ANNUAL REPORT
Management Board

2015-2016
Rokeya Chowdhury, graduate student representative
Peter Grbac, undergraduate student representative
David Howes, Adjunct Professor
Dean Daniel Jutras, Chair
Victor Muñiz-Fraticelli, Associate Professor
Vrinda Narain, Associate Professor
Antonia Maioni, Associate Vice-Principal (Research & International Relations)
Béatrice Vizkelety

Management Team
François Crépeau, Centre Director
Nandini Ramanujam, Executive Director & Director of Programs
Marika Giles Samson, Interim Executive Director
Sharon Webb, Program Coordinator

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Nancy Ross, Associate Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation)
Béatrice Vizkelety

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This report covers the period January-December 2016.
Created in September 2005, the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism was formed to provide students, professors and the larger community with a locus of intellectual and physical resources for engaging critically with the ways in which law affects some of the most compelling social problems of our modern era, most notably human rights issues. Since then, the Centre has distinguished itself by its innovative legal and interdisciplinary approach to understanding and advancing human rights in a complex and legally plural global community.
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Front cover photo: Photo by Par Nigah Awj
Content Photo: Esther Dionne Desbiens
Back Cover Photo: André Moreau
Events Photos: Sharon Webb
The beginning of the second decade of CHRLP has been marked by extraordinary moments at both institutional and individual level. In collaboration with the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies in Toronto, the Centre organized a two day conference on the issue of reconciliation which brought indigenous leaders and scholars to the Faculty. We are carefully reflecting over the calls to action from the TRC and are working closely with the Faculty to respond to our obligation through teaching, and our programs and initiatives. The Centre was the proud host of the Global Congress of the Scholars at Network in June which made McGill the first Canadian university to have this privilege. Two of our members received the Trudeau Fellowship and one was appointed to the Royal Society of Canada. Our O’Brien Fellows came from as far as South Africa and New Zealand bringing with them rich insights and perspectives on human rights from a range of expertise. The O’Brien graduate student community continues to grow and diversify and bring creative dynamism to our Centre. 2016 has brought as an unprecedented number of graduate O’Brien Fellows and our very first two Steinberg Post-doctoral Fellows in Migration Law and Policy. The transformative International Human Rights Internship Program now includes almost 25 interns and was invited this year to send an intern to work with the Chairperson of the newly formed Law Reform Commission of Namibia, which is a feather in Centre’s cap.

Amidst these celebrations, we were brought up close to the humanitarian tragedy in Syria with the presence of our Syrian O’Brien Fellow in Residence. His active engagement with our community has brought a heightened consciousness to us about the complex conflict and its colossal human cost. Now more than ever that we are compelled to lend solidarity to scholars, activists and human rights defenders standing up to repressive regimes and armed militia groups. The Centre is privileged to be a member of the Steering Committee of the newly established Scholars at Risk Canada section which is bringing six scholars to the Canadian parliament to urge our key decision makers in Canada to take a leading role in defending academic freedom and freedom of expression. As this event will celebrate the International Human Rights day, our disability and human rights initiative will also celebrate the international day on disability with a dance performance which captures the Centre’s spirit of inter-disciplinarity, creative dynamism and plural forms of the expression of human concerns.

The Centre remains grateful to its donors, friends, and supporters for keeping us inspired and engaged.

Nandini Ramanujam
Executive Director
& Director of Programs

François Crépeau
Centre Director

Photo: Étienne F. Lacombe, Human Right Intern, Iqaluit, 2016
Francois Crepeau  
Centre Director  
2015-2018

Nandini Ramanujam  
Executive Director &  
Director of Programs

Marika Giles Samson  
Interim Executive Director  
(2015-2016)

Sharon Webb  
Program Coordinator
CENTRE MEMBERS

Although the Centre is based at the McGill Faculty of Law, and many of the Centre’s members are law professors and part-time lecturers, we are committed to an interdisciplinary approach to human rights. A significant proportion of our members are either cross-appointed or drawn from outside the Faculty of Law, and include political scientists, philosophers, anthropologists, geographers, and scholars of education, religious studies and social work.

Full Members

Payam Akhavan (Law)  
Kirsten Anker (Law)  
Mark Antaki (Law)  
Adelle Blackett (Law)  
Megan Bradley (Political Science, Institute for the Study of International Development)  
Angela Campbell (Law; Associate Provost)  
François Crépeau (Law)  
Allison Christians (Law)  
Irwin Cotler (Law; Wallenberg Centre)  
Myriam Denov (Social Work)  
Pearl Eliadis (Law)  
Evan Fox-Decent (Law)  
Patrick Healy (Law)  
David Howes (Anthropology; Law)  
Derek Jones (Law; Research Group on Health & Law)  
Alana Klein (Law; Research Group on Health & Law)  
Jacob Levy (Political Science; Philosophy)  
Catherine Lu (Political Science)  
Marie Manikis (Law)  
Jane Matthews Glenn (Law; Urban Planning)  
Frédéric Mégret (Law)  
Víctor Muñiz-Fraticelli (Law; Political Science)  
Vrinda Narain (Law; Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies)  
Ronald Niezen (Law, Anthropology)  
René Provost (Law)  
Nandini Ramanujam (Law)  
Shaheen Shariff (Education)  
Colleen Sheppard (Law)  
Jon Unruh (Geography)  
Shauna Van Praagh (Law)  
Béatrice Vizkelety (Law)  
Daniel Weinstock (Law, Institute for Health and Social Policy)

Associate Members

Sébastien Jodoin (Law)  
Daniel Cere (Religious Studies)  
Armand de Mestral (Law)  
Pierre Deschamps (Law)  
Aristide Nononsi  
(Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa & UN Independent Expert, Sudan)  
Philip Oxhorn  
(Political Science, Associate Provost (International))
2016 has been an outstanding year filled with extraordinary accomplishments among our Centre members, including:

- **Payam Akhavan** was appointed, in June 2016, as a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. Akhavan was appointed by Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, in appreciation for his outstanding work in the field of arbitration.

- **Adelle Blackett** was awarded a prestigious $225,000 research fellowship by the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Professor Blackett will develop case studies, lead high-level discussions and formulate recommendations on the role of transnational labour law in a globally interconnected world. Also in 2016, she was awarded a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Transnational Labour Law and Development.

- **Irwin Cotler** received an honorary doctorate from Ben Gurion University in June, offered eight keynote addresses across the globe, and received no less than six awards for his human rights advocacy and distinguished political career.

- **Patrick Healy** was appointed to the Quebec Court of Appeal in October 2016. Dean Robert Leckey commented: “The Court of Appeal’s bench strength in criminal matters just got a whole lot stronger – but I know that Justice Healy’s keen mind and commitment to justice will enhance provincial and federal law in many fields.”

- **Catherine Lu** was appointed Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID).

- **Vrinda Narain** was appointed Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Law, for the period 2016-2018.

- **Ronald Niezen** received the 2016 Award for Distinction in Research in the Faculty of Arts. The Committee underlined Ron’s work on Indigenous rights and identity, his prolific publication record, the breadth of his research agenda, and the impact of his research both locally and internationally.

- **Philip Oxhorn** was appointed, in August 2016, as the first Associate Provost (International). Philip has been integral in advancing international research and education at McGill. This is a new position which aims to strengthen McGill’s partnerships with international institutions, expand opportunities for students in an expanding global community, and support international teaching and strategic research collaborations. The Centre wishes Philip all the best in this new position.

- **Nandini Ramanujam** was awarded this year’s McGill Award for Equity and Community Building, in the category of academic staff. She was also appointed to the Steering Committee of the newly founded Scholars at Risk Canada section and to the Board of Directors of Centraide Montreal.

