



# Speakers List: Global Conference on Human Rights & Diverse Societies

McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

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## **Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez**



Isabel Altamirano is an Indigenous Zapotec from southern Mexico. She holds a joint appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. She has done extensive research comparing Indigenous politics and women in Canada and Mexico. Altamirano has published a number of articles and book chapters, including “The Construction of Difference and Indigenous Transnationalism in North America,” “Neo-Liberal and Social Investment Re-constructions of Woman and Indigeneity,” “Nunavut: Whose Home-Land, Whose Voices,” “Indigenous Peoples and the Topography of Gender in Mexico and Canada.” She teaches, among other courses, Indigenous peoples and Globalization, Gender and Nationalism, Aboriginal Women, Theories and Methods of Comparative politics and Comparative Indigenous North America.

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## **Valérie Amiraux**



Political Education (Ph.D. Institute of Political Studies in Paris), historian (MA, Paris IV-Sorbonne) and Arabian (Arabic Literal License, INALCO-Paris) Valérie Amiraux joined the Department of Sociology, University of Montreal in August 2007, becoming Chair of Canada Research Studies of religious pluralism and ethnicity. Auparavant, elle occupait le poste de chargée de recherche en sociologie au CNRS. Previously, she served as research fellow in sociology at the CNRS.

As part of its Chair, she developed several lines of research around the theme of religious pluralism and the relationship between minority rights and religious recognition in the context of secularization. Deux projets structurent plus précisément les travaux conduits actuellement. Two projects specifically structured the work done now. Le premier compare l'évolution des régimes de sécularité européens faisant l'épreuve de la pluralisation religieuse ; le second engage une réflexion plus théorique autour de deux concepts, celui de pluralisme et celui de radicalisation. The first one compares the evolution of European secular regimes being the test of religious pluralization, the second a more theoretical commitments around two concepts, that of pluralism and that of radicalization. Dans ces deux cas, la réflexion sur le rôle de l'arène juridique dans la constitution des enjeux publics est privilégiée, notamment à partir de la sociologie du droit. In both cases, the reflection on the role of the legal arena in the formation of public issues is preferred, especially from the sociology of law.

Within the department, she wants to initiate discussion on issues of methods of comparison, from the project review Compare Electronic Journal of comparisons in the social sciences.

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## **Kirsten Anker**



Kirsten Anker teaches in the areas of property and Aboriginal peoples and the law, and has research interests that combine property, Aboriginal title, legal theory, translation studies, anthropology, education, evidence, and alternative dispute resolution. Her doctoral dissertation, entitled "The Unofficial Law of Native Title: Recognition of Legal Pluralism in Australia", explores various aspects of claiming Native (Aboriginal) Title as a way to inspire a re-imagination of law.

With undergraduate degrees from the University of Sydney in Physics and Law, Professor Anker was a Boulton Fellow at McGill in 2004. She is currently one of the principal researchers on a project in partnership between McGill Faculty of Law and Justice Canada, investigating the inclusion of Indigenous legal traditions in the Transsystemic Legal Education program at McGill.

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## **Didier Bigo**



Didier Bigo is Professor at King's College London Department of War studies and MCU Research Professor at Sciences-Po Paris. He is co-editor with Rob Walker of International Political Sociology one of the journals of the International Studies Association published by Willey Blackwell, <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118537913/issue> and also editor of the quarterly journal in French Cultures et Conflits published by l'Harmattan <http://www.cairn.info/revue-cultures-et-conflits.htm>. He is responsible of the WP1 of the FP7 INEX on internal and external security <http://www.inexproject.eu/> and has been the scientific coordinator for the FP6 Challenge. <http://www.libertysecurity.org/>

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## **Bidisha Biswas**



Bidisha Biswas is Associate Professor of Political Science at Western Washington University. Her research interests include international intervention in civil conflicts, post-conflict reconstruction, terrorism and counterterrorism, diaspora politics and border security. Her work has been supported by the National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) and the Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI). Professor Biswas has also worked for the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals and other outlets, including *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, *Politics and Policy*, *Civil Wars*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* and *South Asia Monitor*. More information is available at <http://myweb.facstaff.wwu.edu/~biswasb/>.

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## **Colette Braeckman**



Journalist and reporter at *Le Soir* (Brussels), after covering conflicts (Cambodia, Central America, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia) Colette Braeckman has focused on Central Africa since the mid eighties. She followed closely on then Zaïre and wrote a book, *"Le Dinosaur, ou le Zaïre de Mobutu"* (éditions Fayard, 1991). She was in Rwanda before, during and after the genocide and reported extensively on this dramatic event, and also on the responsibilities of the international community, and wrote a book *"Rwanda, Histoire d'un génocide"* Fayard 1994.

She then followed the regional consequences of the genocide in Rwanda: destabilization, flow of refugees into neighboring countries, Burundi, Tanzania, Congo and published *"Afrique centrale, les racines de la violence"* Fayard 1996. During the two wars in the Democratic Republic of Congo she followed the refugee issue, the fall of Mobutu and the way Laurent Désiré Kabila went into power, she was in Kinshasa after his assassination and when his son, Joseph Kabila was sworn in. Another book was published: *"l'enjeu congolais"* (Fayard 2000) explaining why

the countries of the region were involved in the war in Congo. During the war, the peace negotiations, and the elections of 2006, she closely followed another aspect of the conflict: the looting of the resources and wrote "les Nouveaux prédateurs" Fayard 2002. She also co-produced a film "L'or noyé de Kamituga". After the elections in the DRC and analyzing the new prospects for peace and development, she wrote "Vers la deuxième indépendance du Congo?" éditions Le Cri/Afrique Editions. She contributed to several publications such as "Le Monde Diplomatique" and books like "L'échec d'une décolonisation" éditions André Versailles, 2010.

