

**HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA
A CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 22-24, 2009**

Organized by the Human Rights Institute & UConn Law School

Thursday, October 22, 2009

UConn Law School, Hartford
William R. Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall

4:00pm Sackler Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights

Introductions by University of Connecticut President Mike Hogan

Dorothy Q. Thomas, *Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics' Centre for the Study of Human Rights*

"Are Americans Human?: An Ex-Patriot's Guide to the Future of Progressive Politics in the U.S."

Reception to Follow, Reading Room- Starr Hall

6:00pm Dinner, Reading Room-Starr Hall
(Dinner is open to conference speakers and those who made reservations in advance)

Friday, October 23, 2009

UConn Law School, Hartford

8:00am-9:00am Registration & Breakfast - William F. Starr Hall, Reading Room

8:50am-9:00am Welcoming Remarks – Jeremy Paul, Dean UConn School of Law

9:00am-10:30am Session 1 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

1) Criminal Punishment in the United States

Location: Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder Trial Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Susie Schmeiser, *University of Connecticut School of Law*

Ben Fleury-Steiner, *University of Delaware.*

"Confronting HIV/AIDS in U.S. Carceral Institutions: Lessons from the Southern Center for Human Rights' Leatherwood Litigation."

Mie Lewis, *ACLU Women's Rights Project*

"The Future of Human Rights for Child Prisoners in the United States."

Linda Meyer, *Quinnipiac University*

"The Ignominious or More Painful Parts: The Cruelty of Punishment in America."

Nkechi Taifa, *Open Society Institute*

"Manifestations of Genocide: The Impact of Racism in the U.S. Criminal Justice System."

2) Environmental Justice, Future Generations, and Human Rights

Location: William R. Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Rich Hiskes, *University of Connecticut*

Joanne Bauer, *Columbia University*

"Human Rights: The Critical Link between Environmental Justice and Corporate Responsibility."

Rebecca Bratspies, *CUNY School of Law*

"What are Environmental Rights?"

Elizabeth Burleson, *University of San Diego School of Law*

"Climate Change Displacement to Refuge"

James Nickel, *University of Miami*

"Linkage Arguments from Human Rights to Environmental Protections."

10:30am-10:45 Break, William F. Starr Hall, Reading Room

10:45am-12:15pm Session 2 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

3) Economic Rights and Poverty

Location: Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder Trial Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Shareen Hertel, *University of Connecticut*

Discussants: Ken Neubeck, *University of Connecticut Emeritus*; Susan Randolph, *University of Connecticut*

Catherine Albisa, *National Economic and Social Rights Initiative*

"Drawing Lines in the Sand: The Development of New Rights Norms in the United States"

Philip Harvey, *Rutgers University School of Law, Camden*

"A Rights-Based Anti-Recession Strategy: What American Progressives Learned from the New Deal and then Forgot."

Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, *Wilfrid Laurier University*

"The Yellow Sweatshirt: Human Dignity and Economic Human Rights in Advanced Industrial Democracies."

Gillian MacNaughton, *University of Oxford*

"A Holistic Human Rights Perspective on Poverty."

4) Disability and Human Rights

Location: William R. Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Kaaryn Gustafson, *University of Connecticut School of Law*

Jill Anderson, *University of Connecticut*

"Rights in Pieces: The Language of Disability Discrimination."

Rangita de Silva de Alwis, *Wellesley College*

"Transforming the Intersections of the CEDAW and CRPD in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Nepal: Some Lessons for the United States."

Janet Lord, *American University*

"The Law and Politics of US Participation in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"

Kathy Martinez, *Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)*

"*Disability Employment Policy: A Human Rights Issue*; Leading a Comprehensive and Coordinated National Policy Regarding the Employment of People with Disabilities"

5) The Degree to which the U.S. is Answerable to International Institutions Regarding Human Rights

Location: Library, Room 202

Chair: Richard S. Kay, University of Connecticut School of Law

William Dunlap, *Quinnipiac University School of Law*

"American Exceptionalism and International Criminal Tribunals"

Ellen Messer, *Brandeis University*

"The Human Right to Food. Is or should the U.S. be answerable to international institutions?"

Simon Payaslian, *Boston University*

"The U.S. War in Iraq, War Refugees, and International Obligations"

Andreas Teuber, *Brandeis University*

"The Hunting of the Snark: Finding Human Rights in International Law and the U. S. Constitution."