- **Shaheen Shahiff** was awarded a 7-year, 2.6 million dollar SSHRC grant to work with a team of more than 60 researchers, including Nandini Ramanujam and Colleen Sheppard, Marie Manikis on her Define the Line project which seeks to clarify the blurred lines between cyberbullying and digital citizenship.

- **Colleen Sheppard**, former CHRLP Director, was named Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the senior collegium of distinguished scholars, artists and scientists in the country. This prestigious accolade recognizes Colleen’s unwavering dedication to advancing the field of research on equality. As Director of the Centre, Colleen spearheaded an initiative on Indigenous people and human rights that focuses on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC).
FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

The CHRLP attracts some of the brightest scholars from around the world. We are privileged to receive support from a range of public and private funds that allow us to offer a wide variety of fellowships to support students’ education and research initiatives. In 2016, we were pleased to host:

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GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

- Europe 21%
- North America 18%
- South America 6%
- Asia & Oceania 28%
- Africa 27%
**O’Brien Graduate Fellows**

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus David O’Brien (BCL, 1965), the Centre also awards O’Brien Fellowships to support the studies of several new graduate students every year. The students, in turn, contribute to the life of the Centre by convening reading groups, organizing events, sitting of various selection committees, and engaging with the Centre in a wide variety of ways.

The Centre advertises the Fellowship Program through many networks and publishes advertisements in *Human Rights Quarterly* and through the *Social Science Research Network*. The calls for applications are circulated in English, French, and Spanish and attract applications from very talented young scholars from all over the world.

In 2016, the Centre welcomed 7 new O’Brien Graduate Fellows:

- **Jose Mauricio Gaona, United States/Colombia**
- **Tanya Monforte, United States**
- **Raymond Savadogo, Canada/Burkina Faso**
- **Sok Young Chang, Korea**
- **Francesca Farrington, Ireland**
- **Parisa Akbarimalkeshi, Iran**
- **Maryse Décarie-Daigneault, Canada**

The Centre also hosted 3 continuing O’Brien Graduate Fellows: Bwighane Mwenifumbo (Malawi), Muhammad Rezaur Rahman (Bangladesh), and Rokeya Chowdhury (Bangladesh).

**Our congratulations to O’Brien Graduate Fellows alumn Sabaa Khan, Roísín Hennessy, and Kate Glover on the completion of their doctoral studies!**

**Sabaa Khan, Canada**

Thesis: Limits of Formalization and Horizons of Urban Citizenship: Insights on Law and Informality Through the Lens of Electronic Waste

Supervisor: Adelle Blackett

**Roísín Hennessy, Ireland**


Supervisor: Colleen Sheppard

**Kate Glover, Canada**

Thesis: The Stories We Tell: The Supreme Court of Canada and the Constitution

Supervisor: Hoi Kong
O’Brien Fellows in Residence

Sarwat Dalal Bashi, Syria
is a decorated human rights and criminal lawyer, and an international human rights and justice specialist with a wide experience in the field of civil society.

Ebenezer Durojaye, Nigeria
is currently an Associate Professor of Law and Head/Senior Researcher of the Socioeconomic Rights Project at the Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa. His research interests include issues relating to health and human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, the link between culture and women’s rights, corruption, constitutionalism, and access to justice in Africa.

Michelle Farrell, Ireland
is a senior lecturer in law at the School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool. Michelle specializes in international law and in international human rights law and is Director of the School’s International Law and Human Rights Unit.

Hadley Friedland, Canada
is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta Faculty of Law. She has been Research Director of the Indigenous Law Research Unit [ILRU] at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law since 2012 and is co-creator, with Dr. Val Napoleon, of the main ILRU methodology.

Claudia Geiringer, New Zealand
holds the Chair in Public Law at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and is the co-Director of the New Zealand Centre for Public Law.

Shivaun Quinlivan, Ireland
is the Director of the LLM in International and Comparative Law at NUI Galway. Shivaun’s research interests focus on the rights of people with disabilities, with a particular focus on education and employment.

Maria Sapignoli, Italy
is a Research Fellow in the Department of Law and Anthropology at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany. She has been visiting fellow and lecturer in several universities in Europe and North America, including the School of Advanced Study at the University of London and McGill University.

Faisal Siddiqi, Pakistan
is a practicing lawyer of the High Courts and Supreme Court of Pakistan. He is a former Advisor/Consultant to the Attorney General for Pakistan. He is also a Board Member of the Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER), Karachi, and is a Founding Trustee of the Legal Aid Foundation for Victims of Rape and Sexual Assault.
**Associate Fellows**

Associate Fellows are independent scholars whose work coincides with the intellectual themes and reach of the Centre. In 2016, the Centre hosted four Associate Fellows:

**Éloge Butera, Rwanda/Canada** is a human rights activist with an active involvement in Canadian public life, having worked in Parliament as a research and legislative assistant to Senator Roméo Dallaire and articling student to Irwin Cotler. Éloge is now working as an advisor on policy and legislative affairs to the Canadian Government in Ottawa.

**Edin Hodžić, Bosnia-Herzegovina** is co-founder, Director and Head of Public Law Program at Analitika, Center for Social Research from Sarajevo, a think-tank in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has worked on war crimes cases at the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Thun Saray, Cambodia** is the founder and President of ADHOC, the first human rights advocacy NGO in Cambodia and he plays an integral role in Cambodian civil society. He is the founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee, the Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia, and a former member of the Board of many NGOs. In November 2016, Thun was awarded the prestigious French-German Human Rights Award.

**Noam Schimmel, United States** holds a PhD in Media and Communication, and an MSc in Philosophy, Policy and Social Value, from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). His research interests include the ethical and rhetorical aspects of human rights.

**Post-Doctoral Fellows**

The Centre currently has the pleasure of hosting eight Post-Doctoral Fellows. Six are independent Post-docs working with Centre members, and two are our very first recipients in this inaugural year of the Steinberg Post-doctoral Fellowships in Migration Law and Policy.

**Olivier Barsalou, Canada**
Project: History of Human Rights and International Law  
Supervisor: Frédéric Mégret

**Tetyana Krupiy, Ukraine/Canada**
Project: Accountability for acts of lethal autonomous robots  
Supervisor: René Provost

**Mulry Mondélice, Haiti**
Project: Les institutions nationales des droits de la personne et la coopération internationale  
Supervisor: François Crépeau

**Geneviève Painter, United States/United Kingdom**
Project: The Law of Belonging: Race, Gender, Indigeneity, & Temporality  
Supervisor: Mark Antaki & Kirsten Anker

**Hassan Razavi, Iran**
Project: International Trade and Human Rights  
Supervisor: Frédéric Mégret

**Alain-Guy Sipowo, Canada/Cameroon**
Project: Responsibility to protect of multinational corporations for human rights violations abroad  
Supervisor: René Provost
Steinberg Post-Doctoral Fellows in International Migration Law & Policy

The vision and generosity of the Arnold & Blema Steinberg Foundation are at the heart of this new and exciting Fellowship opportunity at the Centre under the supervision of Centre Director François Crépeau. We are delighted to offer two Post-doctoral Research Fellowships beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Aderomola Adeola, Nigeria
Project: The African free-movement regime
Supervisor: François Crépeau

Marina Sharpe, Canada
Project: The relationship between freedom of movement and refugee protection.
Supervisor: François Crépeau

Visiting Researchers

Each year the Centre welcomes Visiting Researchers, who are in residence at McGill for a limited time. In 2016, the Centre is pleased to host one visitor:

Luiz Magno Pinto Bastos Jr., Brazil
Luiz is Associate Professor at Universidade do Vale do Itajaí, in Brazil, teaching Constitutional Law, General Theory of State, Human Rights Law, Constitutional Procedural Law, at Law and International Relations faculties.