She has participated in many conferences on these matters, focusing on issues of the violence against women, the recruitment of child soldiers, and the way the natural resources have continue to fuel armed groups.

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## **Joris de Bres**



Joris de Bres has been New Zealand's Race Relations Commissioner since 2002. He was previously General Manager, External Relations in the New Zealand Department of Conservation and, before that, head of industrial relations for the New Zealand Public Service Association.

His main focus as Race Relations Commissioner has been to encourage central and local government, business and community organisations to develop their own diversity programmes and to come together in the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme. The Commission facilitates the Programme, including networks on religious diversity, media diversity, language policy and refugee issues, and an annual New Zealand Diversity Forum. Other initiatives have been the production of an annual review of race relations, the development of national statements on religious diversity, language policy and race relations, monthly acknowledgments of individuals and organisations for positive contributions to race relations, and the annual New Zealand Diversity Awards.

Internationally, he has contributed to increased engagement of National Human Rights Institutions with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and other Treaty bodies, and chaired the group of 39 NHRI's that participated in the Durban Review Conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in Geneva in 2009. The New Zealand Human Rights Commission co-hosted, with the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, an International Race Relations Roundtable for NHRI's in Auckland in 2004.

He is also Vice-Chairperson of Oxfam New Zealand, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Victoria University Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research.

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### **Elizabeth K. Cassidy**



Elizabeth K. Cassidy joined the Commission in 2007 as International Legal Specialist and became Deputy Director for Policy and Research in 2009. Previously, she was Assistant Executive Director of UN Watch, a non-governmental organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where she monitored and analyzed United Nations affairs, with a particular focus on the U.N.'s Geneva-based human rights bodies. Before UN Watch, Ms. Cassidy taught courses in constitutional law, comparative law, and international human rights law at Princeton University, Seton Hall University School of Law and the University of Namibia and worked as a legal consultant to several human rights NGOs in Windhoek, Namibia. She also has practiced law in the Washington, D.C. office of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld and worked as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Richard Nygaard of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Hon. William Bassler of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Ms. Cassidy holds a B.A. in international politics from Wesleyan University, a J.D. from American University's Washington College of Law, and a LL.M in comparative constitutional law from the University of Stellenbosch.

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### **The Honourable Irwin Cotler**



Law Professor, Constitutional and Comparative Law Scholar, International Human Rights Lawyer, Counsel to prisoners of conscience, NGO Head, Public Intellectual, Peace Activist, Member of Parliament, and Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada – Irwin Cotler has been variously described in these roles and responsibilities as being "at the forefront of the struggle for justice, peace and human rights."

Irwin Cotler is presently a Canadian Member of Parliament. He served as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada from December 2003 to January 2006. He is currently serving as Special Counsel on Human Rights & International Justice, is a member of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Human Rights, and Chair of the All-Party Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition. A leading public advocate in and out of Parliament for the Human Rights Agenda, he headed the Canadian Delegation to the Stockholm International Forum on the Prevention of Genocide.

Mr. Cotler is Professor Emeritus of Law at McGill University, and Chair of InterAmicus, the McGill-based International Human Rights Advocacy Centre. He has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Yale Law School, and is the recipient of ten Honourary Doctorates.

A long-time advocate in the international struggle against racism and discrimination of any kind, Professor Cotler was at the forefront of the international struggle against apartheid, as well as the architect of legal remedies against racism in Canada and beyond, both in his capacity as Minister of Justice and formerly as legal counsel for national and international NGOs.

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## **François Crépeau**



François Crépeau is the Hans and Tamar Oppenheimer Professor of International Public Law at the Faculty of Law of McGill University. The focus of his current research includes migration control mechanisms, the rights of foreigners, the conceptualization of security as it applies to migrants, and the Rule of Law in the face of globalization.

François Crépeau has given many conferences, published numerous articles, and written or directed five books: *Les migrations internationales contemporaines – Une dynamique complexe au cœur de la globalisation* (2009), *Penser l'international, Perspectives et contributions des sciences sociales* (2007), *Forced Migration and Global Processes - A View from Forced*



Migration Studies (2006), Mondialisation des échanges et fonctions de l'État (1997) and Droit d'asile: De l'hospitalité aux contrôles migratoires (1995). He heads the "Mondialisation et droit international" collection at Éditions Bruylant (Brussels), is a member of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and a fellow of the Institute for Research in Public Policies (IRPP). He also sits on the Barreau du Québec's Committee on Human Rights and Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

From 2001 to 2008, he was a professor at the Université de Montréal, holder of the Canada Research Chair in International Migration Law, and founding scientific director of the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'Université de Montréal (CÉRIUM). From 1990 to 2001, he was a professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal. He also served as vice-president of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation (now Equitas) (1992-2004) and director of the Revue québécoise de droit international (1996-2004). He participated in observer missions in the occupied Palestinian territories (2002) and in El Salvador (1991).

