonagh Elizabeth FITZGERALD
Senior Fellow | Director, International Law
Association of Canada & Co-chair, Canadian
Environmental Domestic Advisory Group
under CETA

Philip LEECH-NGO
Fellow | GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-17)

Jeremy WILDEMAN
Fellow

STUDENT MEMBERS

Yawo Kpayidra ALOU
Faculty of Law

Stéphanie BACHER
Faculty of Social Sciences

Vaceslav (Slava) BALAN
Faculty of Law

Pierre-Gilles BÉLANGER
Faculty of Law

Anastasia BERWALD
Faculty of Law

Zoé BOIRIN-FARGUES
Faculty of Law

Tenille BROWN
Faculty of Law

Corinna Simeoni BUHAY
Faculty of Law

Aboubacar DAKUYO
Faculty of Law

Melisa HANDL
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Salvador HERENCIA
Faculty of Law

Adam R. HOUSTON
Faculty of Law

Lilou JIANG
Faculty of Law

Jocelyn KANE
Faculty of Social Sciences

Andrea KHAN
Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie-Dominik LANGLOIS
Faculty of Social Sciences

Amira MAAMERI
Faculty of Law

Omra MASSTAN
Fac. Social Sciences & Law

Elysa McCONNELL
Faculty of Arts

Justine MONETTE-TREMBLAY
Faculty of Law

WHO WE ARE

STUDENT MEMBERS

Nestor NKURUNZIZA
Faculty of Law

Gloria SONG
Faculty of Law

Chen WANG
Faculty of Law

Abu SALEH
Faculty of Law

Jacob TATSITSA
Faculty of Arts

Robin WHITEHEAD
Faculty of Law

Murray SNIDER
Faculty of Law

Julie Ynès Ada TCHOUKOU
Faculty of Law

Danny YEO
Faculty of Law

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Siobhán AIREY
Postdoctoral Fellow, Irish
Research Council Marie
Sklodowska-Curie Actions
(Ireland)

Chétima MELCHISEDEK
GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-
18), & Banting Postdoctoral
Fellow, York University

Kirsten FISHER
GFH Postdoctoral Fellow
(2012-13), Assistant Professor,
University of Saskatchewan

Omid B. MILANI
Ph.D. in Law, University of
Ottawa, Creator of Contekst

Olabisi AKINKUGBE
Assistant Professor,
Dalhousie University

Emilie Di GRAZIA
Human Rights Officer, OSCE,
(Kosovo)

Audace GATAVU
Lawyer

Sonya NIGAM
Former Director, Human Rights
Office, University of Ottawa

Kawkab AL-WADEAI
Researcher & Mental Health
Counsellor (Gender, Peace &
Security)

Courtney DOAGOO
Postdoctoral Fellow, CIGI
International Law Research
Program

Rasha JARHUM
Co-founder and Director,
Peace Track Initiative

Sarah R. OLUTOLA
GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-
19)

Catalina ARANGO
Project Coordinator, Human
Rights Clinic, HRREC, University
of Ottawa

Jael DUARTE
Project Manager, New
Brunswick Multicultural Council

Graciela JASA SILVEIRA
GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2014-
15)

Nelson Arturo OVALLE DIAZ
Part-time Professor, Faculty of
Law, University of Ottawa

Joaquin BARDALLO BANDERA
GFH Scholar (2013-14), Ph.D.
candidate, University of Toronto

Leilani FARHA
Executive Director, The Shift &
former UN Special Rapporteur
on the Right to Adequate
Housing

Lucie LAMARCHE
Full Professor, Université du
Québec à Montréal

Andrew Stobo SNIDERMAN
Visiting Researcher, Faculty
of Law & HRREC, University of
Ottawa

Ramon BLANCO-BARRERA
Ph.D. Candidate, Faculty of Fine
Arts, University of Seville

Janine LESPÉRANCE
Independent External Decision-
Maker, App. by Canada's
Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness

Kirsten VAN HOUTEN
Ph.D., School of International
Development and Global
Studies, University of Ottawa

STAFF

John PACKER
Director

Viviana FERNANDEZ
Assistant Director

Caroline FAUCHER
Communications &
Events Management Officer

FEATURED PROFILES

In spring 2020, the Centre created a new category of members: HRREC Fellows. The group includes scholars, researchers or professionals from organizations other than uOttawa who work with the Centre in various capacities, including consultation, strategic advice and collaboration on projects. Meet our first five HRREC Fellows!



ANDREW CARSWELL

Andrew Carswell is Director of the International Rule of Law Initiative and a consultant to governments on the law of armed conflict. Over his 14-year career with ICRC, he contributed to building the international humanitarian law capacity of armed forces worldwide, most recently in Syria. A lawyer, former military officer and prosecutor, his career is now dedicated to international justice and improving the UN system of peace and security.

OONAGH FITZGERALD

Dr. Oonagh Fitzgerald is an international lawyer, artist and choreographer, Director of the International Law Association of Canada, Co-chair of the Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group under the CETA, and a candidate for the INDI PhD in Fine Arts at Concordia University. Her interests are human rights remedies, sustainable development, and Indigenous peoples' rights.