Cassandra Steer, Australia
Cassandra is the Executive Director of Women in International Security (WIIS) Canada, and a Wainwright Fellow at the McGill Faculty of Law.

Student Researchers & Coordinators

Our CHRLP community is especially enriched by the kind collaboration and diligent work of the student researchers and coordinators who lead and support many important initiatives at the Centre. Alizeh Ladak has continued her great work for a second year as O'Brien Fellows in Residence Coordinator. The highly organized team of Lucia Westin and Guilhem de Roquefeuil have lead the Human Rights Internship Program taking it to new heights, and also helping to orient the new team of coordinators, Sarah Jackson and program alumna Carly Meredith, who are now adeptly coordinating this key program. 2015-2016 Disability & the Law Program Coordinators Alizeh Ladak and Iñaki Navarrete also facilitated a smooth transition to the creative, incoming 2016-2017 team, Simone Cavanaugh and Melissa Moor. Rachel Zuroff and Camille Provencher have assisted with publicity, events, and admin support and know better than most that there is never a dull moment at the CHRLP! Nour Saadi, a summer 2016 human rights intern, worked as a research assistant with O'Brien Fellow Sarwat Bashi. Our fond thanks to all!

Interns at the Centre for Human Rights

Quinter Faith, Kenya
Winter 2016: Quinter is a MasterCard Foundation scholar studying Political Science at McGill who interned at the Centre in winter 2016. She audited classes, performed research and editing work, provided event support and attended many events, and worked closely with Interim Executive Director Marika Giles Samson on many initiatives.

Blake Connell, Australia
Fall 2016: Blake is an exchange student in Law from Australia who helped design CHRLP communication tools and platforms and made strategic communications suggestions from his professional experience. He spearheaded the creation of a CHRLP SoundCloud platform to help make CHRLP events accessible on the web in the longer term - fruits to be available soon!
The following is a sample of the pioneering work undertaken by our members in 2016. This small fraction of publications showcases the extraordinary depth of scholarly contribution from our members and affiliates, highlighting the interconnectedness between the Centre’s contribution to both ideas and action. The Centre’s members are prolific in many ways, not least in the publishing of books, articles, and op-eds.

Anker, K., Law, Culture and Fact in Indigenous Claims: Legal Pluralism as a Problem of Recognition, René Provost (ed), Centaur Jurisprudence (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016)


Crépeau, F., Smugglers Will Always Outwit, Outpace and Outfox the Governments’, SUR 23 - v.13 n.23, 77 - 83, 2016


Fox-Decent, Evan and Criddle, Evan J., Fiduciaries of Humanity: How International Law Constitutes Authority (Chapter 1 and Chapter 7), (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)


Mégret, Frederic and Jurdi, Nidal Nabil, The International Criminal Court, the 'Arab Spring' and Its Aftermath (June 10, 2016)

Mégret, Frederic, From 'Peace' to 'Atrocity' Tribunals: Re-Assessing the Continuities and Discontinuities of International Criminal Justice from Nuremberg to the Present (April 11, 2016)


Ramanujam, N. and Chow, S., Towards a Human Dignity Based Approach to Food Security: Lessons from China and India (2016)


Van Praagh, S. (co-author), Droits de la personne et diversité – Rapport de recherche remis à la Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse (Quebec Human Rights Commission, 2016) (Pierre Noreau, Principal Author)
Members of the Centre work together and independently on their research. Below is a sample of funded projects currently underway at the Centre and among the team.

- **Meghan Bradley**
  - **SSHRC Connections Grant**, 2015-2016. “From beneficiaries to actors: Understanding displaced persons’ roles in resolution processes” (principal investigator).

- **Myriam Denov**

- **Sébastien Jodoin**
Catherine Lu

Marie Manikis

Marie Manikis
- **SSHRC Partnership Grant**, 2016-2023. “A multi-sector partnership to investigate and develop policy and practice models to dismantle rape culture in universities” (co-investigator).

Marie Manikis

Marie Manikis

Marie Manikis

Marie Manikis
- **Department of Justice Canada Grant**, 2016-2018. "Victimological Research in Brief", Centre international de criminologie comparée, Université de Montréal (co-investigator).

René Provost

Shereen Shahiff
- **SSHRC Partnership Grant**, 2016-2021. “A Multi-Sector Partnership to Investigate and Develop Policy and Practice Models to Dismantle "Rape Culture" in Universities” (principal investigator; many co-investigators from across disciplines, including Nandini Ramanujam and Colleen Sheppard).

Colleen Sheppard

Shauna Van Praagh
- **SSHRC Connection Grant**, 2016-2022. “Accès au droit et accès à la justice” (One of 34 co-investigators; Pierre Noreau, principal investigator).
PUBLIC LECTURES

Wallenberg Lecture 2016
What do we do about Syria?
Date: March 17
Speaker: Harold Hongju Koh

This year, we were honoured to welcome Professor Harold Hongju Koh to give the Wallenberg Lecture. The Syrian crisis presents extraordinary challenges for international law and political will. What, realistically and legally can we do? In this lecture, Professor Koh, a former Dean at Harvard Law School and former advisor to the U.S. State Department, discussed this most pressing moral and humanitarian challenge.

A conversation with TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson
Date: March 14
Speaker: Marie Wilson

Dialogue on Social Activism
Date: October 14
Speakers: Aruna Roy and Vrinda Narain

The Drone Memos
Date: November 21
Speaker: Jameel Jaffar

The United States’ drone program, first initiated under President Bush, and significantly escalated under President Obama, obviously requires close scrutiny. This very real weapon of war is becoming a weapon of choice against ‘enemies of the state’ and controls are being relaxed. Jameel Jaffer related his personal experience and that of his firm in their research and litigation to try to protect a pre-identified target of a drone execution. The target was a U.S. citizen and their efforts were not successful in preventing his death. Mr. Jaffer provided a candid account of this case and shared considerable background and foreground information about the U.S. drone program.
Truth and Reconciliation: Towards a Just Future for the Indigenous Peoples of Canada  
(in collaboration with the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (IIGHRS, a division of the Zoryan Institute))  
**Dates:** March 8-9

Many extraordinary conversations took place over the course of this 2-day conference, but two among many highlights were the keynote addresses by Chiefs Phil Fontaine (pictured left) and Doug White. All speakers brought experience, passion, and wisdom to the complex issue of how to respond today to the deep wounds inflicted individually and collectively by the residential school system over a century, and how to implement the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

“We at the CHLRP are proud to take an active role in McGill’s collective effort to sharpen our focus on Indigenous issues in Canada and abroad thus contributing to the common goal of increased knowledge and better understanding between communities.” – François Crépeau

Scholars at Risk Global Conference  
(in collaboration with Scholars at Risk)  
**Dates:** June 7-10

Unpacking Participatory Democracy  
(in collaboration with ISID)  
**Dates:** Nov 22-23

The conference was organized by Professor of Practice in Global Governance, Aruna Roy, and co-sponsored by program partners ISID and the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. The conference included more than 30 speakers and intervenors from across Canada and across the globe, including Centre members Nandini Ramanujam, Vrinda Narain, Catherine Lu, and Pearl Eliadis. The focus of the discussions began in the theoretical, moved to the practical, and returned to theoretical at the close of the conference. Participants were treated to two days of passionate and engaged voices of experience: Indigenous elders, activists, thinkers, teachers, lawyers, voices from the field. The emphasis was on hearing from a multiplicity of voices expressing ideas, successes, and challenges under the common goal of creating and nurturing democracy at its best and most inclusive in the local and global worlds.
ROUND TABLES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Involuntary Confinement and Treatment: Seclusion and Restraint
(in collaboration with the McGill Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD))
Date: January 25
Panelists: James Sayce, Ella Amir, Marie-Hélène Goulet; Derek J. Jones, moderator

