



Human Rights News

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2005

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

University of Connecticut to Host Conference on Economic Rights

The Human Rights Institute and Thomas J. Dodd Research Center are scheduled to co-host the conference "Economic Rights: Conceptual, Measurement, and Policy Issues" October 27-29, 2005. This conference will be in celebration of the Dodd Center's Tenth Anniversary, and the theme of the semester long series of celebratory events is "Globalization and Human Rights."

Professor Shareen Hertel of the Department of Political Science and the Human Rights Institute and Professor Lanse Minkler of the Department of Economics are the organizers of the conference. They have solicited contributions from well known scholars and researchers by direct invitation and through a widely advertised call for papers.

The papers address conceptual issues central to understanding economic rights, approaches to measuring economic rights, and policy applications. The conference will culminate in the publication of an edited volume released by a scholarly press in 2006.

Confirmed speakers for the conference include Clair Apodaca, Albino Barrera, Audrey Chapman, David Cingranelli, Clarence Dias, Susan Dicklitch, Jack Donnelly, Peter Dorman, David Forsythe, Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Mark Gibney, Michael Goodhart, Philip Harvey, Rhoda Howard-Hassmann, Samson Kimenyi, Wiktor Osiatynski, David Richards, Sigrun Skogly, and Shawna Sweeney.

The keynote speaker of the conference will be Kaushik Basu, Professor of Economics and the Carl Marks Professor of International Studies in the Department of Economics at Cornell University. He is also the Director of the Program on Comparative Economic Development at Cornell. Basu has held visiting positions at CORE (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), The London School of Economics, Harvard University, and Princeton University. He is a fellow of the Econometric Society and the recipient of the Mahalanobis Memorial Award for contributions to economics. Basu has also

"In order to ensure economic and social rights, the state must take an active role in promoting and providing for these rights."

published various books and articles in the areas of development, industrial organization, welfare economics, and game theory. His books include *Analytical Development Economics* (1997, MIT Press) and *Prelude to Political Economy* (2000, Oxford University Press). Basu is also a regular columnist for BBC News Online.

The conference is structured so that there is a division between the three core topics that will be presented; concepts, measurement and policy. "This structure is intended

to bring about synergies of ideas and new ways of thinking among the conference speakers, audience and the academic community at large," said Professor Minkler.

The conference will address socio-economic rights and how social problems, poverty and poor working conditions might be addressed by a human rights framework.

Professor Hertel attributes the lack of attention placed on socio-economic rights to the politization of human rights during the Cold War years, which led to the United States championing civil and political rights while the Soviet Union championed economic and social rights. The fact that most of the funding and political support in the U.S. went to supporting civil and political rights was also a contributing factor. Additionally, by U.S. standards those rights were the least invasive, while securing economic and social rights requires a more interventionary approach.

In order to ensure economic and social rights, states and intergovernmental organizations must take an active role in promoting and providing for these rights. Americans have been very leery about how those rights would be realized and enforced and thus more reluctant to think comprehensively about them.

Professor Hertel's biggest hope for the conference is that it "brings to the forefront debate and stimulates thinking among the academic community in this neglected area". For more information or to register please visit: <http://www.humanrights.uconn.edu>.

Human Rights Minor Brings Unique Distinction to University

In 2001, the University of Connecticut became one of six colleges across the nation to offer a minor in human rights. The other institutions that offer this minor are Bard College, the University of Chicago, the University of Nebraska, Trinity College, and the University of Washington.

The Human Rights Minor is an interdepart-

mental, interdisciplinary plan of study requiring 15 credits of coursework at the 200-level. Students take six credits from the core courses, six credits from electives and in their senior year are required to complete an internship requirement worth three credits.

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Letter from Richard A. Wilson, Director of the Human Rights Institute

In the 1990s, there was a sea change in our understanding of human rights, which expanded from core civil-political rights to encompass broader issues such as health, housing, sexual discrimination and poverty. Government development agencies and international organizations such as the World Bank and IMF moved away from large projects and top-down models towards a grassroots 'rights-based' approach to alleviating poverty. More recently, non-governmental organizations and private foundations have sought to tackle social problems of poverty and poor housing and health care in the USA through the language of socio-economic rights.

It is time to evaluate whether these human rights-based approaches to addressing socio-economic exclusion have been effective or not. A thorough appraisal of public policies opens up another whole set of questions regarding the conceptualization of human rights, and how economic rights might be measured. To this end, the Human Rights Institute and Thomas J. Dodd Research Center are co-sponsoring an international conference on Economic Rights between October 27-29, 2005. We invite scholars, students and practitioners from the Uni-

versity of Connecticut and beyond to participate in these discussions and advance our understanding of economic rights at home and abroad.

This conference is the second in a series of international conferences at the university which address key debates in the area of humanitarianism and human rights. The 2004 Inaugural Conference of the Human Rights Institute asked whether 9/11 and subsequent security measures meant the end of the 'era of human rights' and the papers from this conference have now been published by Cambridge University Press in a collection titled *Human Rights in the 'War on Terror'*. In Fall 2006, the Human Rights Institute and Humanities Institute of the University of Connecticut are co-sponsoring a conference on Humanitarian Responses to Narratives of Inflicted Suffering that will analyze responses to private and public narratives of suffering inflicted by states, private political groups, and also caused by more structural causes such as apartheid, colonialism, and social conflict.