12:30-2:00 Lunch, William F. Starr Hall, Reading Room

2:00pm-3:30pm Session 3 (Panels Run Concurrently)

6) Health Care Coverage in the USA through a Human Rights Lens

Location: Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder Trial Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Audrey Chapman, *University of Connecticut Health Center*

Alicia Ely Yamin, *Harvard University Law School*

"Health care reform in the US: The Relevance of International Human Rights."

Anja Rudiger, *National Economic and Social Rights Initiative*

"Human Rights Principles for Health Care Reform."

Nancy Turnbull, *Harvard School of Public Health*

"Health Reform in Massachusetts: A Human Rights Perspective."

7) Human Rights, Institutional Cultures, and the Legacy of the War on Terror

Location: Library, Room 202

Chair: Janet Bauer, *Trinity College*

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"Entrapment and the War on Rights: Ethnographic Interventions."

Zachary Calo, *Valparaiso University School of Law*

"Torture, Necessity, and the Authority of Human Rights."

Christopher Einolf, *DePaul University School of Public Service*

"Human Rights Law, Informal Norms, and Torture in the History of the United States Army."

Winifred Tate, *Colby College*

"The U.S. Southern Command, Human Rights, and Military Memory: Lessons from US Engagement in Latin America."

8) Mobilizing and Legislating for a Human Rights Based Approach to Welfare

Location: William R. Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Kathy Libal, *University of Connecticut*

Discussant: Nancy Naples, *University of Connecticut*

Mimi Abramowitz, *Hunter College School of Social Work and the Graduate Center, CUNY*

"The US Welfare State: A Battlefield for Human Rights."

Ken Neubeck, *University of Connecticut Emeritus*

"Human Rights Violations as Obstacles to Escaping Poverty: The Case of Lone Mother-Headed Families."

Eric Tars, *National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty*

"A Proper Home for Housing Advocacy: A Human Rights Approach to Housing and Homelessness."

3:30pm-3:45pm Break

3:45pm-5:15pm Session 4 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

9) Children's Human Rights in the United States

Location– William R. Davis Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Kathy Libal, *University of Connecticut*

Discussant: Lynne Healy, *University of Connecticut*

Kathy Libal, *University of Connecticut*

"America's Shame: The Politics of Recognizing Children's Economic Human Rights in the United States."

Rosemary Link, *Simpson College*

"Are Children's Rights a Family Affair: Parental and Cultural Implications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?"

Susan Mapp, *Elizabethtown College*

"Violations of Children's Rights in the United States."

Jonathan Todres, *Georgia State University College of Law*

"The U.S. Role in Advancing the Rights and Well-being of Children at Home and Abroad."

10) Immigration Rights and Political Agency

Location: Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder Trial Courtroom, Starr Hall

Chair: Mark Overmyer-Velazquez, *University of Connecticut*

Andrea Dyrness, *Trinity College*

Kica Matos, *US Reconciliation and Human Rights Program - Atlantic Philanthropies*

Enrique Sepulveda, *St. Joseph's College*

6:00pm Dinner – Barca Hartford

(Dinner is open to conference speakers and those who made reservations in advance)

7:30pm Theatrical Production

Amalia's Story: a vignette of The Parkville Project

Location: Barca Hartford

For More Information: <http://www.batedbreaththeatre.org>

Saturday, October 24, 2009.

University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus

Rome Ballroom

8:30am-9:30 – Breakfast & Registration, Rome Ballroom

9:30am-11:00am Keynote Lecture

Professor Linda Kerber, *University of Iowa*

"Universal Human Rights and the Asymmetries of Citizenship"

Opening Remarks by CLAS Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum

Introductions by Bob Gross, James and Shirley Draper Chair in Early American History

Sponsored by the James and Shirley Draper Chair in Early American History

11:00am-11:15am Break

11:15am-12:30pm Session 5 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

11) The Shield of Citizenship: Historical Anomalies for Human Rights

Chair: Richard Brown, *University of Connecticut*

Discussant: Linda Kerber, *University of Iowa*

Bethany Berger, *University of Connecticut Law School*
"Realizing Human Rights: Native American Dilemmas."

Elizabeth Hillman, *University of California-Hastings College of Law*
"Human Rights and Military Justice: from the Civil War to the 'War on Terror'."

