

O'Brien Graduate Fellows and Fellows in Residence Programs

Update 2017 - 2018



McGill Centre for
Human Rights
and Legal Pluralism



Centre sur les droits de la
personne et le pluralisme
juridique de McGill



McGill

Faculty of
Law

Faculté de
Droit

O'Brien Fellows 2006-2018

40 Fellows in Residence since 2012

- ❖ Esmeralda Thornhill
- ❖ Anthony Fernando
- ❖ Jeffrey Khan
- ❖ Anne-Marie Cotter
- ❖ Semahagn Abebe
- ❖ Dzodzi Tsikata
- ❖ Annyssa Bellal
- ❖ Noam Schimmel
- ❖ Charles Ngwena
- ❖ Zoneziwoh Mbondgulo Wondieh
- ❖ Destaw Andargie Yigzaw
- ❖ Johann van der Westhuizen
- ❖ Oren Perez
- ❖ S. Laurel Weldon
- ❖ Pranoto Iskandar
- ❖ Tanya Monforte
- ❖ Maria Sapignoli
- ❖ Michelle Farrell
- ❖ Ebenezer Durojaye
- ❖ Sarwat Dalal Bashi
- ❖ Hadley Friedland
- ❖ Shivaun Quinlivan
- ❖ Claudia Geiringer
- ❖ Faisal Siddiqi
- ❖ Assata Kone-Silue
- ❖ Monica Moyo
- ❖ Nora Ahmetaj
- ❖ Olubayo Oluduro
- ❖ Fayyaz Baqir
- ❖ Laurens van Apeldoorn
- ❖ Lauren Curatolo
- ❖ Ranabir Samaddar
- ❖ **Vicki Prais**
- ❖ **Radha D'Souza**
- ❖ **Timothy F. Yerima**
- ❖ **Lorena Poblete**
- ❖ **Fatemeh Sadeghi Givi**
- ❖ **Zelalem Kibret Beza**
- ❖ **Saeed Parto**
- ❖ **Nivedita Narain**

36 Graduate Fellows since 2006

- ❖ Maureen T. Duffy
- ❖ Futsum Tesfatsion Abbay
- ❖ Carlos Iván Fuentes
- ❖ Edin Hodžić
- ❖ Salma Sharifi Khajedehi
- ❖ Jing Guan
- ❖ Kate Glover
- ❖ Amar Khoday
- ❖ John Hursh
- ❖ Bethany Hastie
- ❖ Bekithemba Mlauzi
- ❖ Claris Harbon
- ❖ Róisín Hennessy
- ❖ Sabaa Khan
- ❖ Marika Giles Samson
- ❖ Shimelis Mulugeta Kene
- ❖ Alvaro R. Córdova Flores
- ❖ Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle
- ❖ Rokeya Chowdhury
- ❖ Bwighane Mwenifumbo
- ❖ Muhammad Rezaur Rahman
- ❖ Jose Mauricio Gaona
- ❖ Tanya Monforte
- ❖ Raymond Savadogo
- ❖ Sok Young Chang
- ❖ Francesca Farrington
- ❖ Parisa Akbarimalkeshi
- ❖ Maryse Décarie-Daigneault
- ❖ Pierre-Alexandre Cardinal
- ❖ Menaka Rapti Ratnayake
- ❖ Kims Banda
- ❖ Yvana Lucía Novoa Curich
- ❖ Florence Ashley Paré
- ❖ **Maria Adelaida Ceballos-Bedoya**
- ❖ **Eunice Leyva García**
- ❖ **Vishakha Wijenayake**



O'BRIEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Foreword

The criticality of the O'Brien Fellowships in the life of the Centre has never been more prominent as in 2018, when we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Graduate Fellowships along with the Visiting Fellowships have brought to us voices and perspectives on the successes and failures of the universal human rights project from across the world. Currently, experts from India, Iran, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Mexico, Ethiopia and Afghanistan are making rich contributions to teaching and research on a range of human rights issues at the Faculty. The Visiting Fellowship program has allowed us to offer safe haven to scholars at risk and participate in global initiatives dedicated to promote and protect academic freedom. The exceptionally talented O'Brien Graduate Fellows are emerging as leaders and experts on cutting edge issues such as artificial intelligence and human rights, reconstructing the international law paradigm, and emerging challenges to fundamental freedoms in an increasingly securitized world. The global reach and impact of the fellowship programs has lent the Centre both high visibility, and great distinction as an institution of innovations and influence on international human rights issues. The Centre remains grateful to the generosity of David O'Brien.

Nandini Ramanujam
Executive Director and Director of Programs
Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
O'Brien Program Director

François Crépeau
Director, Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism
Oppenheimer Chair in Public International Law

Sharon Webb
Programs Coordinator
O'Brien Program Administrator
Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism





O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Vicki Prais

Dates of Fellowship: February - June 2018

Country of Origin: United Kingdom

Vicki Prais is a British human rights lawyer with over 20 years' experience of working in the human rights sector. Most recently, she was a Human Rights Advisor to the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (2014-2017) where she advised staff (including Ambassadors and senior FCO officials) on human rights issues affecting British nationals detained overseas. She has also served as a Legal Officer in the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where supervised the domestic implementation of judgments of the Court against the UK, Ireland and Cyprus. She has worked in the field as a Minority Rights Officer with the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo (2004-2005). She has also held positions at Amnesty International (International Secretariat, London) and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. Vicki has a Masters in Human Rights & Civil Liberties from Leicester University. Vicki has delivered human rights training to the judiciary and legal community in Armenia, the Ukraine and Russia in her capacity as a Human Rights Consultant to the Council of Europe. Vicki's areas of interest lie in detainees' rights and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of detainees.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Drafted an article, *'The Implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in Canada: A Practitioner's Perspective'*
- Student mentoring with McGill students

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Talk to McGill Law students, *'Everything you wanted to know about a career in human rights but were afraid to ask'* April 2018. The talk was very well attended with approximately 70 students in the room
- Talk at Concordia University *'Everything you wanted to know about a career in human rights but were afraid to ask'* August 2018



"The fellowship has been the most fantastic experience for me both personally and professionally. The fellowship afforded me a much-needed breathing space in my career to focus on an area of human rights that really interests me and I am hugely grateful for that opportunity. My previous role as Human Rights Advisor to the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office was hugely stressful and demanding and the fellowship has rejuvenated me and given me the strength to take the next step in my career."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Radha D'Souza