JORDI FEO VALERO

Dr. Jordi Feo holds a Ph.D. in Human Rights, Democracy and International Justice from the University of Valencia (Spain). He has worked in the field of governance, international development and human rights for more than 15 years in countries like Haiti, Lithuania, Spain and Canada. Jordi currently teaches International Law at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) and is the Project Coordinator for the Centre's project on the "Independence of Judges and Lawyers" which assists the United Nations Special Rapporteur, focusing on the thematic reports for the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly.

JEREMY WILDEMAN

Dr. Jeremy Wildeman is a scholar of global and Middle East politics, Canadian foreign policy, colonialism and the nexus of human security, "development" aid and peacebuilding. His specializations include the impact of foreign aid on the Palestinians, and Canada's relationship with the Middle East. He has extensive experience supporting communities in crisis in the Middle East and the Balkans.

PHILIP LEECH-NGO

Dr. Philip Leech-Ngo is a skilled researcher, analyst and communicator with more than ten years of experience as a consultant and academic with a focus on international affairs. He is the blog editor for the Centre for International Policy Studies, Canada's leading centre for analysis and debate of international affairs. Philip is also the coordinator for a new project called "Voices" under the Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution and the Joint Chair in Women's Studies at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, which highlights the work of activists in exile in Canada who continue to work to improve conditions in their countries of origin.

TEACHING & TRAINING

HRREC offered three online courses in Winter 2020, and four online courses in Fall 2020 (143 participants). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 14th edition of the annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, was replaced by a series of ten online lectures titled *IHL NOW*, held from May 25 to 29, 2020. Lectures were facilitated by leading Canadian and international scholars and experts from the Canadian Armed Forces and international organizations and were offered in both French and English (2,391 participants from 62 countries). Eight contracts for teaching assistants/course coordinators/project coordinators were funded by the Centre, most of which benefited graduate students in Law.



ONLINE COURSES

DCC2303

Legal Aspects of Human Rights

Offered in English.

+

DCC2703

Dimensions juridiques des droits de la personne

Offered in French.

Historical origins of international human rights law. Presentation of international law as a legal system that includes rules, principles and requirements, as well as specific methodological research tools.

DCC3110

Inter American System of Human Rights

Offered in English.

Introduction to the Inter American system of human rights protection by subject areas including womens' rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, the right to democracy and social rights.

NEW ONLINE COURSE

DCC4119

Selected Topics in Law: International Human Rights

Offered in English.

Problems and challenges affecting the realization and/or implementation of international human rights in contemporary contexts. The first edition focused on *Human Rights and governance: Human Rights Based Approach to Policy, Law and Development*.

HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC | Creating IMPACT



During 2020, the Human Rights Clinic worked on four projects involving 22 students, led by dedicated Project Coordinators and Salvador Herencia, Ph.D. candidate in Law, as Director of the Clinic. The projects addressed or supported the following topics: Business and Human Rights in Latin America; The Canadian Partnership for International Justice; the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; and Scholars at Risk in the Americas. Some highlights:

INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES & LAWYERS

Since 2017, the Clinic provides research support to, and otherwise assists, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers under the direction of Professor John Packer and HRREC Fellow Jordi Feo, Ph.D., focusing on thematic reports. In 2020, the team contributed to two public reports:

- *Disciplinary Proceedings Against Judges for Alleged Misconduct in the Exercise of their Functions*, submitted to the United Nations General Assembly (UN doc. no. A/75/172 of 17 July 2020).
- *Influence of Corruption on Public Prosecution Services and on the Effective Enjoyment of Human Rights*, submitted to the Human Rights Council (UN doc. no. A/HRC/44/47 of 23 March 2020).

SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR) IN THE AMERICAS

Since 2018, a team led by Professors Isaac Nahon-Serfaty and João Velloso with Coordinator Catalina Arango and Salvador Herencia has monitored situations that may affect academic freedom in seven countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela. The team contributed to the United Nations General Assembly Report on academic freedom prepared by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (UN doc. no. A/75/261 of 28 July 2020). The document includes legal arguments and findings submitted by our Clinic and summarized in a document titled *Threats to Academic Freedom in the Americas*. The group also participated in advocacy actions with Scholars at Risk and Scholars at Risk Canada.

BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

This project began in 2014 thanks to a partnership with the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), an NGO based in Washington, D.C. The project is led by Salvador Herencia with the supervision of Professor Penelope Simons. It seeks to address the responsibility of home States for the activities of private companies operating in Latin America, as well as international standards set within the Inter-American Human Rights System regarding business and human rights. In April 2020, the team submitted an amicus to the Civil Court of the Amazon State in Brazil related to the protection of land and territory of Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Brazilian Amazon Forest.