Burmese Rohingya Minority Panel
(in collaboration with the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC))
Date: February 8
Panelists: Nur Hashim, Adib Bahar, Mathieu Boisvert; Frédéric Mégret, moderator

UN Peace Mediation Experts Panel
(in collaboration with the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law)
Date: February 15
Panelists: Michael Brown, John Packer, and Marie-Joëlle Zahar; Louise Otis, moderator

Three Canadian mediation experts and members of the U.N. Standby Mediation Team shared the naked truth about the role and function of international peace mediators. They shared success stories, painful experiences, and even discussed how people had given their lives to share their stories in the hope of bringing peace. Our guests were Michael Brown, Land & Natural Resource Conflicts Expert and Professor of Practice in Conflict Mediation at ISID (McGill University); John Packer, Constitutions & Process Design Expert and Director, Human Rights Research and Education Centre (University of Ottawa); and Marie-Joëlle Zahar, Power-Sharing Expert and Professor of Political Science & Fellow at the Centre for International Research and Studies (Université de Montréal). The well-attended event was graciously chaired by Louise Otis, judge, arbitrator, and mediator in administrative and commercial matters, and former Judge at the Quebec Court of Appeal.

From Field to Folio: Human Rights Interns Present their Research
Date: March 16
Speakers: C. Boychuk, F. St-Jean, P-P. Turnbull, M. Rodriguez, B. Noga, J. De Santi

Autonomy and Security in the Context of Independent Living
Date: March 21
Panelists: Fahreen Nanji, Roberto Lattanzio, Marie-Christine Beshay; Iñaki Navarrete, moderator

The Use of Force and Social Protest
(in collaboration with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA))
Date: May 4
Panelists: Neil Corney, Dominique Peschard, Cara Zwibel
Reconciling Peace with Justice in Syria
Date: October 4
Panelists: Mokhtar Lamani, Sarwat Bashi, and Tanya Monforte; Payam Akhavan (moderator)

The Rejection of the Colombian Peace Agreement: Implications for Colombia and Transitional Justice
Date: October 4
Panelists: Claus Kress, Jose Mauricio Gaona; Frédéric Megret, moderator
The civil war between the Colombian government and the FARC has been one of the longest ones after the Second World War. Although rejected by referendum by the Colombian people, the peace agreement would have set a precedent in the field of transitional justice the significance of which goes far beyond Colombia. The talk offered a few initial international law and legal policy reflections on how the Colombian peace agreement attempted to deal with the tension between peace and justice and the international legal implications of its rejection.

Contemporary Issues in International Criminal Law
(in collaboration with the Philip Kirsch Institute)
Date: October 6
Panelists: Linda Bianchi, Terry Beitner, and Jo-Anne Wemmers

The Right to Inclusive Education
(in collaboration with the McGill Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD))
Date: October 21
Panelists and workshop facilitators: Shivaun Quinlivan, Tara Flanagan, Teri Phillips and Tanja Beck; moderators Simone Cavanaugh and Melissa Moor

The 2012 Baldia Factory Fire in Pakistan
(in collaboration with the Labour Law and Research Development Laboratory (LLDRL))
Date: October 26
Panelists: Faisal Siddiqi, Dr. Zobaida Khan, and Me Danny Kaufer; Adelle Blackett, moderator
The 2012 Baldia Factory Fire in Pakistan led to the deaths of 255 workers. National and international struggles and litigation ensued. What has been learned? What progress has been made? O’Brien Fellow in Residence, Faisal Siddiqi were joined by Dr. Zobaida Khan and Me Danny Kaufer, Ad. E to discuss the repercussions of the 2012 Baldia Factory fire, the Rana Plaza disaster, and other similar and instructive cases.
SEMINARS

Cultural Pluralism and Gender Equality and Treaty Making: The Case of Shari’a Reservations
Date: January 18
Speaker: Tanya Monforte

Conflict and Indifference between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and National Tribunals, and the Case of Brazilian Amnesty Law
Date: 16 February
Speaker: Luiz Magno Pinto Bastos

Navigating Human Rights in Moldova
Date: February 22
Speaker: Nadia Lefter

Contemporary Challenges to Humanitarian Action
(in collaboration with Avocats sans Frontières (ASF) and the McGill Human Rights Working Group (HRWG))
Date: September 26
Speaker: Peter Maurer; René Provost, moderator

Pakistan and Islamist Militancy – A Lawyer’s View
(in collaboration with the Canadian Friends of the London School of Economics (LSE) and Norton Rose Fulbright)
Date: October 20
Speaker: Faisal Siddiqi; Azim Hussain, moderator

Gender Discrimination in Third Level Institutions
Date: November 23
Speaker: Shivaun Quinlivan
1. **Human Rights and Legal Pluralism**

To celebrate the Centre's tenth anniversary in 2015-2016, we launched a series of Dialogues between members of the Centre on human rights and legal pluralism, to be held over two years. These Dialogues are being filmed, both to capture this moment-in-time in the intellectual life of the Centre, and to serve as pedagogical tools both within the University and beyond.

This series is a celebration of the 10-year milestone of the Centre, but takes its meaning from the incredible depth and breadth of our Centre members’ expertise and experience. The Dialogues also reflect concentrations of expertise within the Centre community. We thank each member for bringing their unique voice to this special series of Dialogues, and especially, for contributing their voice to our community each and every day.

The Dialogues can be found on the Centre’s website. The first two Dialogues were offered in 2015 on the topics of Legal Pluralism and Migration & Transnational Labour.

In 2016, we were proud to host three dialogues:

**Dialogue 3 of 9:**
The Role of Laws in Religion, Family and Community  
*Date: March 14*  
*Speakers:* **Vrinda Narain** & **Shauna van Praagh**; **Angela Campbell**, moderator

**Dialogue 4 of 9:**
Canadian and Global Perspectives on Criminal Justice  
*Date: April 6*  
*Speakers:* **Alana Klein** & **Marie Manikis**; **Payam Akhavan**, moderator

**Dialogue 5 of 9:**
Reflections of the TRC’s Calls to Action  
*Date: November 24*  
*Speakers:* **Kirsten Anker** & **Mark Antaki**; **Ronald Niezen**, moderator

The series will draw to a close in 2017 with Dialogues on the themes of Voices from the Field, Justice and Pluralism, Economic Justice, and Frameworks for Governance.
2. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Under the guidance and leadership of Nandini Ramanujam and former Director Colleen Sheppard, the Centre is dedicated to providing opportunities for both people with disabilities and those interested in becoming the next generation of advocates. 2016 has been an exciting year for raising awareness and opening up the Centre as a forum for discussion on a number of issues faced by people with disabilities.

This year, the Centre welcomed Professor Shivaun Quinlivan as an O'Brien Fellow in Residence. Shivaun shared her expertise with several different communities at McGill (Law, Management, and Education) and beyond, through a long string of seminars on specialized topics. She also offered an undergraduate course on Education and Disability – a first here at the Faculty of Law. In a convergence of worlds, Nandini Ramanujam and Shivaun are also both on the selection committee that brings a Junior Fellow in Disability Rights from the global south to McGill to undertake a Masters degree in disability law.

The Centre also offers a number of internships in organizations dedicated to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. In 2016, Nigah Awj interned with the Disability Rights International in Mexico City, Jacinthe Dion interned with Mental Health Disability Advocacy Centre in Budapest, Hungary, and André Moreau interned with Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities in Kampala, Uganda. Funding for these internships is donor-supported, drawing us together with a larger community of advocates and benefactors.

The Centre is excited to offer a newly established human rights internship for the Summer of 2017 with the Centre for Research and Human Rights Education (Centro de Investigación y Docencia en Derechos Humanos), Faculty of Law at the National University of Mar del Plata, Argentina. This internship is a result of the Centre’s collaboration with the Disability Rights Consortium established by the Open Society Foundation.