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## **Kenneth Deer**



Mr. Deer is a member of the Bear Clan from the Mohawk community of Kahnawake and Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake. He is the former editor of *The Eastern Door*, an award-winning and independent newspaper serving his community. Mr. Deer has been active at the community level for many years in the areas of education, recreation and indigenous rights. He has been involved for 16 years in education as an education counselor, high school principal, co-founder of the First Nations Education Council and co-founder and co-chairman of the National Indian Education Council in Canada.

For the last 23 years he has worked as a political activist and has been heavily involved in the Indigenous International Movement at the United Nations in Geneva and New York. He attended most of the meetings on the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and organized the Indigenous Caucus in both Geneva and New York.

Mr. Deer has been appointed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Populations from 2009 to 2011. He recently received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2010 for Media and Communications. He is currently the owner of Deer Communications, a consulting company on media, international affairs and Human Rights.



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## Edward Durie



The Honourable Sir Edward (Taihākurei) Durie KNZM, BA.LLB has received honorary doctorates from Victoria University of Wellington, Massey University and Waikato University.

He is Ngati Kauwhata, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Rangatahi, Rangitane and Ngati Toa of Manawatu-Horowhenua-Kapiti.

Justice Durie is a graduate of Te Aute College and of Victoria University and a former lawyer (from 1965). He was the first Maori appointed to the Maori Land Court where he was a judge (from 1974). He became Chief Judge of that Court (1980 – 2000) and substantially established the Waitangi Tribunal as Chairperson (1980-2000). He was later Judge of the High Court (1998 – 2000) and a New Zealand Law Commissioner (2004 – 2007).

Following retirement in 2007 he undertook advisory work for government (including as chair of the Foreshore and Seabed Review Panel in 2009 and with the Maori Advisory Committee to Housing NZ) and also in the voluntary sector, on the Treaty claims of his tribal groups of Manawatu-Horowhenua, on matters relating to his former school, Te Aute College and his family sporting and educational academy Tu Toa, and as a trustee for the Robson-Hanan Trust (Rethinking Crime and Punishment) and Te Kahui Mana Ririki Trust (children and family violence).

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## Pearl Eliadis



Pearl Eliadis is a human rights lawyer based in Montreal. With common law and civil law degrees from McGill University and Oxford, Pearl has been retained on domestic and international human rights and democratic governance issues in Canada, China, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Tajikistan and Ethiopia. Her areas of experience include national human rights institutions, civil and political rights, national security issues, minority rights, and economic, social and cultural issues. She has acted as senior advisor and consultant to the United Nations, the European Commission, various NGOs and international consortia. Previously, Pearl was Director of Policy and Education at the Ontario Human Rights Commission (1995-2001).

Pearl is admitted to the Quebec and Ontario Bar Associations. She is an active member of the Canadian Bar Association's Constitutional and Human Rights section (Quebec) and the Quebec Bar Association's Human Rights Committee. Pearl has been engaged in public and legal debates on reasonable accommodation, equality issues and discrimination.

Pearl is past President of Equitas, a recipient of the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal and most recently, the 2009 Woman of the Year Award (Montreal Council of Women). Pearl also serves on several community and advisory boards with a focus on the well-being of women and children.

She has co-edited three books on human rights and public policy, and authored numerous articles on immigration, human rights and public policy. She has served on the editorial board of the Federated Press journal *Charter and Human Rights Litigation* for more than ten years.

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## **Anver Emon**



A native Californian, Anver M. Emon joined University of Toronto's Faculty of Law in 2005. Professor Emon's research focuses on premodern and modern Islamic legal history and theory; premodern modes of governance and adjudication; and the role of Shari'a both inside and outside the Muslim world. His general academic interests include medieval intellectual and religious history; law and religion; legal history; and legal philosophy. He teaches Tort Law and offers specialized seminars on Islamic legal history, gender and Islamic law, and law and religion. Additionally, he supervises graduate students in advanced research in Islamic law and history. Professor Emon is the author of *Islamic Natural Law Theories* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), and is the founding editor of *Middle East Law and Governance: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (published by Brill).

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## **Mark Freiman**



Mark Freiman is a lawyer, public servant and president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He served as Lead Commission Counsel for the Air India Inquiry under Justice John Major. In 2010, he joined Lerner's LLP's partnership after having been a partner in the Toronto law firm McCarthy Tétrault. Previously he has taught at the University of Toronto and served from 2000 to 2004 as Deputy Attorney-General of Ontario and Deputy Minister Responsible for Native Affairs.

In his earlier professional life he served as law clerk to then Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Brian Dickson and as senior policy advisor to then Attorney General of Ontario Ian Scott.

Freiman earned his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Toronto in 1969 and a PhD from Stanford University in 1977. He graduated from the University of Toronto Law School in 1983 and was called to the bar in 1985. He was elected president of the Canadian Jewish Congress in 2009.

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## **Jameel Jaffer**



Jameel Jaffer directs the ACLU's National Security Project, which litigates civil liberties and human rights cases relating to detention, surveillance, censorship, discrimination, and secrecy. Among the Project's current cases are *Amnesty v. Blair*, a challenge to warrantless wiretapping under the amended Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; *Mohamed v. Jeppesen*, a suit against a Boeing subsidiary that facilitated the CIA's "extraordinary rendition" program; *Kindhearts v.*

Paulson, a challenge to the Treasury Department's blacklisting of a prominent U.S.-based charity as a "specially designated terrorist organization"; and *ACLU v. Department of Defense*, landmark litigation under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that has resulted in the release of thousands of documents concerning the abuse of prisoners held by the U.S. overseas. Mr. Jaffer has testified before the U.S. Congress about civil liberties issues relating to national security, and his co-authored book, *Administration of Torture*, an edited collection of government documents relating to the abuse of prisoners, was published by Columbia University Press in 2007. He is a graduate of Williams College, Cambridge University, and Harvard Law School. Before joining the staff of the ACLU in 2002, he served as law clerk to Hon. Amalya L. Kearse, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and to Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada.