EXPANDING OUR REACH

VISITING SCHOLARS

Professor Janelle Diller was named Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice from October 2019 until April 2020. Her Fulbright project explored the State's role in facilitating inclusive regulatory governance of transnational activities affecting human rights and social justice.



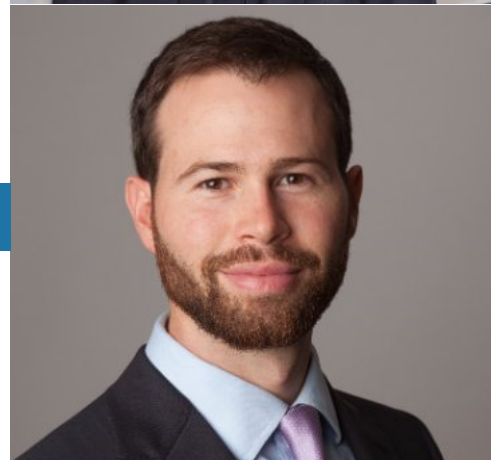
Professor Ann Marie Clark, Department of Political Science, Purdue University, was selected as Fulbright Chair for 2020-21. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, she deferred the visit to fall 2021.

Dr. Jeonghyeon Kim (University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumna) continued her stay at HRREC until summer 2020. Shortly after her arrival in winter 2019, she launched a writing circle for HRREC members with fellow member Tenille Brown that lasted until the COVID interruption in March 2020. She is currently back in her native country, South Korea.



Ph.D. student **Amira Maameri**, Université de Bordeaux, was hosted at the Centre from March 2019 until spring 2020. She worked with Professor Mona Paré (cotutelle) and became a member of the Centre.

Andrew Stobo Sniderman continued his affiliation with HRREC as a community member until spring 2021 working to complete a book on Indigenous peoples and education. He is a former Special Advisor for Human Rights to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stéphane Dion.



PROFESSIONAL LINKS

HRREC continues to foster connections with members from the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), the global association of academic centres or institutes in the field of human rights. Assistant Director **Viviana Fernandez** represented the Centre at the 2020 AHRI Annual Conference, organized under the theme *The Future of Human Rights: Socio-Economic Rights, Equality and Development*. The event took place virtually on 4-5 September 2020 and marked AHRI's 20th anniversary.

HRREC is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes (CAHRI, 14 members across the country). The Centre also holds a permanent position on the Steering Committee of the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child and, starting in October 2020, supports the Laboratory in operational matters and communication related tasks.





FUNDING & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

During 2020, the Centre participated in seven grant applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue (uOttawa), the Open Society Foundations and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German research funding organization).

The Centre continued to be actively engaged in nine research partnerships, eight funded by SSHRC and one supported by the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue. Themes and principal investigators are listed below:

ACCÈS À LA JUSTICE DES ENFANTS ET VULNÉRABILITÉ

Led by HRREC member Professor **Mona Paré**.

BOKO HARAM, ISLAMIC PROTEST AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Led by Professor Paul Lovejoy (York University) with HRREC members **Meredith Terretta** and **Chétima Melchisedek**.

STRENGTHENING JUSTICE FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMES: A CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP

Led by Professor Fannie Lafontaine (Université Laval) including HRREC members Professors **Jennifer Bond**, **John Packer**, **Penelope Simons**, and **João Velloso**.

IMPACTS - COLLABORATIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

Led by Professor Shaheen Shariff (McGill University) and including HRREC members Professors **Jane Bailey** and **Valerie Steeves**.

ACCÈS AU DROIT ET À LA JUSTICE - ADAJ

Led by Professor Pierre Noreau (Université de Montréal) with HRREC member Professor **João Velloso**.

THE eQUALITY PROJECT

Led by HRREC members Professors **Valerie Steeves** and **Jane Bailey**.

AUTONOMY THROUGH CYBERJUSTICE TECHNOLOGIES

Led by Professor Karim Benyekhlef (Université de Montréal) with HRREC member Professor **Jane Bailey**.

OBSERVATOIRE SUR LES PROFILAGES (NEW)

Led by Professor Céline Bellot (Université de Montréal) and HRREC members Professors **Marie-Ève Sylvestre** and **João Velloso**.

CHANGING ORDERS: SHAPING THE FUTURE AND SECURING RIGHTS IN A WORLD IN TRANSFORMATION

Jointly led by the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP), Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC), and The Refugee Hub, including members Professors **Jennifer Bond** and **John Packer**.

FUNDING & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Congratulations to our members who received research funding during 2020:

Jane Bailey received \$1,500 from the British Columbia Society of Transition Houses for the initiative called *BCSTH's Preserving Tech Evidence: Legal Education for BC Anti-Violence Workers & Women to Respond to Tech Facilitated Violence*.

Lori Beaman was co-applicant in a grant titled *Religious Freedom, LGBT+ Employees, and the Right to Discriminate* from the Australian Research Council valued at \$517,445. Lori also received \$8,000 from the uOttawa Shared Online Projects Initiative (SOPI).