Dates of Fellowship: March - June 2018

Country of Origin: India

Radha D'Souza is a critical scholar, activist, barrister and writer, who has lived and worked in India, New Zealand and the UK. She is currently a Reader in Law at the University of Westminster. Radha's research straddles legal studies, development studies, sociology, geography, theory, comparative philosophy and history. Radha's work is well-known for its interdisciplinary breadth and for critically engaging theories and practices within social movements. Her book *Contextualising Interstate Disputes Over Krishna Waters: Law, Science and Imperialism* (Orient Longman India, 2006) is perhaps the only major critical work on interstate disputes over rivers within a federal constitution in a developing country context. Her work brings to bear legal, institutional, scientific, technological and historical dimensions of the ongoing conflicts over Krishna waters in India. Her recent book *What's Wrong with Rights? Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations* (Pluto, 2018) is path-breaking in that it maps, for the first time, the transformations in the regime of international rights to the transformations in post-World War capitalism.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Was interviewed on *This is Hell!*, a Chicago-based radio program, by 'FreshEds,' an education NGO, and by a Montreal-based journalist for an e-journal 'Warscapes' about her book entitled '*What's Wrong with Rights?*' which was published in London in January 2018
- Had several one-on-one meetings with PhD students who were working on different topics related to rights regimes in developing countries
- Completed one journal article and one book chapter

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Presented a talk on the "What's Wrong with Rights? Social Movements, Law and Liberal Imaginations" at Concordia University
- Gave a graduate seminar on 'Third World Approaches to International Law' at McGill
- Gave a human rights training session to the branch-level organizers of the Canadian Postal Workers Union in Gatineau
- Presented a paper at the Historical Materialism conference in University of Quebec
- Gave eight further public lectures and talks at Concordia University, Marianopolis College, John Abbott College, a Montreal based Filipino youth organization, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Punjabi Writers' Association, South Asian Women's Community Centre, and the McGill Faculty of Law
- Participated in five events and panel discussions about her book at the McGill Faculty of Law, the Law and Society conference in Toronto, at Another Story (Toronto) and McNally Robinson (Winnipeg) bookshops, and at the Immigrant Workers' Centre in Montreal



"The fellowship has enabled me to present my work to Canadian scholars and social movements. I could also introduce Third World Approaches to International Law as a methodology to graduate students at the Faculty of Law, which was not a subject that was taught in the Faculty before. Students showed significant interest in the subject."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Timothy F. Yerima

Dates of Fellowship: April - June 2018

Country of Origin: Nigeria

Timothy F. Yerima was formerly the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Kogi State University, Anyigba, Nigeria. He also holds several other positions: member, Governing Council of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja; member, Council of Legal Education of Nigeria; Editor-in-Chief, *Kogi State University Law Journal*; full-time lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Kogi State University; Adjunct Professor at Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti. He is also actively involved in research, with specific interest in international human rights and keen interest in African human rights system. He teaches International Human Rights at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has followed, carried out researches and published extensively on these areas of law, following the trends in the African human rights system. He has also delivered papers on various segments of African human rights system in comparative perspective with other regional human rights systems in different international forum. He holds an LLB, University of Maiduguri, an LLM, from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife, a Ph.D. in Law, from University of Jos, and a BL from the Nigerian Law School, Lagos. Currently, he is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the *Nigerian Law Journal*, a publication of the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law and Diplomacy*, a Publication of the International Research Institute and Development, Nigeria.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Completed an extensive research on: 'Two Decades of African Regional Human Rights Judicial Landscape: An Ending Journey or Still in Quandary'
- Commenced research on: 'The Role of ECOWAS Court of Justice in the Development of African Human Rights Jurisprudence: A Difficult Take-off with a Visionary Landing'
- Gathered extensive materials to review my book titled: *The Efficacy of Human Rights Enforcement Mechanisms under the African System*. The review of the book is on-going



"I benefitted tremendously from the interactions with the other O'Brien Fellows and the members of the CHRLP Community. Words are grossly inadequate to express my gratitude for the opportunity given to me for the fellowship. What I have achieved cannot be quantified. I would like to thank the sponsor of the O'Brien Fellowship for giving the Faculty the opportunity to develop a program of this nature."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Lorena Poblete

Dates of Fellowship: April - July 2018

Country of Origin: Argentina

Lorena Poblete is a Researcher at Argentina's National Research Council (CIS-CONICET/IDES) and Associate Professor at the National University of San Martín (IDAES-UNSAM). Lorena has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) and a DEA in Ethnology and Anthropology from the same university, and a master in Social Sciences from FLACSO (Argentina). She was a visiting scholar at Université de Lille 1 (France), Freie Universität Berlin (Germany) and Princeton University (US). Since 2014, she participated in various activities organized by the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory at McGill. Her research is broadly focused on labour regulations, social security regimes and labour institutions. Currently, she works on a project about formalization policies in Argentina. In particular, the project focuses on policies concerning atypical workers such as self-employed workers and paid domestic workers. While at the Centre for Human Rights & Legal Pluralism, and in collaboration with Adelle Blackett, she will conduct research on the dispute resolution mechanisms for domestic workers implemented in three Argentinean cities (Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Salta).

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Results from her research were presented at the *Congrès de l'Association Canadienne de Relations Industrielles* (UQAM, Montreal), and at the Law & Society Conferences (Toronto)
- The papers presented to the *Congrès de l'Association Canadienne de Relations Industrielles* will be published in the journal *Estudios del Trabajo*, and the one presented at the Law & Society Conference will be published in an international journal

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Chaired the presentation of a book written by Radha's D'Souza, another O'Brien Fellow in Residence. This event was organized Adelle Blackett and the Labour Law and Development Laboratory in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism.



“During my stay, I have had the opportunity to discuss my research project with different colleagues from McGill, UQAM, CRIMT and other institutions. I learned a lot from the experiences of the other Fellows, and we have very interesting discussions. The O'Brien Fellowship gives us a very friendly and inspiring place to work on our research.”