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## **Thupten Jinpa**



Thupten Jinpa, Ph.D., was educated at the Shartse College of Ganden Monastic University, South India, where he received the Geshe Lharam degree. In addition, Jinpa holds a B.A. Honors in philosophy and a Ph.D. in religious studies, both from Cambridge University. He taught at Ganden monastery and worked as a research fellow in Eastern religions at Girton College, Cambridge University.

Jinpa has been the principal English translator to H.H. the Dalai Lama for over twenty five years and has translated and edited numerous books by the Dalai Lama, including *Ethics for the New Millennium*, *Transforming the Mind*, and *The Universe in a Single Atom: Convergence of Science and Spirituality*, and the recently published *Toward a True Kinship of Faiths: How the World's Religions can Come Together*. His own publications include works in both Tibetan and English, including *Songs of Spiritual Experience* (co-authored), *Self, Reality and Reason in Tibetan Philosophy*, *Mind Training: The Great Collection*, and *The Book of Kadam: The Core Texts*, the last two being part of THE LIBRARY OF TIBETAN CLASSICS series.

Jinpa is an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill University, Montreal and a visiting scholar and an executive committee member at the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE), the School of Medicine, Stanford University. In addition, Jinpa has been a core member of the Mind and Life Institute, dedicated to promoting dialogues between the sciences and contemplative knowledge, especially Buddhism. He is the president of the Institute of Tibetan Classics, Montreal, and, as the general series editor, heads its

project of critical editing, translation and publication of key classical Tibetan texts aimed at creating a definitive reference series entitled THE LIBRARY OF TIBETAN CLASSICS.

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## **Malalai Joya**



Malalai Joya is the youngest member of the Afghan Parliament and a strong anti-war voice from Afghanistan. She was elected to the 249-seat National Assembly or Wolesi Jirga in September 2005, as a representative of Farah Province. Malalai won the second highest number of votes in the province. Malalai Joya rose to fame and gained international attention in December 2003 when, as an elected delegate to the Constitutional Loya Jirga, she spoke out publicly against the domination of warlords which caused an uproar. Since then she has survived five assassination attempts, and travels in Afghanistan under a *burqa* and with armed guards.

Malalai was 4 years old when her family fled Afghanistan in 1982 to the refugee camps of Iran and then Pakistan. She finished her education in Pakistan and began teaching literacy courses to other women at age 19. Malalai Joya returned to Afghanistan in 1998 during the Taliban's reign and began teaching women in secret home-based classes, as education to women was banned at that time. During that time she also established an orphanage and health clinic, and was soon a vocal opponent of the Taliban.

Joya has always publicly denounced the fundamentalist warlords and asked for their prosecution as war criminals. She also strongly opposes the occupation of Afghanistan by the US/NATO and accuses them of pushing Afghan people “from the frying pan into the fire”.

Joya wrote her life story in a book “A Woman among Warlords” which has been published in 10 languages.

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## **Akash Kapur**



Mr. Kapur is an author and journalist whose work has been published in The Atlantic, The Economist, Granta, The New York Times Book Review, and The New Yorker, among other places. He writes the fortnightly “Letter from India” column for the International Herald Tribune and NYTimes.com. His book on social and economic change in modern India will be published by Penguin-Riverhead in early 2011.

Akash graduated Summa Cum Laude from Harvard University with a major in Social Anthropology. He has a DPhil in Law from Oxford University (Nuffield College), which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar, and where he studied regulation and policies to bridge the digital divide.

He has consulted on technology policy and development for The United Nations Development Program, The Markle Foundation, The US Trade and Development Agency, and various other organizations and companies.

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## **Sputnik Kilambi**



Sputnik Kilambi is currently the Knight Fellow for International Journalism in Rwanda, working towards capacity building, training of journalists and producers, and programme development with CONTACT FM, a private radio station in Kigali which boasts the biggest listening audience in the country. From 2004 to 2006, she was chief of radio ONUCI FM, the radio of the UN mission in Cote d’Ivoire. From 2002 to 2003 she was Chief Radio Producer/Editor at UNMIK Radio, a key component of the UN’s department of public information in Kosovo. There she was responsible for developing and supervising production of daily feature programmes in four languages (Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and English) on developments in Kosovo and the region with special emphasis on reconciliation and conflict resolution for distribution on local radio

stations. She has also worked at France Culture on a 90 minute documentary on threshold drawings in southern India and the status of women; RTE (Irish National Radio) working on political travelogues for “World Report” from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Colombia and India; as a presenter of half-hour business programme “Euro-business” for People Television, Paris; as a reporter for Channel 4 pilot programme on economic globalization, reportage in Brazil; and as an interviewer and presenter for TV-Monde, cable channel featuring documentaries, fiction and current affairs from around the world. Ms. Kilambi received her B.A., M.A., and pre-doctoral research diploma (Licence, Maitrise and D.E.A.) in ethnology and comparative sociology at the Nanterre University in France. She speaks English, French, German, Hindi and Telugu.