Community member **Ramon Blanco-Barrera** received a €1,000 research contract for the project *Arte gráfico-anatómico corporal como instrumento terapéutico y emocional de cambio social* funded by the Centro de Educación Permanente "Alfonso Muriel". Ramon also received a €3,000 grant for the Project *Reactivación del sector cultural en Andalucía en la línea de apoyo a la creación artística* from the Junta de Andalucía.

Jennifer Bond received \$25,000 from the Canadian Bar Association for the project *Remote Connections: Building Canada's diversity and inclusion through technology-enabled refugee sponsorship support*; \$13,959 from the Ottawa Community Foundation for the project *Immigration 101 for Refugee Settlement Sector*; and \$99,996 from the Law Foundation of Ontario for the project *Enhancement and Remote Expansion of the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (SSP)*.

Student member **Andrea Khan** received a \$49,000 doctoral scholarship from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) for her project *Évaluation des efforts des entreprises pour réduire le travail des enfants dans les pays en développement: Le cas des adolescentes dans l'industrie du prêt-à-porter de l'Inde*.

Student member **Marie-Dominik Langlois** received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for 2020-2021.

Nathalie Mondain received \$7,500 from the Knowledge Mobilization Program in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Invited Researchers' Programs at the University of Ottawa.

John Packer and **Jennifer Bond** received a \$390,000 grant from the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue for the project *Changing Orders: Shaping The Future And Securing Rights In A World In Transformation* (a joint project as indicated above).

Justin Piché was co-applicant in a \$24,900 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), under the Partnership Engage Grant Program, for the project *COVID-19: Investigating Canada's Carceral Response to the Coronavirus through the Prison Pandemic Partnership*. Justin also received a \$69,135 Law Foundation of Ontario grant for the project *Jail Accountability & Information Line (Phase II)*.

Karine Vanthuyne was co-applicant on a US\$20,000 grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Inc. for her project titled *The future of reparation in Latin America: Imagination, belonging and environment in restorative politics*.

João Velloso received a \$6,000 grant from uOttawa under the program Conference/Workshop on Campus Opportunity (CWCO) for the initiative *Law & Learning in an Era of Partnerships*.

Dean **Marie-Ève Sylvestre** with Professors **Justin Piché** and **João Velloso** are co-applicants in a \$2,495,140 SSHRC Partnership Grant (seven years) led by Céline Bellot (Université de Montreal) for the project *Observatoire sur les profilages*.

Sophie Thériault is co-applicant in a \$390,000 grant from the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue – Smart Changes for a Better World – for the project *The uOttawa Water Law and Governance Project* led by Professor Marie-France Fortin.



SCHOLARS AT RISK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA



The University of Ottawa joined the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network in 2014 and, since then, HRREC has held organizational responsibility for the SAR uOttawa Program. Since spring 2020, Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez chairs the Canadian Section (SAR Canada) Steering Committee and has represented Canada in the SAR's International Advisory Committee since 2016.

The SAR uOttawa program hosted two scholars in 2020:

- Mr. Fayyaz Baqir (Pakistan) arrived in May 2018 affiliated with the School of International Development and Globalisation Studies and remained at uOttawa until December 2020.
- A second scholar (name withheld) from Turkey is hosted by the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies since September 2019.

The Centre spearheads the work of an academic freedom monitoring team through our Human Rights Clinic. As indicated above, the Clinic contributed to a Report on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression focusing on academic freedom and presented to the United Nations General Assembly on October 23, 2020. More information can be found on the HRREC website.

EVENTS & RELATED ENGAGEMENTS

HRREC organized four public events for SAR uOttawa during 2020:

MARCH 3 | Free to Think 2019: Academic Freedom Monitoring in the Americas

This event launched a SAR uOttawa Fundraising Campaign that was to take place throughout the month of March; due to the pandemic, the campaign was suspended by uOttawa after the first week.

JULY 7 & 9 | Academic Freedom, Research & Democratic Values: A Latin American Perspective

Two sessions were organized virtually, one in English and one in Spanish. The recordings are available on the HRREC website.

OCTOBER 21 | Teaching Virtually: Challenges and Risks for Students

SAR uOttawa partnered with SAR Canada for this event. A blog summarizing the discussion was published by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in January 2021.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

During 2020 and in spite of the restrictions posed by the pandemic, the Centre hosted 37 activities or events (in person or online) including two virtual art exhibitions, one major academic workshop and one film screening. These were organized with 50 partners representing government agencies, research groups, foundations, national and international NGOs, law firms, student groups, etc. with total attendance of almost 4,000 people.

The Centre also held two virtual Human Rights Networking Events for students and recent alumni with speakers Obiora C. Okafor (Professor and York Research Chair in International and Transnational Legal Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University) and HRREC member Leilani Farha (Global Director of The Shift and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing 2014-2020).

Due to the pandemic, some events were cancelled or postponed starting in March. The list of the Centre's events, reports and outputs can be found on the HRREC website.