Each year the Centre also selects one or more donor-supported Rathlyn Disability Program Coordinators who gain leadership and organizational experience in disability rights by leading our Disability Initiative, now in its fifth year. For 2016-2017, those young leaders are Simone Cavanaugh and Melissa Moor.

Disability, Human Rights and the Law Initiative
2016-2017 - Children, Disability and Human Rights

The CHRLP is pleased to present the 2016-2017 Disability and Human Rights Initiative. Building on the disability seminar series launched in 2012, the Initiative has taken a new form in its fifth year. Presenting two events, the Initiative continues to explore compelling issues in disability with a focus on law and policy, in keeping with the Faculty of Law’s tradition of analysis, scholarship and promotion of human rights and social justice. The Initiative began with a panel discussion on the theme of “Inclusion in Education” with Shivaun Quinlivan, Tara Flanagan, Teri Phillips and Tanja Beck, and was followed
by a workshop with all in attendance on the same theme. The series will continue with its second talk in February of 2017, this event will explore the obstacles that Indigenous children with disabilities can face in accessing services such as education and health care, and how these obstacles impact Indigenous children’s right to full participation in cultural and family life.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Involuntary Confinement and Treatment: Seclusion and Restraint
Date: January 25
Panelists: James Sayce, Ella Amir, Marie-Hélène Goulet; Derek J. Jones, moderator

Autonomy and Security in the Context of Independent Living
Date: March 21
Panelists: Fahreen Nanji, Roberto Lattanzio, Marie-Christine Beshay; Iñaki Navarrete, moderator

The Right to Inclusive Education
Date: October 21
Panelists and workshop facilitators: Shivaun Quinlivan, Tara Flanagan, Teri Phillips and Tanja Beck; moderators Simone Cavanaugh and Melissa Moor.

Reasonable Accommodation
Date: November 7
Speaker: Shivaun Quinlivan; Suzanne Gagnon, moderator.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Dance performance – “Je marche à côté de moi”
Date: December 2

Jane Mappin and Daniel Firth of Jane Mappin Danse captivated the audience in the Atrium with the third instalment of their powerful trilogy “Je marche à côté de moi”. The duo conveyed the complexity of mental illness with intimacy and subtlety. The trilogy conveys the wordless anguish of mental illness through the medium of dance, and the Atrium was chosen for this performance so that passers-by would encounter mental illness, as is so often the case, as a part of daily life.
3. Discrimination and Inclusion

Centre members have long been engaged with issues of discrimination and have worked to promote an environment of inclusion in Canada and abroad. The leader among peers on this issue, and the convener of the Discrimination and Inclusion network, is former Centre Director and member, Colleen Sheppard. Colleen has shown an unfaltering commitment to advancement in this area and her dedication was recognized this year at the highest level in her initiation into the Royal Society of Canada. In 2015, SSHRC acknowledged her as well in awarding her a $230,000 grant to advance and continue her pioneering research in this area. The Centre celebrates and congratulates Colleen on these exceptional honours and awards.

Part of the Centre’s work in combating discrimination and promoting inclusion extends to the internship program, where a number of future jurists and activists are given the opportunity to work in organizations that share the Centre’s vision and are working for change in their respective domains. In 2016, Élodie Fortin travelled to Tunisia to intern with Aswat Nissa (Voix des Femmes), and Rachel Kohut interned at the HIV/AIDS Legal Network in Toronto, Canada. The newly established partnership with the Yukon human rights Commission allowed Theo Lyons to spend a summer in White Horse working on issues related to systemic discrimination.

**Interdisciplinary Research Network on Discrimination and Inclusion**

Colleen Sheppard hosts the Interdisciplinary Research Network on Discrimination and Inclusion which includes researchers, practitioners, as well as collaborators from across academia and community-based organizations. By including various disciplines from different universities and countries, this research network is able to explore, in-depth and from diverse perspectives, special topics in vast scope of discrimination. The Network met four times in 2016:

**Sur les programmes d’accès à l’égalité au Québec et leurs limites**
Date: February 9
Speaker: Marie-Thérèse Chicha

**Retelling the Charter's Rights: Race and Indigeneity in the Making of Women's Equality Rights in Canada**
Date: February 25
Speaker: Geneviève Renard Painter

**Minority Aging in Canada: Encounters with Everyday Discrimination and the Relative Importance of Race and Age**
Date: April 5
Speaker: Zoua Vang

**Diversity, Inclusion and Institutional Change**
Date: June 8
Speaker: Pushkala Prasad

**Annie Macdonald Langstaff seminar series**

The Centre is pleased to have had the opportunity to collaborate in the Annie MacDonald Langstaff seminar series for several events in 2016. Inaugurated in 1988 in honour of Annie MacDonald Langstaff, BCL 1914, the first woman to earn a law degree in Quebec, the workshop series provides a forum for academics, judges, lawyers, and community activists to present research, practical insights, and success strategies on issues relating to women and the law. In 2015-2016 Colleen Sheppard was the host and organizer of the seminar series. In 2016-2017, Centre member Shauna Van Praagh has taken on this important role at the faculty. In 2016, two O’Brien Fellows in Residence were invited to speak in the series: Tanya Monforte and Shivaun Quinlivan.
Cultural Pluralism and Gender Equality and Treaty Making: The Case of Shari’a Reservations
Date: January 18
Speaker: Tanya Monforte

Dialogue on Social Activism
Date: October 14
Speaker: Aruna Roy

Gender Discrimination in Third Level Institutions
Date: November 23
Speaker: Shivaun Quinlivan
Shivaun Quinlivan gave a detailed account of the struggles for gender equality at the National University of Galway, and in Ireland more generally. She discussed the fight that has now been an eight-year battle for fairness and equality in hiring decisions at the university. She discussed the severe impact on individuals, women, and men of blatantly unequal systemic discrimination in promotional structures. She also discussed the strategies used at NUI Galway to bring about the changes and successes that are beginning to emerge. In her closing remarks, she celebrated the courage and perseverance of Annie Macdonald Langstaff and the many women like her who have continued to fight for gender equality and continue to this day. There have been many advances over the past decades, but the fight is far from over, she said.
4. Globalization, Migration and Mobility

Centre Director François Crépeau not only holds the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law at McGill, but he is also the current UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants. Under his leadership and unfailing commitment to the rights of migrants and refugees, the rights and freedoms of such vulnerable populations have come more centre-stage at the Centre since he began his Directorship in 2015. Many egregious harms and abuses are directed towards such vulnerable persons and groups. François tirelessly, directly, and concretely addresses such issues in site visits, articles, reports, class lectures, public talks, and all manner of media interventions.

In light of current international crises, Mr. Arnold Steinberg, a long-time benefactor of the McGill University, saw a profound need for change in international migration law and policy and approached François to oversee a new investment in the future of migrant rights: the Steinberg Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

Arnold & Blema Steinberg Post-Doctoral Fellowships in International Migration Law & Policy
The Centre is delighted to be able to offer this opportunity with the generous support of the Steinberg Foundation. The principle aim of the Fellowship program is to build a community that includes and supports the next generation of International Migration Law specialists. The Fellows work independently and as part of a research team in collaboration with the Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law and the Centre under the leadership and supervision of François Crépeau. The two recipients of these Fellowships in this inaugural year of the program are Marina Sharpe and Aderomola Adeola.