12) Katrina through an Economic Rights Lens

Chair: Evelyn Simien, *University of Connecticut*

Discussants: Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, *The New School* and Heather Turcotte, *University of Connecticut*

Davida Finger, *Loyola University New Orleans College of Law*

Rachel Luft, *University of New Orleans*

"Post Hurricane Katrina Evacuation and Housing Policy: A Human Rights and Social Movements' Analysis."

Hope Lewis, *Northeastern University School of Law*

"'Darkness Made Visible': An American Disaster in Transnational Perspective"

Kristen Lewis, *Social Science Research Council, American Human Development Project*

"A Portrait of Louisiana: Louisiana Human Development Report 2009."

13) Implementing Human Rights at the Local Level

Chair: Ken Neubeck, *University of Connecticut Emeritus*

Judith Blau, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

"International Human Rights Arrive in Carrboro, North Carolina - Processes, Coalitions, Projects."

Ejim Dike, *Human Rights Project Urban Justice Center*

"Advancing Substantive Equality through City Governance: Lessons from the Human Rights Framework."

Risa Kaufman, *Columbia University Law School*

"State and Local Commissions as Sites for Domestic Human Rights Implementation."

Chivy Sok, *Ginetta Sagan Fund of Amnesty International USA*

"A Challenge to All: Meaningful Implementation of Human Rights."

12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch

2:00pm-3:30pm Session 6 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

14) Economic Justice

Chair: Davita Glasberg, *University of Connecticut*

Angie Beeman, *University of Connecticut*

Colleen Casey, *University of Texas at Arlington*

"Keeping Hearth and Home: Economic Justice and Resistance to Predatory Lending and Housing Foreclosure."

Jon Green, *Working Families Party*

Bandana Purkayastha, *University of Connecticut*

"Never a Right in Sight": Economic Justice from the Perspective of Immigrant Female Workers in the Informal Economy."

15) Is Domestic Violence in the USA a Human Rights Violation?

Chair: Serena Parekh, *University of Connecticut*

Caroline Bettinger- Lopez, *Columbia University Law School, Human Rights Clinic*

"Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Violation: New Directions for Advocates and Scholars."

Sally Merry, *New York University*

"The Curious Resistance to Seeing Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Violation in the USA."

Evan Stark, *Rutgers University, School of Public Affairs and Administration*

"Framing Coercive Control as a Human Rights Crime."

16) Neither Separate Nor Equal: Human Rights and the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Individuals in the United States

Chair: Valerie Love, *University of Connecticut*

Lee Badgett, *Center for Public Policy and Administration, University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

"Gay economic interests vs. the Gay Marriage Movement? Reconciling the Tensions between Two Human Rights Movements"

Leslie Gabel-Brett, *Lambda Legal National Headquarters*

"Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples: A Fundamental Human Right."

Julie Mertus, *American University*

"LGBT Rights are Human Rights: Gatekeepers, Draw Bridges and the Rainbow Parade."

3:30pm-3:45pm Break

3:45pm-5:15pm Session 7 (*Panels Run Concurrently*)

17) Rights Activism around CEDAW in the USA

Chair: Manisha Desai, *University of Connecticut*

Ashley Balbian, *SUNY-Potsdam*

Susanne Zwingel, *SUNY-Potsdam*

"American Exceptionalism" and International Women's Rights – An Unhappy Marriage?"

Sheila Dauer, *Columbia University Teachers College*

"Human Rights' Best Allies: Survivors of Violence and Discrimination, Service Providers and NGOs."

Debra Liebowitz, *Drew University*

"The Practice of Feminist Human Rights: Theorizing the Substance and Politics of Local Human Rights Ordinances in the United States."

18) Researching Economic Rights in the USA

Chair: David Richards, *University of Memphis*

Discussants: David Richards, *University of Memphis* and Lyle Scruggs, *University of Connecticut*

David Cingranelli, *SUNY-Binghamton*

"Measuring and Explaining the Gap between ILO Standards and US Labor Policies."

Patrick Heidkamp, *Southern Connecticut State University*

"Measuring Economic Rights in the USA: A Spatial Analytic Perspective."

Lanse Minkler, *University of Connecticut*

"On the Cost of Economic Rights in the US."

Susan Randolph, *University of Connecticut*, Michelle Prairie, *University of Nottingham*, John Stewart, *University of Hartford*

"Economic Rights in the Land of Plenty: Monitoring State Fulfillment of Economic & Social Rights Obligations in the United States."