SELECTED EVENTS

I Ain't Sorry: Beyoncé, Serena, and Hegemonic Hierarchies in Lemonade

This presentation was inspired by Sarah Olutola's article for the *Journal of Popular Music and Society*, dealing with neoliberal and biopolitical representations of blackness and black femininity in Beyoncé's *Lemonade*. Sarah holds a Ph.D. from the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University and was Gordon F. Henderson Postdoctoral Fellow 2018-19 at HRREC. Her research concerns youth culture, representations of race in popular media culture, postcolonialism and global capitalism.

Arab Diapora Conference

This conference brought together around 30 Middle East and North Africa human rights and democracy defenders to discuss the various situations of human rights in the region, socio-political mobilization initiatives and community organizing. It was organized in partnership with the Joint Chair in Women's Studies, University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and the Zajel Institute for Justice and Liberty.

Human Rights in COVID-Times: An Online Forum in Honour of Professor David Petrasek

This high-profile event explored global human rights topics with three former United Nations High Commissioners for Human Rights: Mary Robinson, Louise Arbour and Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein. A special video message from current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, opened the forum. The recording is available on the HRREC website. Organizers included the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Centre for International Policy Studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences at uOttawa, Amnesty International Canada, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Open Global Rights, the Global Centre for Pluralism, and the Dialogue Advisory Group.

The Corporate Citizen & COVID-19

This series of four virtual panels was organized to highlight the publication *Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law*, edited by HRREC Senior Fellow, Oonagh E. Fitzgerald. This was a joint activity with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Recordings from the series can be found on YouTube.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS



FOCUS on the Rohingya Crisis

HRREC Director John Packer continued his active engagement regarding the ongoing Rohingya genocide in Myanmar and related matters including the situation of refugees in Bangladesh and beyond.

This translated into several radio and television interviews, articles, and participation in and/or hosting of meetings and consultations in Canada and abroad.



Notable activities included a visit to Rohingya refugees in the camps near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (January), an address for the 3rd Free Rohingya Coalition Genocide Memorial and Rally (August 25) and the publication of a report from an international (virtual) roundtable of experts titled *Justice for the Rohingya: The Role of Canada* co-hosted with Senator M. McPhedran and the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria.

John was quoted on this subject in *The Globe and Mail*, the *Dhaka Tribune*, *The Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo* (Bangladesh), and elsewhere.



ROHINGYA Photography Competition

The Oxford Human Rights Festival (UK) and HRREC co-sponsored a Rohingya Photography Competition which ran during spring 2020, attracting an array of submissions from Rohingya refugees, humanitarian workers, well-known photographers and others.

The winning photographs can be viewed in an online gallery at Rohingya Photography Competition (kutupalong.com).

An exhibition at uOttawa is expected to occur when conditions permit and a book is planned with a selection of photographs and other contributions about the situation prevailing in the world's largest refugee camp in Kutupalong near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



Since 2014, HRREC has deliberately engaged in a multidisciplinary experiment of human rights issues framed through the various forms of creative artistic expression such as visual, performance, media, cinematographic, musical and literary arts.

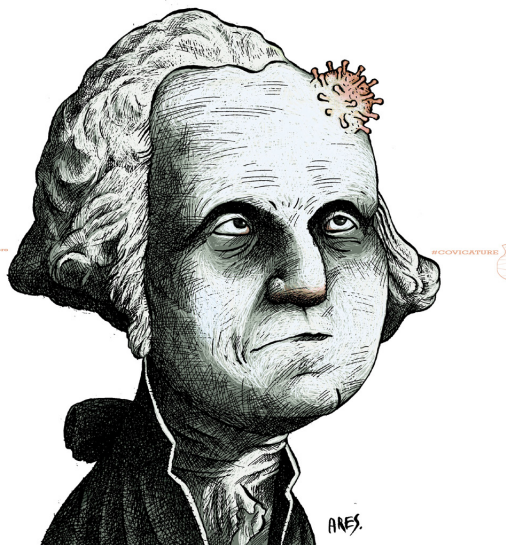
SELECTED EVENTS

#COVICATURE Our World amid COVID-19

This initiative was created in partnership with CONTEKST, a research project that explores the relationship between Law and the Image, directed by HRREC community member Omid Milani, Ph.D.

#COVICATURE ran from April until October 2020, using satirical and comic cartoons to address aspects impacted by COVID-19, broadly relating to human rights, justice, peace and well-being.

The campaign received submissions from all over the world that were displayed in a virtual gallery and shared on social media. Selected cartoons will be published in the Canadian Yearbook of Human Rights, 2019-2020 edition.



IMAGES OF JUSTICE 2020 Children & Human Rights

HRREC, CONTEKST, the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (uOttawa), the School of Child and Youth Care (Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University), and the Canadian Journal of Children's Rights (Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children's Rights) partnered to create the second edition of Images of Justice, a virtual exhibition of cartoons on the rights of the child, their freedoms, as well as various political, social, and legal issues.

An international jury selected ten works from among 390 submissions coming from 34 countries and the public was invited to vote online to choose the winning cartoon.