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

CURRENT FELLOW

Fatemeh Sadeghi Givi

Dates of Fellowship: September 2018 - February 2019

Country of Origin: Iran

Fatemeh Sadeghi is a researcher and lecturer of political science and gender studies in Iran. She is a specialist in political thought, gender studies, Islamic political thoughts, and Iranian politics. She obtained her PhD in Political Thought in 2004 from Tarbiat Modarres University in Tehran. From 2003 until 2008, she taught as assistant lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science of the Islamic Azad University of Karaj. She was also a co-editor of *Goftogu*, the Iranian journal of culture and society from 2003 and 2010, and a member of International Center for Dialogue among Civilizations in 2000-2001.

In 2007, she was granted a post-doc fellowship by SEPHIS and became an ISIM research fellow in Leiden. From 2009 to 2010, she worked as a research member of the Faculty of Social and Political Science at the University of Amsterdam. Currently she is working as independent scholar, researcher, translator and lecturer in Iran.

She has published several books and academic articles in both English and Persian. Her book in English, *The Sin of the Woman: The Interrelations of Religious Judgments in Zoroastrianism and Islam* (2018) was published by Claus-Schwartz Verlag in Berlin. Her books in Persian include *Gender in Ethical Doctrines: From 3 to 9th Century Iran* (2013), *The Unveiling of the First Pahlavi: Rereading of a Modern Intervention* (2013), *Women, Power and Resistance in Post-revolutionary Iran* (2012), *Gender, Nationalism, and Modernity in the First Pahlavi* (2006). Her translations from English into Persian include Leila Ahmad's *Women and Gender in Islam: The Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*, Agnes Heller's *A Theory of Modernity*, Asef Bayat's *Life and Politics*, Reza Aslan's *Zealot*, and Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique*.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Participated in classes, seminars and workshops

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Presented a talk, "The politics of the hejab in Iran"
- Presented a talk, "The challenge on Human Rights: Looking for an alternative framework"



"I have very much benefitted from sharing knowledge and experiences with legal scholars who work in other contexts, societies and under different conditions that I am less familiar with [...] also, participating in the human rights seminar and sharing my knowledge and research on constitutionalism in Iran has allowed me to see the unseen and new angles."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

CURRENT FELLOW

Zelalem Kibret Beza

Dates of Fellowship: September 2018 - April 2019

Country of Origin: Ethiopia

Zelalem Kibret is an Ethiopian scholar and blogger. Previously, he was a Scholar-at-Risk fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, and the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, at New York University's School of Law. Among other things, his research focuses on transitional politics and justice, traditional justice, individuals in international law, counterterrorism, and new social movements and liberation technology. By training, Zelalem is a lawyer specialized in public international law. He was a Professor of Law at Ambo University in Ethiopia until April 2014.

Besides his teaching activities, Zelalem is a blogger at the Zone Nine Blogging platform, a collective which blogs and campaigns on Human Rights, Constitutionalism, and Democracy in Ethiopia. Zelalem is the co-recipient of the 2015 Committee to Protect Journalists' (CPJ) International Press Freedom award and the 2015 Reporter Sans Frontieres' (RSF) Citizen-Journalist award.

Zelalem earned his LL.M degree from Addis Ababa University in Public International Law. In June 2016, he was selected as one of the Mandela Washington Fellows — a flagship program of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) — and spent six weeks at the University of Virginia, The College of William and Mary, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, James Monroe's Highland and at James Madison's Montpelier — under the civic leadership track.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Worked on two projects, "The politico-legal aspects of legal pluralism and paramountcy in the African Federations" and "Anthropomorphization of international law as shaped by the criminalization of core international crimes"

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Participated in the African Internet Freedom Forum as a panelist
- Presented a paper at the McGill Faculty of Law, "International Human Rights Instruments: Protective or Liability? An Ethiopian Reckoning"



"As an O'Brien Fellow, I have immensely benefitted from the insight of other co-fellows, DCL students, and other staff at the CHRLP. Mainly, the interaction is helping me in that it provides resources and networking opportunities."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

CURRENT FELLOW

Saeed Parto

Dates of Fellowship: September - December 2018

Country of Origin: Canada

Saeed Parto holds a PhD in Human Geography from University of Waterloo and specializes in policy analysis. His academic and consultancy work has centred on analyzing policy in a wide array of areas including environmental policy at the organizational and regional scales (Canada), waste management at the national scale (the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), energy policy at the national scale (Afghanistan), transitions toward sustainability through technological change at the national and regional scales (Europe and Japan), institutional capacity building through development aid programs at the sub-national and national scales (Afghanistan, India, Ghana, Nigeria, and Vietnam), integration at the regional scale (Turkey and the European Union, Afghanistan and Central Asia), industrial greening at the sub-national and national scales (Canada), and industrial clustering at the sub-national scale (South Africa, Egypt, and Afghanistan). Saeed has carried out academic and applied research, published, and lectured extensively on these topics to an audience that has included undergraduate and graduate students, operations laypersons, NGOs, donor organizations, and private and public sector decision makers. The two key questions that have guided this work over the last 20 or so years are: 1) Why are policy outcomes often different from policy objectives? and 2) How can the gap between policy outcomes and policy objectives be minimized? He is co-founder and Director of Research at Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization based in Kabul, Afghanistan and APPRO-Europe based in Brussels, Belgium. He also acts as Academic Director for the *Center for Good Governance, Gender Analysis, Applied Social Research, Public Administration, and Development*.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Two papers will shortly be in full draft form for submission to peer-reviewed journals for publication. The first paper focuses on state-civil society relations in conflict environments in the case of Afghanistan. The second paper focuses on the degree to which the notion of human rights has become an instrument of foreign policy and how this has translated to Afghanistan.
- Attended seminars and presentations in relation to his work

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Gave a presentation with other O'Brien Fellows as part of class taught by Nandini Ramanujam on "The Past, Present and Future of the UDHR". The presentation discussed the use of the term 'human rights' and how its use as a political instrument has resulted in alienating the beneficiaries of human rights-based interventions



"There is great complementarity between the fellows who come from less stable and, in some cases, conflict environments, and the faculty and PhD students whose work and professional environment are stable and free of conflict-driven stress. In effect, the fellowship brings together academic researchers and applied researchers, creating numerous opportunities for learning and collaborating."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

CURRENT FELLOW

Nivedita Narain

Dates of Fellowship: September - December 2018

Country of Origin: India

Nivedita Narain is a pioneer in the Indian self-help group movement. Over the last 30 years she has held various leadership roles in the NGO PRADAN, which works towards livelihoods development and gender justice in India's poorest regions. She has built human rights and institution development systems. She has built programmes that mobilised young professionals to work with poor communities in rural India including a Masters' programme in Development Practice with the Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD). She established the engagement with research partners from India, U.S.A., Australia, U.K. and the Netherlands to develop new pathways for socio-economic development and gender justice.