OPPENHEIMER CHAIR SEMINARS

Facilitating Mobility, Fostering Diversity
Date: January 18
Speaker: François Crépeau

Is there Room for Human Rights Considerations in Free-Trade Agreements?
Date: January 28
Speaker: Thomas Cottier

Governance européenne et migration
Date: March 21
Speaker: Nicolas Levrat

Dilemmatic Adjudication: Europe’s Refugee Crisis and the Question of Migrant Rights
Date: March 22
Speaker: Moritz Baumgärtel

The Concept of “Climate Migration” in International Law
Date: March 23
Speaker: Benoit Mayer

La mobilité et la diversité, défis des sociétés contemporaines
Date: June 8
Speaker: François Crépeau
5. Reflections on Reconciliation

Indigenous affairs have been a long-standing area of focus at the Centre. Former Director Colleen Sheppard and Centre members Mark Antaki and Kirsten Anker each prepared a research report for Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission three years ago as the Commission completed its mandate and prepared the 94 Calls to Action.

Also, as Centre Director, Colleen Sheppard oversaw the Aisenstadt Community Justice Program which annually supported an Aboriginal Law Students Association conference and other community-building initiatives. François Crépeau assumed the leadership of this program in 2015. The funding and program have now come to an end, but community-building efforts have not.

In response to the TRC report, the Centre had an especially busy year promoting awareness and hosting extraordinary conversations on Indigenous affairs.

On August 11, the Centre was privileged to host the ceremony in which TRC Commissioner Murray Sinclair received the World Peace Award from World Federalist Movement Canada.

The Centre also welcomed Hadley Friedland, an Aboriginal scholar from Western Canada, and O’Brien Fellow in Residence. Hadley taught a Spring course in Indigenous Law at the Faculty. Her presence allowed Centre members and especially students to gain significant understanding and share in her personal insight into the many uphill challenges in Indigenous communities, the teaching of Indigenous law, and preparing an inclusive curriculum in all classrooms across Canada.

The Centre also arranges a number of internship opportunities within organizations engaged in Indigenous affairs. In 2016, Theo Lyons interned with the Yukon Human Rights Commission, Emilie de Haas interned with Instituto Pontificia in Peru, Amelia Philpott interned with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Justice Department, and Étienne Lacombe interned with Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services in Iqaluit.

The Centre also organized several events throughout 2016, highlighting Indigenous issues in different ways, including:

**MLJ Symposium on Indigenous Law & Legal Pluralism**
**Date:** February 19

**Truth and Reconciliation: Towards a Just Future for the Indigenous People of Canada**
**Date:** March 8–9

**A conversation with TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson**
**Date:** March 14

**Dialogue 5 of 9: Reflections on the TRC’s Calls to Action**
**Date:** November 24
**Speakers:** Kirsten Anker & Mark Antaki; Ronald Niezen, moderator
6. Scholars and Advocates in Danger

Yes, we value ideas and research. Yes, we value extraordinary conversations. Above all, we value people and are concerned for their safety and well-being and their continued opportunity to have a voice.

In 2016, we welcomed two visitors to the Centre who were under threat or in danger at home. Sarwat Bashi, a Syrian lawyer and advocate, was invited to join our community as an O’Brien Fellow in Residence. Following threats to his safety for his human rights work, he and his family relocated to Canada in Spring 2016, where he continues to do research and keep the conversations alive about the many intersecting crises in Syria and their impact on the people and the future of the region. Thun Saray, an advocate from Cambodia and recent recipient of the French-German Human Rights Award for his leadership and advocacy, has also recently had a warrant issued for his arrest in Cambodia. He has twice been a prisoner of conscience in Cambodia and now faces the continued threat of prison if he returns home. The Centre provides a safe community and a stable institutional home for him to continue his work remotely until a more permanent solution can be found.

Also, Nandini Ramanujam is the McGill representative of the Scholars at Risk Network, and a member of the steering committee for the network’s Canadian section. Several collaborations with the Scholars at Risk Network took place in 2016.

Scholars at Risk Network Partnership

The Centre is proud of its continued partnership with the Scholars at Risk Network. Dedicated to promoting academic freedom and defending scholars and universities worldwide, SAR has so far provided assistance to more than 400 academics who had been facing harassment, censorship, surveillance and intimidation in their home countries, including a risk of arrest on false charges, detention without trial, torture, disappearance and murder. For their vision, dedication, and support of academics at risk, SAR were recently short-listed for the Dutch Foreign Ministry’s Human Rights Tulip Award.

The Centre had the privilege of hosting the SAR’s 15th anniversary Global Conference in June 2016. The conference highlighted the relatively new Canadian arm of the Scholars at Risk Network Partnership. McGill has fostered a strong rapport with this engaged and growing network and continues to promote and develop our partnership. The conference was of particular significance this year, as shortly before its commencement, Homa Hoodfar, a Concordia University professor, colleague, and friend of several Centre members, was jailed in Iran. Though she has now been released, Homa spent upwards of 100 days in jail. The Centre celebrates her courage, wishes for her well-being, and looks forward to her voice ringing out loud and clear in the future. Our thanks to SAR and all members and friends of the Centre who advocated on her behalf.

The Centre congratulates our first Scholar at Risk, Semahagn Abebe for securing a position as Visiting Professor at Endicott College, Massachusetts beginning in January 2017. It is wonderful to see Semahagn’s hard work and determination in the face of adversity being rewarded. Securing employment is an important step towards ensuring that scholars at risk find a permanent home in a safe environment where they can continue to speak out. The Centre and its staff are all privileged to play a part in promoting the advancement of these exceptional advocates’ careers.
From our first scholar to our next and third scholar, the Centre looks forward to welcoming Fayyaz Baqir from Pakistan in January 2017. The Centre shares the opportunity of hosting Fayyaz with the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID). Fayyaz is a highly-experienced human rights defender and development professional whose work focuses on poverty alleviation, inclusive development approaches, and Pakistani social entrepreneurship. With over 15 years teaching experience, he has taught in over eight prominent universities in Pakistan, the United States, the Netherlands and Sweden. Fayyaz is the Director of a prominent economic and human development NGO in Pakistan and has worked as a UN consultant and policy advisor. Over the last two decades, he has published over 35 articles on human rights, international relations and foreign policy, and justice and peace issues in Pakistan. The Centre is honoured to offer a safe space in which he may continue his work.

EVENTS

**Scholars at Risk Conference**

**Date:** June 7-10

The SAR Network 2016 Global Conference celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the Scholars at Risk Network and the collective efforts of the network members and partners protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom worldwide. At the Congress, more than 200 university, government and nonprofit leaders, faculty, staff, students and advocates from 25 countries came together to discuss seminal issues facing higher education today. Congress participants discussed how to do more to protect universities and scholars in these challenging times, and to strengthen the capacity of the university sector to contribute to a more peaceful, just, and safe world for all scholars.

**Academic Freedom in a Volatile World**

**Date:** December 8

**Panelists:** Michael Laurier, Irv Epstein, and Homa Hoodfar

The day began with a dynamic panel discussion in the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa and brought attention to the SAR network and the struggle for academic freedom. The underlying theme of the event was clearly felt, inviting scholars who have experienced challenges to their own academic freedom to speak in a secure forum and allow their voices to be heard by leaders and decision makers.

*It* was an intense but a very successful day and SAR Canada unequivocally put the agenda of protecting academic freedom before our lawmakers. – Nandini Ramanujam
**Rule of Law and Economic Development Research Group**

Researchers & collaborators: Nandini Ramanujam, Nicholas Caivano, James Burman, Stephanie Chow

The Rule of Law and Economic Development Research Group (ROLED) engages with cutting-edge issues at the intersection of law and economic development. The group’s work examines institutional development, corruption, governance and electronic governance, inequality, and access to justice in countries around the world. The group brings together international and Canadian researchers and thinkers interested in the links between rule of law and economic development.