The grand prize winner of this edition of Images of Justice was Walter Toscano from Peru.





PUBLICATIONS

Our members publish regularly in peer-reviewed academic journals, contribute to blogs, reports, policy briefs, opinion pieces, etc. They can also contribute to the *HRREC Working Papers Series* available on uOResearch. Here is a selection of their publications.

BOOKS

Beaman, L.G. (2020). *The Transition of Religion to Culture in Law and Public Discourse*. London: Routledge, 190 p.

Cameron, A., Graben, S. and Napoleon V. (Eds.). (2020). *Creating Indigenous Property: Power, Rights and Relationships*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 384 p.

Côté-Lussier, C., Mofette, D. and Piché, J. (Eds.). (2020). *Contemporary Criminological Issues: Moving Beyond Insecurity and Exclusion*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 312 p.

Flood, C., MacDonnel, V., Philpott, J., Thériault, S. and Venkatapuram, S. (Eds.). (2020). *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 600 p.

Hervé-Fournereau, N. and Thériault, S. (2020). *Peuples autochtones et intégrations régionales : Pour une durabilité repensée des ressources naturelles et de la biodiversité?* Presses universitaires de Rennes, 429 p.

Simon, S. and Nobayashi A. (2020). *Environmental Teachings for the Anthropocene: Indigenous Peoples and Museums in the Western Pacific*. Senri Ethnological Studies 103. Osaka: National Museum of Ethnology, 230 p.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Attaran, A. and Houston, A.R. (2020). Pandemic Data Sharing: How the Canadian Constitution Has Turned into a Suicide Pact. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 91-104.

Beaman, L.G. and Cusack, C.L. (2020). Étudier l'éducation sur la religion : Ce que l'on peut apprendre du Québec. In Perreault, J.-P. (Ed.), *Étudier la religion au Québec : Regards d'ici et d'ailleurs*, Presses de l'Université Laval, pp. 419-440.

Brown, T.E. (2020). Locating the Woman: A Note on Customary Law and the Utility of Real Property in the Swaziland Context. In Cameron, A., Graben, S. and Napoleon, V. (Eds.), *Creating Indigenous Property: Power, Rights and Relationships*, University of Toronto Press, pp. 347-370.

Capitaine, B. and Vanthuyne, K. (2020). Témoignages autochtones des pensionnats : Entre trauma culturel et autonomie renouvelée. In Celis, L. and Hébert, M. (Eds.), *Devoir de mémoire. Perspectives sociales et théoriques sur la vérité, la justice et la réconciliation dans les Amériques*, Presses de l'Université Laval, pp. 69-94.

Farah, L. and Schwan, K. (2020). The Front Line Defence: Housing and Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 355-366.

Houston, A.R. (2020). Applying Lessons from the Past in Haiti: Cholera, Scientific Knowledge, and the Longest-Standing Principle of International Health Law. In Eccleston-Turner, M. and Brassington, I. (Eds.), *Infectious Diseases in the New Millennium: Legal and Ethical Challenges*, Springer, pp. 13-41.

Kurtović, L. (2020). Against Ethnographic Disappointment, or on the Importance of Listening. In Laplante, J., Grandsman, A. and Scobie, W. (Eds.), *Search After Method: Sensing, Moving, and Imagining in Anthropological Fieldwork*, Berghahn Books, Vignette 6, pp. 170-182.

Le Bouthillier, Y. and Nakache, D. (2020). The Rights of Citizens Abroad to Return During a Pandemic. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 299-312.

Levesque, A. and Thériault, S. (2020). Systemic Discrimination in Government Services and Programs and Its Impacts on First Nations Peoples during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 299-312.

Liew, J.C.Y. (2020). Spread of Anti-Racism: Prevention and Critical Race Analysis in Pandemic Planning. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 381-392.

Sheldon, T. and Malhotra, R. (2020). Not All in This Together: Disability Rights and COVID-19. In Flood, C. et al. (Eds.), *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*, University of Ottawa Press, pp. 419-432.

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

Blanco-Barrera, R. (December 2020). El principio de expansión en el arte a partir de un caso de diseño gráfico, color e instalación: disoluciones geoMÉTRICASpolíticas. *Revista Visuais*, 6(2): 229-243.

Burry, R.D., Stacey, D., Backman, C., **Donia, M.B.L.** and Lalonde, M. (August 2020). Exploring Pairing of New Graduate Nurses with Mentors: An Interpretive Descriptive Study. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 29(15-16): 2897-2906.

Donia, M.B.L., Herencia-Carrasco, S., Seck, S., McCorquodale, R. and Ronen, S. (March 2020). The Theorized Relationship between Organizational (Non)Compliance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Desired Employee Workplace Outcomes. *Sustainability*, 12(5): 2030.

Fisher, K.J. (October 2020). Defining a Relationship between Transitional Justice and Jus Post Bellum: A Call and an Opportunity for Post-Conflict Justice. *Journal of International Political Theory*, 16(3): 287-304.