Her doctoral work explored the roles and competencies of social change professionals. Nivedita is interested in exploring how group rights impinge on those of individuals, especially women in indigenous communities. She is researching the dynamics of collective action at the intersectionality of class, ethnicity, caste and gender. She aims to document the history of the SHG movement as a vehicle of social change.

Dr. Narain was an Erasmus Mundus Fellow at the University of Gottingen. She was a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Development Practice at the Ambedkar University Delhi, and an Atlantic Visiting Fellow at the Inequalities Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Nivedita has a PhD in Management from IIT Delhi, a Masters in International Development Policy from Cornell University, an MBA from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand; and a Bachelors in Mathematics from Delhi University.

Achievements while at CHRLP

- Completed the final draft of a working paper (*Exploring the tensions between group rights and gender inequality*) to be submitted for publication by the end of the period
- Was awarded a grant towards research project around *Developing innovative measures and methods for women's collective action, political influence and political participation*

Teaching & Public Engagement

- Gave a presentation with other O'Brien Fellows as part of a class taught by Nandini Ramanujam on "The Past, Present and Future of the UDHR"



"This fellowship has given me the opportunity to explore multiculturalism and legal pluralism, and the indigenous people's question, in a very progressive and advanced manner. The fellowship provides access to new ideas and scholarship that are not otherwise available."



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND UPDATES

Esmeralda M.A. Thornhill, Fellowship September 2012 - November 2012 (Canada)

- Areas of expertise: racism in law, education and the public services, anti-racism advocacy, black Canadian studies

Anthony T. Fernando, Fellowship January 2013 - March 2013 (The Seychelles)

- Areas of expertise: constitutional and public law, the law of contracts and mercantile law

Fellow update: After acting as a Justice on the Court of Appeal of the Seychelles, Anthony was appointed in 2015 as a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of Fiji.

Jeffrey Khan, Fellowship September 2013 - December 2013 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: American constitutional law, Russian law, human rights, and national security law

Fellow update: Jeffrey was awarded a Gerald Ford Research Fellowship at Southern Methodist University in 2016-2017 and was a Fulbright Research Scholar at the PluriCourts Centre in the Faculty of Law of Oslo in 2017-2018.

Anne-Marie Cotter, Fellowship September 2013 - February 2014 (Canada)

- Areas of expertise: political economy, international law and the issue of equality

Semahagn Gashu Abebe, Scholar at Risk, Fellowship September 2013 – May 2014 (Ethiopia)

- Areas of expertise: economic and social justice, conflict resolution, human rights, and international law

Fellow update: After leaving McGill, Semahagn has taught at the University of Connecticut and Endicott College in Massachusetts. He is now in being considered for a tenure track appointment at Endicott College.

Dzodzi Tsikata, Fellowship February 2014 - May 2014 (Ghana)

- Areas of expertise: informal labour relations and the conditions of informal workers, particularly domestic workers; gender and development policies and practices; large scale commercial land deals and the livelihoods of smallholders

Fellow update: Dzodzi was appointed for a second three-year term as a member of UN Committee for Development Policy and is a member of Ghana's National Development Planning Commission.

Annyssa Bellal, Fellowship March 2014 - July 2014 (Switzerland)

- Areas of expertise: public international law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and armed non-state actors



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Noam Schimmel, Fellowship July 2014; September 2014 - December 2014 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: ethical dimensions of human rights law, the politics of human rights and humanitarian aid, and the role of rhetoric and communication in both advancing and limiting human rights

Fellow update: Noam is now an Associate Professor at Future Generations University (Franklin, West Virginia) and consults for human rights/development-oriented foundations and NGOs.

Charles Ngwena, Fellowship September 2014 - October 2014 (South Africa)

- Areas of expertise: human rights and health care, including HIV/AIDS and reproductive and sexual health with a focus on the African region and disability rights

Zoneziwoh Mbondgulo Wondieh, Fellowship September 2014 - December 2014 (Cameroon)

- Areas of expertise: gender activism, policy advocacy and youth leadership

Fellow update: After her O'Brien Fellowship, Zoneziwoh completed a Master's Degree specializing in Sex, Gender and Violence at the University of Aberdeen and volunteered for the United Nations on projects regarding reproductive health and environment.

Destaw Andargie Yigzaw, Scholar at Risk, Fellowship January 2015 – February 2015 (Ethiopia)

- Areas of expertise: human rights law, jurisprudence, and business law

Johann van der Westhuizen, Fellowship March 2015 (South Africa)

- Areas of expertise: human rights law and constitutional law

Fellow update: Johann is currently an honorary professor at the University of Pretoria and a member of the University's centre for Human Rights board of trustees, the Law Faculty Council of the University of Pretoria and the council of the Judicial Education Institute of South Africa.

Oren Perez, Fellowship March 2015 - April 2015 (Israel)

- Areas of expertise: Environmental regulation, transnational law, legal theory, e-democracy and legal pluralism

Fellow update: As of October 2017, Oren was appointed Dean of Bar-Ilan University, Faculty of Law, where he has been teaching courses concerning torts, environmental regulation and paradoxes in law.

S. Laurel Weldon, Fellowship September 2015 - January 2016 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: social movements, institutions and social policy

Fellow update: Laurel recently moved to Vancouver, BC, to become Professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University. She also published a book, *The Logics of Gender Justice: State Action on Women's Rights Around the World*, Cambridge University Press, 2018.



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Pranoto Iskandar, Fellowship September 2015 - December 2015 (Indonesia)

- Areas of expertise: International and comparative law, and religious constitutionalism

Fellow update: Pranoto completed an LLM at Cornell Law School in 2017-2018. He has recently presented and published on the themes of Religious Constitutionalism and Indigenizing Constitutionalism. His most recent [publication](#) is an extension of an article that he wrote during his O'Brien Fellowship at McGill: *Non-Citizen Rights in ASEAN*.