The three year collaboration with University of Toronto led law and development initiative has resulted in a publication, ROLED researchers and centre member Nandini Ramanujam co-authored a new article with ROLED researcher Nicholas Caivano entitled “The BRIC Nations and the Anatomy of Economic Development: The Core Tenets of Rule of Law.” In June 2016 Nandini and Stephanie Chow’s paper “Towards a Human Dignity Based Approach to Food Security: Lessons from China and India” was published by Frontiers of Law in China. This paper was originally presented at a conference in Beijing in September 2015 which celebrated the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

**Economic Justice Working Group**

Project Convenor: Nandini Ramanujam

The working group was established to examine the intersection between socio-economic injustice and human rights. In the past year food security and the role it has to play in achieving economic justice for impoverished groups has become the focal point of the working group. The group has commenced an exciting new collaboration in 2016 with the newly established food law student group. This is an opportunity for students and faculty members to examine the issue of food security whilst engaging with a more global network dedicated to economic justice.

Nandini Ramanujam and Sarah Berger Richardson are co-authoring a paper on food security for publication in the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. The project is led by Professor Noha Shawki, the co-director of Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies in the Department of Politics and Government at Illinois State University, Noha is also the Faculty Co-leader of the American Democracy Project. The Centre is excited for the future of this international collaboration with Illinois State University.

**Research Group on Health and Law**

Researchers & collaborators: Alana Klein, Lara Khoury, Daniel Weinstock, Angela Campbell, and Derek J Jones

The McGill Research Group on Health and Law is a research network that seeks to foster the sharing of scholarship and ideas among professors and students, and encourages collaborative work on health-related issues. It also seeks to build interdisciplinary bridges across the University with colleagues working on health-related topics. Finally, it aims to provide students with a breadth of opportunities for pursuing intellectual endeavours in the field of health law through course work, independent research, graduate studies, or extra-curricular engagements.

In 2015, Professors Alana Klein, Antonia Maioni, Christopher Manfredi and Lara Khoury (PI) received a Law for the Future foundation grant from the Canadian Bar Association (23,500$) for their “The Renewal of Judicial Function in the Protection of Health: Visions in Constitutional, Criminal and Private Law” project. Other current research initiatives include: “Le rôle du droit dans la création, la mise en oeuvre et le bouleversement des politiques sociales en santé: approche multidisciplinaire et pluraliste” Lara Khoury (P.I.), Angela Campbell, Alana Klein, Antonia Maioni, Margaret Somerville, Wendy Thomson. The project is funded by FRQSC.
Mental Health Information Privacy: Interface with Equality in the Workplace
Principal Researchers: Derek J. Jones and Colleen Sheppard
This multi-year project identifies leading issues and questions, good practices and enabling standards -- from the interface of privacy, equality and disability law – to inform law reform, policy innovation and better management of mental health in our workplaces. The research has been supported in part by grants from the Privacy Commission of Canada and SSHRC (systemic discrimination issues). The community collaboration dimension of the Project engages and builds on parallel initiatives and studies by governmental, NGO, and private sector entities at provincial, federal and international levels. Interim research results have thus been shared with, or presented to, entities like the Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Canadian, Quebec and Ontario human rights commissions, Privacy Commission of Canada, and the International Labour Organization. A draft working document is scheduled for public consultation in 2016–17 and publication in 2017.

Disability and Human Rights Consortium
Centre Liaison: Nandini Ramanujam
Under the stewardship of Open Society Foundation, the Disability and Human Rights Consortium brings together seven institutions, including McGill, that demonstrate cutting-edge capacity for legal education in disability rights. Since 2011, the Centre has hosted two LLM students from Southern Africa and South America who are supported by this program and focus their studies on disability law.

The Centre is also leading a project of the Consortium that seeks to establish an open-source research portal on disability and human rights. The portal will serve as a landing page for the Consortium to disseminate research and news about disability rights issues, and will house a searchable database for articles, reports, legal judgments from many jurisdictions, and other resources related to disability and human rights.

Systemic Discrimination: Complexities and Dynamics
Principal Researcher: Colleen Sheppard
This research initiative focuses on the problem of effectively identifying and remedying systemic or structural discrimination. Using comparative and interdisciplinary lenses, its primary objectives include: (i) clarifying the conceptual difficulties confronting anti-discrimination law and practice in relation to systemic and structural inequalities; and (ii) elaborating new and creative strategies for, and approaches to identifying and remedying systemic or structural discrimination. The project is closely linked as well to both the Interdisciplinary Network on Discrimination and Inclusion and the now completed Aisenstadt Equality and Community Initiative.

Evaluating the Transformative Power of Clinical Legal Education in Personal and Professional Development
Principal Investigator: Nandini Ramanujam
This project aims to fill an empirical void by conducting a comprehensive evaluation of McGill Faculty of Law’s International Human Rights Internship Program (IHRIP), one of the country’s most extensive international field placement programs. The IHRIP promotes comprehensive engagement with human

“The University recognizes Nandini’s exceptional contributions [in advancing equity and diversity at McGill] over the past decade, her quiet leadership within the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, her extraordinary skill in mentoring students - who describe their encounter with Nandini as “a transformative experience” – and her ability to build bridges between students, faculty members and multiple social justice community organizations.” – Daniel Jutras
rights approaches through legal and extra-legal strategies by supporting law students to undertake placements with human rights organizations in Canada and abroad. The research will collect data from more than 100 IHRIP alumni on their post-graduation career interests and choices. These findings will be compared to data collected from a control group to draw clear findings on the transformative impact of clinical programs.

**Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory (LLDRL)**

Founder and Director: **Adelle Blackett**

The LLDRL is housed at McGill University’s Faculty of Law in Montreal, Canada, brings together international and interdisciplinary researchers interested in the links between labour law, development and the social contradictions of gender, race and ethnicity. More information on the LLDRL and a description of the project is available at their [website](http://www.mcgill.ca/lddl).

**Research Group on Constitutional Studies (RGCS)**

Researchers and Collaborators: **Mark Antaki, Jacob T. Levy, Catherine Lu, Victor Muñiz-Fraticelli, René Provost, Daniel Weinstock** and **Evan Fox-Decent**

The RGCS is a division of the Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds. Constitutionalism as a field of inquiry includes the classical idea of a fit between governing regimes and the societies they govern, and associated questions about what kinds of bodies of citizens can support what kinds of government. It also includes the modern idea of the basic rules and institutions that provide the fundamental framework of, and limits on, politics and government. The group brings together scholars from the Departments of Political Science and Philosophy and the Faculty of Law. Regular RGCS activities include a works-in-progress workshop for the faculty and postdoctoral researchers and a public lecture series. THE RGCS hosts a number of events throughout the year, inviting speakers from Canada and abroad to present.

**Children and Conflict**

Principal and Co-Investigator: **Miriam Denov (PI) and René Provost**

Mirian Denov and René Provost are recipients of the SSHRC Insight Grant, 2015-2020 which will see them collaborate to investigate issues involving children within conflict. The project is entitled; “Born of War: The Perspectives, Rights and Needs of Children Born of Wartime Sexual Violence.”

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*Photo by Esther Dionne-Desbiens, intern at Equality Effect, Kenya, summer 2016. Esther’s photo caption reads: “Almost every Saturday, Ashley and I went to Tumaini Rescue Centre to play sports, draw and dance with the girls.”*
The Centre has firmly established its presence and reputation in the world through its expanding network of programs which allows us to lend solidarity to organizations committed to protecting and promoting human rights locally and globally. Some of our initiatives and programs bring to us eminent individuals and their unique perspectives which continues to enrich the life of the Centre as well as university and larger community.

**International Human Rights Internship Program**

The International Human Rights Internship Program provides students with opportunities to serve as global citizens while contributing to important human rights work in the field. Many prospective and present students cite the Internship Program as a factor in their decision to study law at McGill, and the opportunities it affords create a unique and important contribution to our students’ education in human rights.