Fisher, K.J. (December 2020). The Problem with the Crime of Forced Migration as a Loophole to ICC Jurisdiction. *Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies*, 11(2): 385-409.

Malhotra, R. (Spring/Summer 2020). Neoliberalism, Law, and Its Discontents: Three Recent Interventions. *Left History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Historical Inquiry and Debate*, 23(2): 96-106.

Milani, O. (2020). Images of Justice 2: Children & Human Rights. *Canadian Journal of Children's Rights*, 7(1): 194-198.

Packer, J. and Holt, S. (August 2020). Self-Determination and Peace Processes: Pathways and Stumbling Blocks for Conflict Resolution. *Accord, an International Review of Peace Initiatives*, 29: 53-59.

Regan Wills, E., El Richani, D. and **Abu-Zahra, N.** (March 2020). Building New Practices of Solidarity: The Community Mobilisation in Crisis Project. *Gender & Development*, 28(1): 51-68.

Simon, S. (August 2020). Yearning for Recognition: Indigenous Formosans and the Limits of Indigeneity. *International Journal of Taiwan Studies*, 3(2): 191-216.

Soulière, M., Monceau, G., Fortuna, C.M., **Mondain, N.,** Santana da Silva, S. and Pilotti, A. (Winter 2020). Comprendre le parcours du devenir parent. Regard sur une démarche de recherche collaborative et qualitative à l'international. *Enjeux et société*, 7(1) : 64-91.

Tchoukou, J.A. (2020). Religion as an ideological weapon and the Feminisation of Culture in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis of the Textuality of Violence through the Legal Regulation of Child Marriages. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 24(10): 1515-1536.

REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Ashraph, S., **Packer, J.,** Rock, A. Siaci, D., Ibrahim, A., Burnard, L. and Scheffer, D. (May 2020). No Place for Optimism: Anticipating Myanmar's First Report to the International Court of Justice. Washington, DC: Center for Global Policy (Rohingya Legal Forum).

Balan, V. and Vladyslav, S. (June 2020). COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons for Media Freedom in Moldova. *Policy Brief* for the Freedom House Media Forward series.

Dakuyo, A. (March 2020). Pluralisme normatif, État de droit et développement durable au Soudan du Sud. Centre for International Governance Innovation, *Document d'orientation no 8*: 1-8.

Packer, J. and **Balan, V.** (July 2020). A Genuine Human Rights-Based Approach for Our Post-Pandemic Future. *OpenGlobalRights*, Online.

HRREC WORKING PAPERS

Bacher, S. (July 2020). L'appui à la société civile locale dans la réalisation du droit au développement : Expériences tirées du contexte ougandais. *Cahiers de recherche | Working Papers (uOttawa. CREDP | HRREC)*, HRREC_2020-01: 1-16.



AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Notable awards and nominations received by our members.



Student member **Slava Balan** participated as an OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights long-term observer to the November 2020 U.S. General Elections.

Angela Cameron was nominated to the Canadian Northern Corridor Scientific Advisory Committee. Angela also made the Hill Times list of 100 Best Books in 2020 for the collection, *Creating Indigenous Property: Power, Rights, and Relationships*, co-edited with Professors Sari Graber and Val Napoelon.



Karen Eltis was named member of the Société québécoise d'information juridique.

Community member **Kirsten J. Fisher** received the 2020 New Scholar/Artist Research Award from the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. This award is presented annually to faculty members who have had an exceptional impact in their field.

Justin Piché received the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Activities in the Media or the Community for 2020.



Penelope Simons and student member **Melisa Handl** received the Greenberg Prize for Feminist Research for the paper *Relations of Ruling: A Feminist Critique of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Violence against Women in the Context of Resource Extraction* (2019, 31:1, CJWL, 113-150).

Penelope Simons also received a 2020 Reviewer Award by the *Business and Human Rights Journal* in recognition of her invaluable review work.

Sophie Thériault was nominated to the Global Young Academy for 2020-2025.



Karine Vanthuyne was appointed Chair in University Teaching with a focus on Indigenizing post-secondary curricula with Indigenous Curriculum Specialists.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SELECTED STORIES OF 2020

Welcome to our
Postdoctoral
Fellow
David Hughes!

**Dean Marie-Ève
Sylvestre:**
Dynamism and
innovation at the
Faculty of Law, Civil
Law Section

Meet the
New HRREC
Fellows

HRREC Endorses Open
Letter Calling Canadian
Government to Ban
Use of Facial
Recognition by
Federal Law Enforcement,
Intelligence Agencies

**HRREC
Statement
Against
Racism**

New Online Course
on Human Rights
with Professor John
Packer Offered in
the Fall 2020

Congratulations
to HRREC Members
Lilou Jiang &
Ramon
Blanco-Barrera for
defending their Ph.Ds.!

HRREC Academic
Members in the Faculty
of Civil Law Involved in
the Innovative Summer
Course on the Socio-
Legal Issues of the
COVID-19 Pandemic!