Tanya Monforte, Fellowship September 2015 - December 2015 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: intersection of critical security studies and human rights, women's rights and the law of treaties

Maria Sapignoli, Fellowship January 2016 - May 2016 (Italy)

- Areas of expertise: indigenous peoples' rights related to conservation programs, resettlement and extractive industries

Fellow update: Maria was a visiting Fellow in Residence at the NYU Law Center for Human Rights and Global Justice from January to June 2018, and continues in her position as researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology.

Michelle Farrell, Fellowship January 2016 - May 2016 (Ireland)

- Areas of expertise: political, ethical and critical perspectives on human rights as well as conflict, counter-terrorism and states of emergency from historical, theoretical and human rights perspectives

Fellow update: Michelle recently co-edited a collection titled *Human Rights in the Media: Fear and Fetish*, expected to be published in 2018 with Routledge.

Ebenezer Durojaye, Fellowship January 2016 - May 2016 (South Africa)

- Areas of expertise: human rights issues and health, with a specific focus on Africa and HIV/AIDS

Sarwat Dalal Bashi, Fellowship April 2016 - October 2016 (Syria)

- Areas of expertise: migration and integration issues, human rights violations in crisis situations on a rapid-response basis and criminal law

Hadley Friedland, Fellowship May 2016 - June 2016 (Canada)

- Areas of expertise: Indigenous legal traditions, Aboriginal law, legal theory, criminal justice, family law, child welfare, knowledge mobilization, restorative justice and therapeutic jurisprudence

Fellow update: Hadley joined the University of Alberta in 2016, where she now is Assistant Professor.



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Shivaun Quinlivan, Fellowship August 2016 - December 2016 (Ireland)

- Areas of expertise: Equality and education, inclusive education, the right to inclusive education for children with disabilities

Fellow update: Shivaun was recently appointed Vice-Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the School of Law, College of Business, Public Policy and Law, National University of Ireland, Galway. Also, her upcoming book *The Right to Inclusive Education in International Human Rights Law* (Cambridge 2018) includes a chapter written by a McGill student who attended Shivaun's class at McGill.

Claudia Geiringer, Fellowship September 2016 - November 2016 (New Zealand)

- Areas of expertise: constitutional and administrative law, the domestic reception of international law and the laws of Parliament

Faisal Siddiqi, Fellowship September 2016 - November 2016 (Pakistan)

- Areas of expertise: constitutional, civil and criminal law

Assata Kone-Silue, Fellowship May 2017 - June 2017 (Côte d'Ivoire)

- Areas of expertise: social law, job insecurity, contract law, civil responsibility law, commercial law and the Organisation pour l'Harmonisation du droit des affaires en Afrique

Monica Moyo, Fellowship February 2016 - Mai 2016 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: human rights approaches to global poverty and economic justice

Nora Ahmetaj, Fellowship February 2016 - June 2016 (Kosovo)

- Areas of expertise: human rights, conflict transformation and transitional justice

Olubayo Oluduro, Fellowship January 2016 - June 2016 (Nigeria)

- Areas of expertise: environmental and human rights issues

Fayyaz Baqir, Scholar at Risk, Fellowship May 2017 – April 2018 (Pakistan)

- Areas of expertise: poverty alleviation, participatory development and social entrepreneurship

Fellow update: In fall 2018, Fayyaz published the book that he finalized during his fellowship: *Poverty Alleviation and the Poverty of Aid*, Routledge 2018. He is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Ottawa.

Laurens van Apeldoorn, Fellowship August 2017 - December 2017 (The Netherlands)

- Areas of expertise: contemporary political theory and the history of political thought, international taxation in relation to global justice

Fellow update: Laurens worked on four papers during his fellowship. Three have been published so far: 'Exploitation, International Taxation, and Global Justice', *Review of Social Economy*, (2018); 'Taxing Where Value is Created', *Florida Tax Review*, 22 (2018) (with A. Christians); 'The OECD Inclusive Framework' *Bulletin for International Taxation* 72:4/5 (2018) (with A. Christians).



O'BRIEN FELLOWS IN RESIDENCE

Lauren Curatolo, Fellowship September 2017 - December 2017 (United States)

- Areas of expertise: criminal rights and women's rights

Ranabir Samaddar, Fellowship October 2017 - December 2017 (India)

- Areas of expertise: migration and refugee studies, peace studies with an emphasis on the theory and practice of dialogue, nationalism and post-colonial statehood in South Asia, and labour studies with reference to technological restructuring and labour flows across borders

Vicki Prais, Fellowship February 2018 - June 2018 (United Kingdom)

- Areas of expertise: detainees' rights and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of detainees

Fellow update: Immediately following her fellowship, Vicki accepted a job offer to work with a London-based NGO, Penal Reform International, where she will work on international advocacy, monitoring, and research on penal reform, her key research areas during her fellowship.

Radha D'Souza, Fellowship March 2018 - June 2018 (India)

- Areas of expertise: legal studies, development studies, sociology, geography, theory, comparative philosophy and history

Timothy Yerima, Fellowship April 2018 - June 2018 (Nigeria)

- Areas of expertise: international human rights and the African human rights system

Fellow update: Timothy recently completed a research project that he worked on during his fellowship 'Insecurity and Judicial Challenges in the Administration of Criminal Justice in Nigeria' and has begun a new interdisciplinary collaboration on the 'Medico-Legal Correlation of Female Genital Mutilation in Nigeria'.