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## **Arne Kislenko**



Adjunct Professor in the International Relations Program at the Munk School for International Studies at the University of Toronto. His teaching focus is on 19th and 20th century international relations, and includes courses on the two world wars, the Cold War, the history of espionage, comparative foreign policy, modern Southeast Asia, and culture/identity/nationalities.

He has won several awards for his teaching, including Ryerson University's first President's Award for Teaching Excellence (2007), the inaugural Province of Ontario Leadership in Faculty Teaching (LIFT) Award (2007), and being named as an Honourary Member of the Golden Key Society (2006). In Fall 2005 he was named Ontario's "Best Lecturer" by TV Ontario following its first "Academic Idol" contest ([http://www.tvo.org/TVOsites/WebObjects/TvoMicrosite.woa?bi\\_best\\_lecturer](http://www.tvo.org/TVOsites/WebObjects/TvoMicrosite.woa?bi_best_lecturer)). In the Summer of 2008 he was a Visiting Professor at the Freie Universitat Berlin International Summer programme (FUBIS). In 2006 he served as a Visiting Professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universitat Berlin.

Arne's research interests include United States diplomatic history, 20th century international relations, modern Southeast Asia, and contemporary intelligence/national security issues. His publications include Culture and Customs of Laos (2009), Culture and Customs of Thailand (2004), The Uneasy Century: International Relations, 1900-1990 (with Dr. Margaret MacMillan, 1996), several chapter contributions to books, and numerous journal and encyclopaedic articles on a wide range of topics.



Arne graduated with an Honours B.A. in History and Politics (1987) and an M.A. in History (1988), both from the University of Western Ontario. Arne completed his Ph.D. in History at the University of Toronto (2000) while teaching at Ryerson and U of T and working with Canada Immigration at Lester B. Pearson Airport. He served there for 12 years as a Senior Officer, dealing with many high profile and national security cases.

He appears regularly in the media commenting on current affairs, including U.S. foreign policy, national security, terrorism, immigration, and modern diplomatic history. He is also the host of a National Geographic television documentary series scheduled to air in October 2010.

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## **Denis MacShane**



The Right Honourable Dr. Denis MacShane MP is widely recognised as one of the British Parliament's leading policy experts on European and international affairs. He worked at the Foreign Office from 1997-2005 as a Parliamentary Private Secretary and then a Minister. He was deputy to the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, and Minister for Europe until 2005. Well-known in France, Germany, Poland and Spain for his newspaper articles and appearances on television and radio, Dr. MacShane is the author of several books on international politics. Dr. MacShane has been the Labour MP for the steel-making town of Rotherham in South Yorkshire since 1994. Before that he worked as a BBC reporter and international trade union official. Books Denis MacShane has written or co-authored include: 1979 "Using the media", 1981 "Solidarity - Poland's Independent Trade Union", 1982 "Francois Mitterrand", 1984 "Power! Black Workers and Unions in South Africa", 1990 "The Cold War and International Labour", 1992 "Friendly Fire", 1996 "The Future of the Steel Industry", 2006 "Edward Heath", 2008 "Globalising Hatred. The New Antisemitism".

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## **Mary McAndrew**



Marie Mc Andrew is a full professor in the Department of Educational Administration and Foundations, at the University of Montreal. She holds a PhD in Comparative Education and specialized in the education of minorities and intercultural education. From 1989 to 1991, as an advisor to the deputy-minister's cabinet of the Quebec Ministère des Communautés culturelles et de l'Immigration.

From 1996 to 2002, she was the Director of Immigration and Metropolis, the Inter-university Research Centre of Montreal on Immigration, Integration and Urban Dynamics. From 1993 to 2004, Dr. McAndrew also co-ordinated the Research Group on Ethnicity and Adaptation to Pluralism in Education (Groupe de recherche sur l'ethnicité et l'adaptation au pluralisme en éducation - GREAPE). Presenting an original synthesis of the studies conducted by the group since 1992, her book "Immigration et diversité à l'école : le cas québécois dans une perspective comparative" won the Donner prize 2001 attributed to the best book on Canadian public policy.

Since June 2003, she has held the Chair for Ethnic Relations and in June 2006, she was awarded a SSHRC Canada Senior research Chair on Education and Ethnic Relations. Her more recent book, "Les majorités fragiles et l'Éducation: Belgique, Catalogne, Irlande du Nord, Québec, (PUM, 2010)" studies various issues, often contested, such as common schooling, the teaching of History in the context of competing memories, linguistic integration of immigrants, as well as the taking into account of diversity in schools.

In June 2005, she received the Prix québécois de la citoyenneté Jacques-Couture pour le rapprochement interculturel, in recognition of the relevance of her involvement in research and dissemination for the development of public policies, better adapted to pluralism. She was also a member of the Consultative Committee on integration and reasonable accommodation in the school setting, established by the minister of Education of Quebec in October 2006.

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**Kathleen Mahoney**



Kathleen Mahoney has dedicated much of her research, practice, and activism to internationally critical issues in human rights. She has published extensively and appeared as counsel in leading cases in the Supreme Court of Canada. She has also organized and participated in collaborative human rights and judicial education projects in Geneva, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Spain, Israel, China, Vietnam, the United States, and the United Nations. She was a founder of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund and a pioneer of the judicial movement in Canada. She was recently named an expert advisor to the Interaction Council, an organization of former heads of state seeking to advance the cause of human rights in the world.