**HRREC Joins the
Call on All Levels
of Government in
Canada to
Strengthen Human
Rights Oversight
amid the Pandemic**

A FEW STATISTICS FOR 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA & LISTSERVS



LIKES

898

11% increase



FOLLOWERS

1,704

18% increase



FOLLOWERS

1,063

79% increase

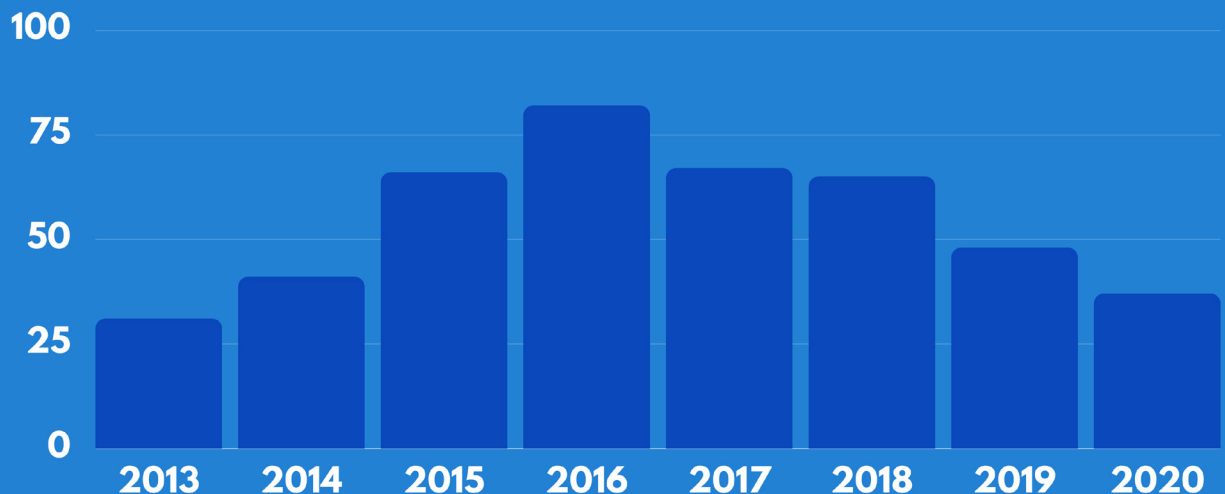


NON-MEMBERS SUBSCRIBERS

1,213

0.2% increase

EVENTS



OUR PARTNERS



uOttawa

Faculté de droit
Faculty of Law
Section de common law
Common Law Section



uOttawa

Faculté de droit
Faculty of Law
Section de droit civil
Civil Law Section



uOttawa

Faculté des sciences sociales
Faculty of Social Sciences



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CANADIENNE
CANADIAN
RED CROSS



ICRC



Due Process
of Law
Foundation



The
RefugeeHub
Le carrefour des réfugiés



SSHRC  CRSH

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



CIPS



CÉPI



icj
CANADA

International
Commission
of Jurists



uOttawa



The
eQUALITY PROJECT



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

ADAJ

Accès au
Droit et
À la Justice



TSAS

canadian network for research on
terrorism, security and society



AHRI



McGill



CONTEKST



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CENTRE DE
Droit, politique
et éthique de la santé

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA
CENTRE FOR
Health Law,
Policy and Ethics

Forum pour le dialogue

Alex Trebek

Forum for Dialogue



uOttawa

Strengthening Justice for International Crimes: A Canadian Partnership
Université Laval

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Faculty of Arts

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

SCHOLARS at RISK
SAR uOttawa

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APUO

ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSEUR(E)S DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

International Women's Day
OTTAWA & Feminist Twins

Neuberger Jesin

Professor of International Conflict Resolution

ISSP

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE SUR LA SCIENCE,
LA SOCIÉTÉ ET LA POLITIQUE PUBLIQUE
INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND POLICY



iMPACTS

Collaborations to Address Sexual Violence on Campus

BOKO HARAM
ISLAMIC PROTEST
AND NATIONAL
SECURITY

INSTITUT
D'ÉTUDES
FÉMINISTES
ET DE GENRE | INSTITUTE
OF FEMINIST
AND GENDER
STUDIES uOttawa



CPIJ
PCJI

CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP
FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE
PARTENARIAT CANADIEN
POUR LA JUSTICE INTERNATIONALE



CAHRI | Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes



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on the Independence of Judges & Lawyers

Université d'Ottawa
University of Ottawa



Carleton University

Chaire conjointe en études des femmes
Université d'Ottawa | Carleton University

Joint Chair in Women's Studies
University of Ottawa | Carleton University



CIGI

JUSTICE AND
CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT
Communities first!

Gordon F. Henderson
Chair in Human Rights

ACT

AUTONOMY
THROUGH CYBERJUSTICE
TECHNOLOGIES

Chair of Ukrainian Studies
Faculty of Social Sciences | University of Ottawa

Centre for Law, Technology and Society
Faculty of Law | Common Law Section | University of Ottawa

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