Lorena Poblete, Fellowship April 2018 - July 2018 (Argentina)

- Areas of expertise: labour regulations, social security regimes and labour institutions

Fatemeh Sadeghi Givi, Fellowship September 2018 - February 2019 (Iran)

- Areas of expertise: political thought, gender studies, Islamic political thought, and Iranian politics

Zelalem Kibret Beza, Scholar at Risk, Fellowship September 2018 – April 2019 (Ethiopia)

- Areas of expertise: transitional politics and justice, traditional justice, individuals in international law, counter-terrorism, and new social movements and liberation technology

Saeed Parto, Fellowship September 2018 - December 2018 (Canada)

- Areas of expertise: policy analysis, environmental policy, waste management, energy policy, transitions toward sustainability through technological change, institutional capacity building through development aid programs, industrial greening and clustering

Nivedita Narain, Fellowship September 2018 - December 2018 (India)

- Areas of expertise: social change professionals and dynamics of collective action at the intersectionality of class, ethnicity, caste and gender



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Rokeya Chowdhury (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2014-2018

Country of Origin: Bangladesh

Supervisor: Daniel Weinstock

Anticipated Graduation: 2019



Rokeya Chowdhury holds a teaching position in the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. She has a keen interest in human rights issues and most of her work addresses issues and concerns relating human rights. Rokeya obtained her LLB (Hons.) in 2009 and her LLM in 2011 from the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka. She completed a LLM Thesis Program at the Institute of Comparative Law, McGill University in 2013. She is now working on her doctoral studies in the Faculty of Law, McGill University as an O'Brien Fellow.

Rokeya's research areas and interests involve women rights, indigenous rights, comparative law, law and society, law and literature. Rokeya's proposed doctoral thesis examines the state religion and secularism stand-off in the Constitution of Bangladesh with a law and performing arts analogy. Rokeya has not limited her activities in traditional academic teaching and learning. As a member of Empowerment through Law of the Common People (ELCOP), a voluntary research organization run by law teachers and students in Bangladesh Rokeya has coordinated and facilitated events on human rights awareness. She has previously worked with Northern University Bangladesh, UNESCO Madanjeet South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies (UMSAILS), Dr, Kamal Hossain and Associates, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh and Relief International Bangladesh.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Jose Mauricio Gaona (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2016-2019

Country of Origin: Colombia/United States

Supervisor: François Crépeau

Anticipated Graduation: 2020



Mauricio is a Saul Hayes Fellow and Graduate Supervisor Fellow at McGill's Faculty of Law as well as an O'Brien Fellow at the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. He is recipient of various academic awards, including the Vanier Canada Scholarship awarded by the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and 13 other awards awarded by governments, universities, and research institutes in Canada, United States, England, France, Italy, Finland, and Colombia. He holds an LL.M in International and Comparative Law from University of California—UCLA School of Law (Dean's Honour Scholar), a M2 in European Union Law from University Panthéon-Assas Paris II—Sorbonne Law School (1st Class Honours), and an LL.B. from University Externado (1st Class Honours).

Mauricio has been invited lecturer at Yale and McGill Universities as well as invited panelist at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, California, Ottawa, and National University of Singapore NUS. He served as Law Clerk for the Chief Justice of the State Council, National Deputy Comptroller for Public Management, and Assistant of the Attorney General of Colombia. He volunteered at the Refugee and Immigration Centre RAICES and served as Legal Assistant before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Texas. Mauricio has been also an active media contributor in international human rights and constitutional law in Canada, United States, Germany, Costa Rica, and Colombia. His publications (books, peer-reviewed articles, blogs, op-eds) and research work (see [Linked-in profile](#)) encompass critical intersections of human rights, national security, forced migration, democracy, and technology.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Tanya Monforte (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2016-2019

Country of Origin: United States

Supervisor: Frédéric Mégret

Anticipated Graduation: 2020



Tanya Monforte is the former director of the International Human Rights M.A. Program at the American University in Cairo, where she was also a professor of law and served on the steering committee of the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies. She has been a visiting faculty member at Brown University, Addis Ababa University, and the University of Texas. Dr. Monforte holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a M.A. in the sociology of law and a B.A. in philosophy.

Dr. Monforte's background in the sociology of law has contributed to her interdisciplinary approach to law. Participating in a research group of scholars from various social science disciplines and institutions in the Global South, she has developed a critical research agenda on the international protection of the child. She has published on the topic of children associated with armed groups and has a forthcoming publication on peace education during times of conflict. As an O'Brien Fellow-in-Residence, Dr. Monforte's research project on the law of treaties addressed the International Law Commission's Guide to Practice on Reservations to Treaties and specifically dealt with the ILC's treatment of "sharia" reservations to human rights treaties.

Dr. Monforte's current areas of research include the intersection of critical security studies and human rights, women's rights and the law of treaties. Her DCL thesis is entitled *The resurrection of civil death; Old legal concepts and the emergent paradigm for global security*.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Raymond Savadogo (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2016-2019

Country of Origin: Burkino Faso

Supervisor: Frédéric Mégret

Anticipated Graduation: 2020



Raymond Savadogo holds a LL.B. in civil law with first class distinction from the Catholic University of West Africa in Burkina Faso and a LL.M. in International Criminal and Humanitarian Law with distinction from l'Université Laval in Canada. Mr. Savadogo has also studied at l'Université libre de Bruxelles.

Previously, Raymond held a Teaching Assistant in International Criminal Law (LL.M course) for Professor Fannie Lafontaine at l'Université Laval. He has worked as a Professional Researcher for the Canadian Research Chair on International Criminal Justice and Human Rights. He has also worked as a pro bono member of the Defence Counsel of Callixte Mbarushimana, a member of an armed rebel group in the north of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has assisted victims before the Extraordinary African Chambers established to try the former Chadian President, Hissène Habré. In addition, at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Mr. Savadogo assisted the Counsel for the Defence of Callixte Nzabonimana, as well as the Counsel of acquitted persons as part of their post-acquittal relocation.

Raymond's research centres on procedural and substantive International Criminal Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, Legal Theory, African Systems of Human Rights protection, as well as constitutional, judiciary and political reforms in Africa.

In his DCL thesis, entitled *Acquittés mais présumés non-innocent! Une analyse des impératifs de sécurité intérieure dans la réinstallation des acquittés des juridictions pénales internationales*, Raymond will examine emerging African systems of international criminal justice.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Pierre-Alexandre Cardinal (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2017-2018

Country of Origin: Canada

Supervisor: Frédéric Mégret

Anticipated Graduation: 2022



Pierre-Alexandre Cardinal is currently a first year DCL candidate at McGill University's Faculty of Law. After his LLM, also obtained from McGill University, Mr. Cardinal participated in a number of international conferences and events. He published in the areas of international legal history and the relationship between international law and Empire. Developing his LLM research project entitled "Islam Between Modernity and Coloniality", his work analyzed the ambivalent relationship between European Modernity, colonialism and legal subjectivity in international normative forums.