In 2006, Professor Mahoney was named the Canadian Director of a 5 year project on judicial education in Vietnam.

In 2004, Professor Mahoney spearheaded and authored a major research project and Report examining the Canadian government's response to the claims of Aboriginal residential school survivors. This led to her appointment as the Chief Negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations and the subsequent historic settlement agreement with Canada for reparations and a Truth and Reconciliation Process which will be unique in the world.

Among her many awards, Professor Mahoney won the Bertha Wilson Touchtone Award in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments in the promotion of equality in Canada in 2000.

In 2001, she was awarded the Governor General's medal. In 2002 she was awarded the University of Calgary's Excellence Award for Inspiration and Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Research. She received the Alberta Centennial Medal in 2005 for her contribution to the advancement of human rights. In 2008 she was invited to be a Fellow of the Trudeau Foundation. She is the mother of 5 children.

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**Frédéric Mégret**



Frédéric Mégret is an Assistant Professor of Law at the McGill Faculty of law, the Canada Research Chair on the Law of Human Rights and Legal Pluralism and the Director of the McGill Clinic for the Sierra Leone Special Court. Before joining the University of McGill, Professor Mégret was an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto and a research associate at the European University Institute in Florence. He is currently co-editing the second edition of "The United Nations and Human Rights: A Critical Appraisal" (Oxford University Press, 2009) with Professor Philip Alston. His interest in international human rights and legal pluralism has led him to think about some of the theoretical bases for the coexistence of legal orders in plural societies, as well as the requirements of reasonable accommodation.

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## Sally Engle Merry



Sally Engle Merry is Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Law and Society Program at New York University. Her work explores the role of law in urban life in the US, in the colonizing process, and in contemporary transnationalism. She is currently working on human rights indicators from a power/knowledge perspective. Her recent books are *Colonizing Hawai'i: The Cultural Power of Law* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2000), which received the 2001 J. Willard Hurst Prize from the Law and Society Association, *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice* (University of Chicago Press, 2006), *The Practice of Human Rights: Tracking Law between the Local and the Global*, (co-edited with Mark Goodale; Cambridge University Press, 2007), and *Gender Violence: A Cultural Perspective* (Blackwells, 2008). She has authored or edited four other books: *Law and Empire in the Pacific: Hawai'i and Fiji* (co-edited with Donald Brenneis, School of American Research Press, 2004), *The Possibility of Popular Justice: A Case Study of American Community Mediation* (co-edited with Neal Milner, Univ. of Michigan Press, 1993), *Getting Justice and Getting Even: Legal Consciousness among Working Class Americans* (University of Chicago

Press, 1990), and *Urban Danger: Life in a Neighborhood of Strangers* (Temple University Press, 1981).

She has published over one hundred articles, reviews, and commentaries and has recently published on women's human rights, violence against women, and the process of localizing human rights. She is past-president of the Law and Society Association and the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology and president-elect of the American Ethnological Society. In 2007 she received the Kalven Prize of the Law and Society Association. In 2010, she was awarded the J.I. Staley Prize from the School of Advanced Research for *Human Rights and Gender Violence*.

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## **Vrinda Narain**



Dr. Vrinda Narain is an Assistant Professor at McGill University where she holds a joint appointment in the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Arts. She is also a Research Associate in the Department of Afroasiatic Studies at the University of the Free State, South Africa. As a lawyer, she has practiced in the areas of family law, laws relating to women, constitutional law, corporate law and administrative law.

She is the author of two books: "Reclaiming the Nation: Muslim Women and the Law in India" (University of Toronto Press, 2008) and "Gender and Community: Muslim Women's Rights in India" (University of Toronto Press, 2001).

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## **Tom Parfitt**



Tom Parfitt is a correspondent in the Moscow bureau of the British newspaper, The Guardian. Tom has lived and worked as a journalist in Russia since completing an MA in politics and security at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, in 2002. He has travelled regularly to Chechnya, Ingushetia and other parts of the North Caucasus to report on armed conflict, terrorism and human rights abuses committed by Russian security forces.

In 2008 the Royal Geographical Society (UK) awarded Tom its Neville Shulman Challenge Award to carry out a four-month walking expedition across the entire North Caucasus, from the Black Sea to the Caspian. During the fall semester in 2009 Tom was a Knight Wallace Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan studying the role of international diplomacy in Georgia's breakaway regions. From January to June 2010 he was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC, where he researched Russia's strategies for quelling the Islamist insurgency in the North Caucasus.

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## **Frances Raday**



Frances Raday is Chair of the Concord Research Institute for Integration of International Law in Israel at the College of Management and Elias Lieberman Chair in Labour Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Emerita). Honorary Professor at University College London, and Doctor Honoris at the University of Copenhagen. She has published many books and articles on international human rights, labour law and relations, religion and constitutionalism, and feminist legal theory.

She currently chairs the Advisory Board of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission. She has been an Expert Member of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, was founding chair of the Legal Centre of the Israel Women's Network and chair of the Association for Freedom of Religion, Conscience and Science.

As a human rights litigator, Raday has appeared as counsel before the High Court of Justice in precedent-setting labour law, human rights and discrimination cases.