In the summer of 2016, 23 students participated in the Internship Program. Photographs taken during their placements feature prominently throughout their report.
2016 SUMMER INTERNS

André Capretti – LICAHDO, Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defence of Human Rights
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Marie-Laure Saliah-Linteau – Equitas
Montreal, Canada
Rachel Kohut – Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Toronto, Canada
Didier Chelin – Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Toronto, Canada
Brianna Gorence – Inter-American Court
San José, Costa Rica
Nour Saadi – Human Rights Watch
New York, USA
Alexander Agnello – Ateneo Centre
Manila, Philippines
Étienne Lacombe – Maliiganik Tukisiiniakvik Legal Services
Iqaluit, Canada
Esther Dionne Desbiens – Equality Effect
Nairobi, Kenya
André Moreau – Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities
Kampala, Uganda
Zachary Shefman – Law Reform & Development Commission
Windhoek, Namibia
Matthew James Squire – Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa
Banjul, The Gambia
Fiona Cooke – Avocats sans frontiers
Quebec City, Canada
Nigah Awj – Disability Rights International
Mexico City, Mexico
Amelia Philpott – Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Justice Department
Akwesasne Territory
Baya Laetitia Yantren – Calcutta Research Group (CRG)
Calcutta, India
Amanda Arella – One Earth Future Foundation
Colorado, USA
Anna Goldfinch – One Earth Future Foundation – Piracy
Colorado, USA
Antoine Beauchemin – National Human Rights Council
Rabat, Morocco
Elodie Fortin – Aswat Nissa (Voix des Femmes)
Tunis, Tunisia
Jacinthe Dion – Mental Health Disability Advocacy Centre
Budapest, Hungary
George (Théo) Lyons – Yukon Human Rights Commission
Yukon Territory
Emilie de Haas – Instituto Pontificia
Lima, Peru
Students receive 6 course credits that require the completion of a 12-week placement with a human rights organization, a report on the placement, and a research paper. Participants also enroll in a corresponding seminar, Critical Engagement with Discourses of Human Rights, taught by the Program Director, Nandini Ramanujam. The seminar serves to provide students with a structured and supportive environment in which to reflect on their internship with their peers, and to place their experience within the broader context of critical engagements with human rights law in theory and in practice.

The Centre enjoys collaboration with a wide spectrum of human rights organizations. In 2016 we offered four new internships with:

- **Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) –** Toronto, Canada
- **Instituto de Derechos Humanos y Democracia, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú –** Lima, Peru
- **Law Reform & Development Commission –** Windhoek, Namibia
- **Yukon Human Rights Commission –** Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

The Centre’s Working Paper Series enables the dissemination of papers by students who have participated in the International Human Rights Internship Program. Students enroll in the seminar Critical Engagement with Discourses of Human Rights seminar that allows them to write a research paper through a peer review and support process. The papers in this series are intended to showcase and disseminate original and innovative scholarship by our student interns, as well as to elicit feedback and encourage debate on important public policy challenges. The papers are available on the program’s website.
**International Clerkships**

McGill is the only Canadian university invited to send candidates to the Judicial Assistants Program of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR). The only other universities invited to do so are New York University, Columbia, Yale, Michigan, Geneva and Strasbourg. The Centre is the Faculty’s representative to these international courts and selects a shortlist of law students to forward to each court for consideration. In 2016, the following students were offered clerkships:

**Jenny Andrea Buitrago Carranza:** Inter-American Court of Human Rights  
**Iñaki Navarrete:** Inter-American Court of Human Rights  
**Portia Kargeya:** International Court of Justice  
**Nadir Pracha:** Permanent Court of Arbitration

The program is supported by the Ministère des relations internationals du Québec and by donor support.

**Program in Global Governance**

Based at the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) in the Faculty of Arts, the Program in Global Governance is a collaborative effort with the CHRLP at the Faculty of Law. The Program welcomes Professors of Practice in Global Governance, including *Marie Wilson* in Winter 2016 and *Aruna Roy* in Fall 2016, both of whom spoke at the Centre.

As part of the program, the Centre has also organized three student human rights internships with the One Earth Future (OEF) Foundation, a non-profit organization in Colorado, which aspires to develop effective systems of governance to achieve a world beyond war.
Siena Anstis (BCL/LL.B ’13) has been admitted to practice law in New York and Ontario. She has also clerked at the Court of Appeal for Ontario for Justices Watt, Pepall and Brown and at the Supreme Court of Canada for Justice Cromwell.

Nicholas Caivano (BCL/LL.B’14) joined the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network as a lawyer and policy analyst in June 2016 after completing his articles at Amnesty International Canada. At the Legal Network, he works on research, advocacy, and litigation in the area of international human rights law, particularly on the rights of marginalized, high-risk groups. His most recent work focuses on issues related to access to harm reduction services, access to medicines, the rights of sex workers, the rights of people who use drugs, and the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure. While in law school, Nicholas served as a Rathlyn and Aisenstadt Fellow at the Centre, where he helped launch the Disability and Human Rights Initiative. He continues to serve as an academic associate with the Rule of Law and Economic Development Research Group, based at the Faculty.

Alyssa Clutterbuck (BCL/LL.B ’15). She briefly worked for the City of Thunder Bay's Legal Services Department before commencing her articles at the Federal Court of Canada. She is currently a judicial law clerk for the Honourable Anne L. Mactavish and will be called to the Ontario Bar in June of 2017.

Peter Grbac (BCL/LL.B’16) is currently completing his last semester of law school on exchange at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law. Much of his time in Hong Kong is spent studying the “One Country, Two Systems” model as well as the increasingly heated political rhetoric between Mainland China and Hong Kong. When he is not in class, he is exploring the continent, backpacking through China, South Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Australia. In 2017-2018, he will be serving as law clerk to Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella at the Supreme Court of Canada.

Molly Joeck (BCL/LL.B’12) has, since graduation, served as a law clerk at the Federal Court of Canada in Ottawa for one year, then worked briefly with the federal Department of Justice in Montreal before going on to work in the area of immigration and refugee law with a small social justice-oriented law firm in Toronto, Ontario. She now appears before the Federal Court, Refugee Appeals Division and Refugee Protection Division of the Immigration and Refugee Board on a regular basis. As a refugee lawyer, she has been able to draw on the skills and knowledge she acquired both through her classes at the Law Faculty, but also through her work with the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, which allowed her to complete an internship in the area of international refugee law during her studies.

Charlotte-Anne Malischewski (BCL/LLB ’15), upon graduation, clerked at the Federal Court of Appeal for the Honourable Justice Richard Boivin. She is now an associate in McCarthy Tetrault's Litigation Group in Toronto, where she maintains a bilingual general litigation practice. Charlotte-Anne is involved in immigration and criminal law matters on a pro bono basis and recently published a chapter on Northern Ireland in the book "After the Flight: The Dynamics of Refugee Settlement and Integration."

Iñaki Navarrete (BCL/LL.B’15) is currently clerking at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. He continues to be involved with Disability Rights International (DRI) and is conducting research on how extant international legal norms apply to malevolent cyber operations. He recently published an article on intelligence collection and international law in The Canadian Yearbook of International Law, as well as an article on remedies for people with disability in Revue québécoise de droit international based on his experience working with DRI.
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Centre sur les droits de la personne et le pluralisme juridique de McGill

Faculty of Law, McGill University 3644 Peel Street
Montreal, Quebec Canada H3A 1W9
t: 514.398.3577
human.rights@mcgill.ca
www.mcgill.ca/humanrights

This report has been prepared by Francesca Farrington, Sharon Webb, and Nandini Ramanujam and the staff and team of the Centre. The original design of this report was done by Nicholas Caivano and has evolved under the editorial guidance of Nandini Ramanujam, Colleen Sheppard, Marika Giles Samson, and Sharon Webb.