Pierre-Alexandre's current work, supported by the O'Brien Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, engages in a critique of the omnipresent legacy of colonialism in a world order founded in difference. Under the supervision of Frédéric Mégret, his project engages in the critique of general international law theory, but also in the reconstruction of lost histories and non-Eurocentric world visions, especially China.

Pierre-Alexandre also maintains side projects in environmental and animal law, the inspiration for which comes from his passion for ultra-distance running. He also organizes charity running events, and is very active in the Montreal running community.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Maria Adelaida Ceballos-Bedoya (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2018-2021

Country of Origin: Colombia

Supervisor: Shauna Van Praagh

Anticipated Graduation: 2023



Maria is currently a D.C.L. student at McGill University's Faculty of Law and an O'Brien Fellow at the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism. She is a Colombian lawyer with a master's degree in Sociology from the National University of Colombia. Her doctoral project, supervised by Professor Shauna Van Praagh, delves on the gender inequalities of the Colombia judicial system. In particular, she is studying the factors that facilitate or hinder the entry of women to different levels of the judiciary in a context of state weakness like the Colombian.

Before coming to McGill, Maria worked as a researcher at the Centre for the Study of Law, Justice, and Society – Dejusticia, a Colombian think tank dedicated to human rights research and strategic litigation in favor of vulnerable groups in Latin America. She also gained extensive teaching experience at EAFIT University (Medellin, Colombia), where she taught courses on *Sociology of Law*, and *Constitution and Citizenship*.

She has worked on numerous socio-legal research projects and co-authored two books on justice and legal profession (with M. García-Villegas). Her work on legal education has also been published by two Colombian peer-reviewed journals.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Eunice Leyva García (LLM Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2018-2019

Country of Origin: Mexico

Supervisor: Fabien Gélinas

Anticipated Graduation: 2019



Eunice Leyva García is a Mexican human rights defender. She is an LLM candidate at McGill University's Faculty of Law an O'Brien Fellow at the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism and a Fellow of the Disability Rights Scholarship Program from the Open Society Foundations.

She holds a B.A. in Law from Tecnológico de Monterrey, in Mexico. She has participated in different human rights programs, including at the American University, WCL, in Washington DC, the National University of Ireland, Galway, and the Central European University, in Budapest, Hungary and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Since the age of 21, Eunice has collaborated with several NGOs in the advocacy, research and strategic litigation areas, including the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, Documenta, and Instituto de Justicia Procesal Penal. She also worked for the Mexican Federal Judiciary in a Constitutional Court for Criminal Matters, in Mexico City. The main areas of her work have been about torture, enforced disappearance, violence against women, disability rights, people deprived from their liberty, and the criminal justice system. She has been invited, several times, to train judges, prosecutors and public defenders in human rights matters. She has also been invited as a lecturer to different public and academic forums and has collaborated with several articles for human rights publications.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

CURRENT GRADUATE FELLOW

Vishakha Wijenayake (DCL Candidate)

Dates of Fellowship: 2018-2021

Country of Origin: Sri Lanka

Supervisor: René Provost

Anticipated Graduation: 2023



Vishakha Wijenayake completed her LL.B. (Hons) at University of Colombo where she was given the Most Outstanding Student Award. During her undergraduate studies she was twice awarded best national level mooter award at the Jessup Competition. She obtained her LL.M. at University of Michigan Ann Arbor where she was a Fulbright scholar and a Hugo Grotius Fellow. She has worked as a lecturer in law at University of Jaffna and a visiting lecturer at University of Colombo. She also worked in the legal division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva as an associate where she was involved in the Customary IHL project as well as conducted research for the updated Commentaries to the Second and Third Geneva Conventions. She also worked as a legal adviser in the ICRC delegation in Sri Lanka where her work dealt mainly with the issue of the missing and the disappeared in Sri Lanka. In addition to this, she has also worked on projects with NGOs such as Transparency International, Center for Poverty Analysis, Center for Women's Research and Law and Society Trust.

She has published books, chapters and peer reviewed articles on conflict, human rights and international humanitarian law. Her interests include human rights, international humanitarian law, and transitional justice.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

THESES and UPDATES

Maureen T. Duffy, DCL 2013 (United States)

- Thesis: Turning the kaleidoscope: Featured narratives and altered presumptions in anti-terrorism detention practices

Fellow update: Maureen was recently promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. She has also recently published a book: *Detention of Terrorism Suspects: Political Discourse and Fragmented Practices* (Hart Publishing 2018).

Futsum Tesfatsion Abbay, DCL 2013 (Eritrea)

- Thesis: Disability rights in Africa: Towards a citizenship approach

Carlos Iván Fuentes, DCL 2014 (Panama)

- Thesis: Normative plurality in international law: The impact of international human rights law in the doctrine of sources of international law

Fellow update: Carlos now serves as a Legal Officer within the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, after having held this role within the Treaty Section.

Edin Hodžić, DCL 2014 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

- Thesis: The (not so) gentle civilizer of consociations? International human rights law and the challenges of group political rights

Fellow update: Edin is now the Deputy Director and Head of the Public Law Program at Analitika, a Center for Social Research in Sarajevo.

Salma Sharifi Khajedeji, LLM 2010 (Iran)

- Research Project: Implicit Islamophobic expressions: Hate speech or exercise of freedom?

Kate Glover, DCL 2017 (Canada)

- Thesis: The stories we tell: The Supreme Court of Canada and the constitution

Fellow update: Kate was appointed as an Assistant Professor at Western Law in London, Ontario in 2015. She is also a co-director of Western Law's Public Law Research Group.

Amar Khoday, DCL 2014 (Canada)

- Thesis: Legitimizing resistance? International refugee law and the protection of individuals resisting oppression

Fellow update: Amar is an Associate Professor at the University of Manitoba where he teaches in the areas of criminal law and procedures, administrative law, law and resistance and international criminal justice.



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

John Hursh, LLM 2014 (United States)

- Thesis: Women's rights and women's land rights in postcolonial Tunisia and Morocco: Legal institutions, women's rights, discourse, and the need for continued reform

Fellow update: John has joined the US Naval War College, in Newport, Rhode Island, and acts as Associate Director of Research at the Stockton Center for the Study of International Law as well as Editor-in-Chief of International Law Studies.