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## **Ranabir Samaddar**



Dr. Ranabir Samaddar, a founder of the CRG and its journal, Refugee Watch, was earlier a professor of South Asia Studies, and then was the founder-Director of the Peace Studies Programme at the South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Kathmandu. Known for his critical studies on contemporary issues of justice, human rights, and popular democracy in the context of post-colonial nationalism, trans-border migration, community history, and technological restructuring in South Asia, he has served on various commissions and study groups on issues such as partitions, critical dictionary on globalisation, patterns of forced displacement and the institutional practices of refugee care and protection in India, rights of the minorities and forms of autonomy, technological modernization, and occupational health and safety. He has recently completed a three-volume study of Indian nationalism, the final one titled as, A Biography of the Indian Nation, 1947-1997 (2001). Besides being the editor of three well-known volumes on issues of identity and rights in contemporary politics, Refugees and the State (2003), Space, Territory, and the State (2002), and Reflections on Partition in the East (1997), he is also the editor-in-chief of the South Asian Peace Studies Series. His current work is on theory and practices of dialogue, a question critical to the politics of justice and reconciliation. More information is available at: <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/rs.htm>.

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## **William A. Schabas**



William A. Schabas is director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where he holds the chair in human rights law. He is also a Global Legal Scholar at the University of Warwick, in the United Kingdom, and honorary professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in Beijing. He is the author of more than 20 books and 275 journal articles, on such subjects as the abolition of capital punishment, genocide and the international criminal tribunals. Professor Schabas was a member of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations



Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in Human Rights. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

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## **Colleen Sheppard**



Colleen Sheppard teaches and conducts research in the areas of Canadian and comparative constitutional law, equality rights, economic and social rights, and feminist legal theory at McGill's Faculty of Law.

She is Research Director for the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. A former law clerk to Chief Justice Brian Dickson, she has also been a visiting professor at Dalhousie Law School, the University of Maine School of Law, and the Institute of Comparative Law, Université Lyon III.

Professor Sheppard has also been active in public interest work. She served as a Commissioner on the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission from 1991-1996 and has been a consultant with the federal Department of Justice, the National Judicial Institute, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association and the International Labour Organization. She is also on the Board of Directors of Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education.

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## **Paula Schriefer**



Ms. Schriefer has over seventeen years of experience in democracy and human rights promotion. She currently oversees Freedom House's advocacy, outreach and communications activities, including foreign policy advocacy, press relations, and coordination with international organizations. From 2001 to 2006 she served as Director of Programs, overseeing Freedom House's nearly two dozen major program initiatives and thirteen overseas offices established to support independent media, open and transparent governance, civil society development, justice sector reform, and the defense of human rights. She joined Freedom House in 1997 as part of the merger between Freedom House and the National Forum Foundation (NFF), bringing much of the programming portfolio to Freedom House. Before joining NFF in 1994, she worked for the National Endowment for Democracy. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies from the University of Denver and completed coursework for an M.A. in Russian and Eastern European Studies at George Washington University. Ms. Schriefer speaks Russian and some German and French.

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## **Anna Sevortian**



Anna Sevortian, Director of Human Rights Watch's Russia Office, has fifteen years of experience working on human rights issues in the former Soviet Union. As director of the Russia office, Sevortian conducts research and advocacy on human rights issues in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, oversees the work of the Moscow office, and serves as Human Rights Watch's spokesperson in the region. Before joining Human Rights Watch, Sevortian served as the Deputy Director of the Center for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights in Moscow.

Sevortian holds a Master's Degree in Journalism from Moscow State University and will finish her PhD there. In 2007-2008 she received a Chevening Award for conducting a research project on Russian NGOs and their relationship with the state. She also was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge, and Galina Starovoitova Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC.

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## **Haroon Siddiqui**



Haroon Siddiqui is a senior editor and columnist for The Toronto Star, Canada's largest newspaper.

He has been editorial page editor, national editor, news editor and covered or supervised coverage of Canada for 40 years, and reported from nearly 40 countries, including the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, and, lately, the emergence of India as an economic and regional power.

He is a recipient of the Order of Canada for advocating "fairness and equality of opportunity in our pluralistic society." He is also a member of the Order of Ontario. York University conferred on him an honorary doctorate, saying, "his work helps in the creation and sustaining of a contemporary Canada."

He is, among others, the author of *Being Muslim*, (Groundwood Books, Toronto and Berkeley, 2006, 2008) about post-9/11 politics. The best-seller is based on his travels through Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and the Far East.

Siddiqui has done extensive work with the Canadian Newspaper Association, Advertising Standard Canada, Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Ontario Press Council. A former president of PEN Canada, he is a member of the board of International PEN, the writers' group that fights for freedom of expression through its 140 chapters in 101 countries.

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## **Boaventura de Sousa Santos**



Boaventura de Sousa Santos is Professor of Sociology, University of Coimbra (Portugal), Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Global Legal Scholar at the University of Warwick. He earned an LL.M and J.S.D. from Yale University. He is director of the Center for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra and has written and

published widely on the issues of globalization, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, social movements and the World Social Forum. His most recent books in English include *The Rise of the Global Left: The World Social Forum and Beyond*. London: Zed Books, 2006; *Toward a New Legal Common Sense: Law, Globalization and Emancipation*. London: Butterworths, 2002; (editor): *Democratizing Democracy. Beyond the Liberal Democratic Canon*. London: Verso, 2005; *Another Production is Possible: Beyond the Capitalist Canon*. London: Verso, 2006; *Another Knowledge is Possible: Beyond Northern Epistemologies*. London: Verso 2007; *Voices of the World*. London: Verso 2010; *Cognitive Justice in a Global World: Prudent Knowledges for a Decent Life*. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2007; (co-editor with Cesar Rodriguez-Gavarito) *Law and Globalization from Below: Towards a Cosmopolitan Legality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

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## Wayne Te Brake



Wayne Te Brake is Professor of European History at Purchase College in the State University of New York; he has worked broadly on the themes of revolution, contentious politics and religious co-existence in early modern Europe. Professor Te Brake is the author of *Regents and Rebels: The Revolutionary World of an Eighteenth Century Dutch City* and *Shaping History: Ordinary People in European Politics, 1500-1700* and co-editor of *Challenging Authority: The Historical Study of Contentious Politics*. In the last decade, he has directed two collaborative research projects, funded by the Ford Foundation, on “The Politics of Cultural Pluralism in Europe” and “The Hidden History of European Pluralism.”

