Re-Imagining Human Rights – The Challenge of Agency, Creativity, and Global Justice

August 12, 2013 (8:30 am to 5:15 pm) - 9th Floor
The Westin New York at Times Square, New York, NY

Conference Schedule

Coffee: 8:30 – 9:00am
Opening Plenary: 9:00 – 9:20am

Welcoming Remarks from Conference Co-organizers:
“Human Rights and the Sociology of the Imagination”
John G. Dale /George Mason University and David J. Kyle /University of California, Davis

Keynote Speakers: 9:20-10:00am Camilo Pérez-Bustillo and Karla Hernandez Mares, Human Rights from Below: Indigenous Peoples, Migration, Poverty, and Human Rights

Pearl Room: Panel 1A - 10:15am – 12:00pm
Human Personhood and the State of Human Rights
Discussant: John Dale /George Mason University
Presentations:
“The Transnational Challenge: Why the Human Rights Paradigm Cannot Save the World (or Even Itself)”
Tomer Shadmy /Tel Aviv University
“International Relations in a Community of Human Rights States”
Benjamin Gregg /University of Texas at Austin and Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany
“International Human Rights for Refugees: The Difficult Case of Xenophobic Discrimination”
Tendayi Achiume /University of California, Los Angeles
“Reconstructing the Human: How Social Justice Initiatives Can Re-Imagine Anti-racist Strategies”
Camille Solá /George Washington University

Plymouth Room: Panel 1B - 10:15am – 12:00pm
The Human Rights Enterprise: The History and Future of Human Rights as Revolutionary Praxis
Discussant: Davita Glasberg /University of Connecticut, Associate Dean of Social Sciences, Professor of Sociology, Gladstein (Human Rights) Committee Member
Presentations:
“The Human Rights Enterprise, Human Rights Praxis, and Struggles to End the Global ‘War on Drugs’”
William T. Armaline /San Jose State University
“Beyond Co-optation: Shadow Reports, Funding, and Human Rights Praxis”
Shweta Adur, Roseanne Njiru, Bandana Purkayastha, and Farhan Yusaf (equal co-authors) /University of Connecticut.
“Direct Action as Guarantor: Food Justice and the Human Rights Enterprise”
Deric Shannon /San Jose State University
“Undoing the Reasonable Middle: Gender and Sexuality in the Anti-austerity Movements and the Human Rights Enterprise”
Abbey Willis /University of Connecticut
“Doing Human Rights: The Human Rights Enterprise as a Model for Studying Grassroots Level Activism”
Barret Katuna /University of Connecticut

Lunch Break: Noon – 12:45pm

Pearl Room: Panel 2A - 1:00pm – 2:15pm
Beyond Hegemonic Human Rights?
Presentations:
“Human Rights Industry: Humanitarian Imperialism Toward the Global South”
Tugrul Keskin /Portland State University
“The Rise of Human Rights in the Citizenship Discourse among Religious Minorities in Egypt”
Hyun Jeong Ha /University of Texas at Austin
“Hijacking Rights: Using Local Context and Language to Refigure Human Rights Demands in the Arab Uprisings”
Nev Dzamonja /Columbia University
Christopher Kelley /Columbia University
Plymouth Room: Panel 2B - 1:00pm – 2:15pm
Locating Human Rights: Values, Institutions, and Creative Action
Presentations:
“Human Rights: How and Where Do We Learn What They Are?”
Judith Blau /Director of the Human Rights Center of Chapel Hill and Carrboro (North Carolina) and Former Chair of the Human Rights Section of the American Sociological Association
“Building a Rights-Based Framework in “Non-Immigration” Regimes: Ethnography of Labor Migrants’ Rights Activism in Israel and Singapore”
Nelly Kfir /Tel Aviv University
“Interpretive Communities, Contesting Rights”
Ishita Sharma /Columbia University
“Whose Imagination Is It Anyway? Tomatoes, Agricultural Labor, and Border Crossing Creativity”
Melissa Gouge /George Mason University

Pearl Room - Panel 3A - 2:30pm – 3:45pm
Social Agency and the Cultural Work of Global Justice
Presentations:
“From Principle to Pragmatism: The Motivational Life Cycle of Transnational Democracy and Human Rights Movements”
Tsveva Petrova /Harriman Institute at Columbia University
“Constructing Themselves as Rights-Bearing Subjects”
Federico Oliveri /Sciences for Peace Interdisciplinary Centre, University of Pisa, Italy
“Human Rights and Participatory Democracy in Venezuela”
Anderson Bean /George Mason University
“Collaborative Barriers and Cultural Brokers: Competing Conceptions of Gender Equality and Human Rights in Norte de Potosi, Bolivia”
Jenny Cockburn /University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Plymouth Room: Panel 3B - 2:30pm – 3:45pm
(Re)Capturing the Range Imagination: Reflexive, Rational, and Measured Creativity
Discussants: David Kyle /University of California, Davis and John Dale /George Mason University
Presentations:
“Eyes in the Sky: Satellite Technology and Human Rights”
Virginia K. Dixon /Open Society Foundations
“Picturing Atrocity”
Anna Gaarde /Columbia University
A.J. Juskewycz /Princeton University

Pearl Room: Panel 4A - 4:00pm – 5:15pm
The Multiple Dimensions and Principles of Global Justice
Presentations:
“Re-conceptualizing Transitional Justice”
Matiangai Sirleaf /University of Pennsylvania
Simon Robins /Independent practitioner, researcher, and consultant who holds a Ph.D. from the Post-War Reconstruction Unit of York University, United Kingdom
LaDawn Haglund /Arizona State University

Plymouth Room: Panel 4B - 4:00pm – 5:15pm
Interrogating Expert Knowledge: The (Un)Making of Torture as a Human Rights Violation
Presentations:
“How Torture Became a Violation of Human Rights: Expert Knowledge and State Cruelty in the Twentieth Century”
Lisa Stampnitzky /Harvard University
“Policing, Violence and Justice: Understanding Police Response to Human Rights Education in India”
Rachel Wahl /New York University