Bethany Hastie, DCL 2015 (Canada)

- Thesis: Migrant labour and the making of unfreedom: How the law facilitates exclusion and exploitation under Canada's temporary foreign worker programs

Fellow update: After completing her doctorate she joined the Peter A Allard School of Law, University of British Columbia, where she now holds the position of Assistant Professor.

Bekithemba Mlauzi, LLM 2015 (Zimbabwe)

- Research project: Policing and access to justice for persons with disabilities: Procedures and practices in police services

Claris Harbon, DCL 2019 (anticipated) (Israel)

- Thesis: Lawbreaking as lawmaking: Redefining women's everyday resistances to injustice

Róisín Hennessy, DCL 2016 (Ireland)

- Thesis: Economic exploitation and child labour: Towards a structural approach to international labour law and human rights

Fellow update: Since defending her thesis in 2016, Róisín has joined the Department of Justice and Equality in Dublin, Ireland.

Sabaa Khan, DCL 2016 (Canada)

- Thesis: Limits of formalization and horizons of urban citizenship: Insights on law and informality through the lens of electronic waste

Fellow update: Sabaa successfully defended her doctoral thesis in 2016. She now acts as a Senior Researcher at the Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law at the University of Eastern Finland.

Marika Giles Samson, DCL 2019 (anticipated) (Canada/United Kingdom)

- Thesis: Judicial persecution: the misuse of the courts to marginalize the opposition and repress dissent

Shimelis Mulugeta Kene, DCL 2020 (anticipated) (Ethiopia):

- Thesis: Counter-terrorism and human rights in Ethiopia



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

Alvaro R. Córdova Flores, DCL 2020 (anticipated) (Peru):

- Thesis: Between cultural accommodation and the accommodation of cultural bias: the construction of indigenous rights in the Peruvian higher court

Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle, LLM 2016 (Canada)

- Thesis: Discrimination à l'embauche des immigrants qualifiés: impact des normes formelles et informelles

Rokeya Chowdhury, DCL 2019 (anticipated) (Bangladesh)

- Thesis: From Secular to Islamo-secular Bangladesh: Interplay of Law, Religion and Performing Arts

Muhammad Rezaur Rahman, LLM 2017 (Bangladesh)

- Thesis: Compatibility of the state religion clause within a pro-secular constitutional framework: An analysis in the context of Bangladesh

Fellow update: Rezaur is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Law and Human Rights at the University of Asia Pacific in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Jose Mauricio Gaona, DCL 2020 (anticipated) (Colombia/United States)

- Thesis: The unwelcome refugee: a comparative and global analysis on national security, asylum and refugee protection

Fellow update: Mauricio has been invited to be a panelist at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, California, Ottawa, and the National University of Singapore.

Tanya Monforte, DCL 2020 (anticipated) (United States)

- Thesis: The resurrection of civil death; Old legal concepts and the emergent paradigm for global security

Raymond Savadogo, DCL 2020 (anticipated) (Burkina Faso)

- Thesis: Acquittés mais présumés non-innocent! Une analyse des impératifs de sécurité intérieure dans la réinstallation des acquittés des juridictions pénales internationales

Sok Young Chang, LLM 2017 (South Korea)

- Thesis: Relationship between Jurisdiction and Attribution in Extraterritorial Violation of Human Rights by Non-state Entities

Francesca Farrington, LLM 2017 (Ireland)

- Thesis: Augmenting the rule of law: the changing conception of rule of law in the law and development paradigm

Fellow update: In fall 2018, Francesca began her doctoral studies at Cambridge University in England.

Parisa Akbarimalkeshi, LLM 2018 (Iran)

- Thesis: Economic empowerment of women in Iran: The gap between perceptions and the reality



O'BRIEN GRADUATE FELLOWS

Maryse Décarie-Daigneault, LLM 2019 (anticipated) (Canada)

- Thesis: Transitional justice in fractured democracy: what space for truth and reparation in the case of the 43 missing Mexican students?

Fellow update: Maryse joined the Montreal law firm Dionne Schulze where she works on claims related to Aboriginal rights and titles as well as claims arising from abuses suffered in Indian Residential Schools.

Pierre-Alexandre Cardinal, DCL 2022 (anticipated) (Canada)

- Thesis: The White State: International law, race and the normative privileges of modernity

Menaka Rapti Ratnayake, LLM 2018 (anticipated) (South Africa)

- Thesis: Lost in transition: Rethinking transitional justice and the rule of law in Sri Lanka's post-conflict context

Kims Banda, LLM 2018 (anticipated) (Zambia)

- Thesis: Electoral participation of persons with disabilities in Zambia: Towards a human rights-based approach

Fellow update: Kims successfully completed his LLM in August 2018 and subsequently secured an internship with the Quebec Human Rights Commission. He has recently returned to Zambia and will be drafting a mediation manual and conducting trainings for the Zambian Human Rights Commission, teaching on human rights and disability rights, and engaging stakeholders on strategic litigation for systemic human rights violations.

Yvana Lucía Novoa Curich, LLM 2018 (anticipated) (Peru)

- Thesis: Anti-corruption conventions as human rights treaties: Consequences and enforcement in the Peruvian legal system

Florence Ashley Paré, LLM 2019 (anticipated) (Canada)

- Thesis: Torture isn't therapy: The legality of transgender conversion therapy in Canada

Fellow update: Florence has been selected to serve as law clerk for Justice Sheilah Martin of the Supreme Court of Canada in 2019-2020.

Maria Adelaida Ceballos-Bedoya, DCL 2023 (anticipated) (Colombia)

- Thesis: Women and the judiciary: Low judicial diversity in Colombia

Eunice Leyva García, LLM 2019 (anticipated) (Mexico)

- Thesis topic (title still to be confirmed): Access to justice for persons with disabilities

Vishakha Wijenayake, DCL 2023 (anticipated) (Sri Lanka)

- Thesis: Mechanisms to deal with the issue of the Missing in post-conflict contexts: an integrated approach to the application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law



76 Fellows, 37 countries



O'Brien report 2018-2019 update prepared in fall 2018