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## Pansy Tlakula



Adv. Pansy Tlakula is the Chief Electoral Officer of the Electoral Commission of South Africa. She has held this position since February 2002.

Prior to joining the Electoral Commission, Adv. Tlakula was a member of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), during which she served as co-convenor of South Africa's first National Conference on Racism, and represented the SAHRC at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

She was appointed a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in July 2005, and holds the portfolio of Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa. In addition she is responsible for the following countries: the Gambia, Namibia, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zambia.

Adv. Tlakula holds a B. Proc degree from the University of the North, an LLB degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and an LLM degree from Harvard University and an honorary doctorate in legal studies from the Vaal University of Technology. She is an admitted advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

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## **Siddharth Varadarajan**



As Strategic Affairs Editor and Delhi bureau chief of The Hindu and one of India's leading commentators on foreign policy, Varadarajan has reported extensively from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Bangladesh, the former Yugoslavia as well as Kashmir and India's northeastern region. Prior to joining The Hindu in 2004, he was the Foreign Affairs editor and Deputy Chief of Bureau of The Times of India. In 2002, he edited a book on the Gujarat riots, Gujarat: The Making of a Tragedy (Penguin). He is the recipient of the Elizabeth Neuffer memorial prize for excellence in journalism, awarded by the United Nations Correspondents Association in 2005 for a series of articles on Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In 2007, he was a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and in 2008, a Poynter Fellow at Yale University.

A trained economist, Varadarajan taught economics at New York University for a number of years before returning to India to work as a journalist in 1995. He lives in New Delhi and is currently writing a book on the Indo-U.S. relationship.

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## **Marie Wilson**



Marie Wilson is one of the Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. She is a fluently bilingual, university educated professional who has lived and worked in cross-cultural environments for almost forty years, both internationally, and in several parts of Canada, including the North. Throughout that time, Ms Wilson has dealt effectively with Aboriginal, church and political organizations at the operational, executive and political levels.

For 25 years she worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in radio and television as regional and national reporter, television program host, and Regional Director for northern Quebec and the northern Territories. As an independent contractor, Ms Wilson has developed and led complex, national profile, community development initiatives. Before becoming a Commissioner, she served as a senior manager (Vice President of Operations) in a public crown corporation, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Ms Wilson holds a Bachelors degree with Honours in French Language and Literature and a Masters degree in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario.

She is a recipient of the 1999 "Northerner of the Year" award from the prominent northern/national newsmagazine "Up Here", and a "Lifetime Achievement" CBC North award from a jury of CBC staff and colleagues in 1999, in addition to various awards for documentary and writing excellence.

She is married to Stephen Kakfwi, and is the proud mother of three children: Kyla, Daylyn and Keenan.

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## Yossi Yonah



Professor Yonah received his Ph.D. from the philosophy department, University of Pennsylvania. He teaches political philosophy and philosophy of education in the department of education, Ben Gurion University of the Negev and senior research fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He publishes extensively on topics pertaining to moral and political philosophy and in philosophy of education. Professor Yonah published several books in these fields among them are: *In Virtue of Difference: The Multicultural Project in Israel* (the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House in July 2005, Hebrew); *What is Multiculturalism: On the Politics of Difference in Israel* (co-author, Yehouda Shenhav, Bebbel Publishing House, Tel Aviv, 2005); *Citizenship, Education and Social Conflict Israeli Political Education in Global Perspective* (co-editors Hanan A. Alexander and Halleli Pinson, Routledge 2010); *Racism in Israel* (co-editor, Yehouda Shenhav, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, Hebrew, 2008); *Citizenship Gaps, Migration, Fertility and Identity in Israel* (co-Editor, Adriana Kemp, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, Hebrew, 2008); *In the Whirlpool of Identities: A Critical Look at Religion and Secularity in Israel* (co-editor, Yehuda Goodman, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House, Hebrew, 2004). He has also written many essays pertaining to multiculturalism and political philosophy in the Israeli context, among which are: "Political Liberalism and Religious Zionism: Tentative alliance," *Culture and Religion*, 2007, 8(3); "Republican Meritocracy, Identity Political and the Idea Reverse Reparation: Commentary," *Political Power and Social Theory*, 2007, 18; "Israel as a Multicultural Society: Challenges and Obstacles," *Israel Affairs*, 2001, 11(1); "Israel's Constitutional Revolution: The Liberal/ Communitarian Debate and Legitimate Stability," *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2001, 27(4); "Israel Political Stability: A matter of Principle," *Israel Studies* 2000, 5(2); "Fifty Years Later: The Scope and Limits of Liberal Democracy in Israel," *Constellations, An International Journal of Critical Democracy*, 1999, 6(3).