Students from the University of Connecticut Honors Program and Human Rights Minor are centrally involved in the organization of these conferences and the development of

web-based information on themes of human rights and humanitarianism.



*Human Rights Institute
Director, Richard A. Wilson.*

By facilitating international conferences, as well as running seminars, workshops and study groups, and by enhancing the teaching of human rights at the University of Connecticut, the Human Rights Institute seeks to promote a critical, contextual and multidisciplinary approach to human rights questions in the social sciences, humanities and law.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard A. Wilson".

Richard A. Wilson, Human Rights Institute Director

The logo for the Human Rights Institute (HRI), consisting of the letters "HRI" in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark square.

Human Rights News

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Human Rights Minor brings Unique distinction to University

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Internships can be tailored to fit individual students' interests and goals. The internship enables students to enrich and assess what they have learned in the classroom through practical experience. The final grade will be based on completion of a portfolio, in which students synthesize their internship experiences with knowledge gained in the course work they have taken to fulfill the requirements for the Human Rights Minor. The portfolio may consist of an analytical paper or papers, a media production such as photography or video, or some combination of these.

According to Professor Davita Silfen Glasberg, Director of the Human Rights Minor, there are currently 44 students in the program. She also noted that the majority of

minors have gone on to law school or to work in NGOs, the non-profit sector, Teach for America, or the Peace Corps.

In the Fall 2005 there will be a new course cross-listing, HRTS, for certain human rights classes. These classes will be cross-listed with both HRTS and department specific titles. Rachel Jackson, Program Administrator at the Human Rights Institute, explained that this new course listing was created as a way to bring about more awareness of the minor among students. Additionally, it is also an important stepping stone in the creation of a Human Rights Major.

Professor Richard Hiskes, Department of Political Science, has been appointed the new Director of the Human Rights Minor as of Fall 2005. Hiskes earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at Indiana University. He is a specialist in political theory and public policy and has taught courses in democratic theory, modern and contemporary political thought, American political thought, women and political theory

and minority politics. He has conducted research applications of theories to sub-fields of political science, culture, and political factors affecting productivity in Britain. Hiskes has also written for several journals and co-authored the book, *Direct Democracy and International Politics: Deciding International Issues Through Referendums* (1992, Lynne Rienner Publishers).

The University's dedication to Human Rights since 2001 has created a new and significant distinction in the academic community. In reference to the Minor Glasberg said, "I'm so excited to have something so big and truly important happen at the University of Connecticut. University rankings and basketball championships have helped to put the school in the spotlight, but the Human Rights Initiative and Minor will help to give the school a reputation of true excellence".

Human Rights Minor Courses

Group A: Core Courses

History

226: International Human Rights

253/HRTS 253: History of Human Rights

Political Science

125/HRTS 125: Introduction to Human Rights

205/HRTS 205: The Theory of Human Rights

258/HRTS 258: Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights

Group B: Electives

Agricultural and Resource

Economics

255: The Role of Agriculture in Economic Development

Allied Health

215/AASI 215: Critical Health Issues of Asian Americans (or AASI 215)

Anthropology

226: Peoples & Cultures of North America

228: Indigenous Rights & Aboriginal Australia

231: Anthropological Perspectives on Women

280W: Human Rights in Democratizing Countries

290W: Cultural Rights

Economics

202: Topics in Economic History & Thought

206/PHIL 245: Philosophy & Economics

207: Beyond Self-Interest

247: Economic Development

English

241/HRTS 241: Topics in Literature & Human Rights

History

215: History of Women & Gender in the United States, 1790-Present

224: History of Pan-Africanism

237: The Indian in American History

238/HRTS 238: African American History to 1865

268/AASI 268: Japanese Americans & World War II

298-02: The Holocaust and World War II

Philosophy

215: Ethics

218: Feminist Theory

219/HRTS 219: Topics in Philosophy & Human Rights

245/ECON 206: Philosophy & Economics

Puerto Rican & Latino Studies

221/HRTS 220: Latinos/Latinas & Human Rights in the United States

Political Science

225/HRTS 225: International Organizations & Law

244: Politics of South Africa

256/HRTS 256: Constitutional Rights & Liberties

257: World Cultures and U.S. Law

Sociology

215/HRTS 215: Human Rights in the U. S.

221/HRTS 221: Sociological Perspectives on Asian American Women (or, either SOCI 221W, AASI 221, AASI 221 W)

222/HRTS 222: Asian Indian Women: Activism & Social Change

235/HRTS 235: African Americans and Social Protest

236: White Racism

243: Prejudice & Discrimination

249/HRTS 249: Sociological Perspectives on Poverty

258: The Developing World

268/HRTS 268: Class, Power & Inequality

269/HRTS 269: Political Sociology

Women's Studies

263/HRTS 263: Women and Violence

Group C: Internship

Interdepartmental

245: Human Rights Internship and Portfolio

A Commitment to Human Rights

Faculty Spotlight:

Interview with Professor Shareen Hertel

Shareen Hertel is an Assistant Professor of Political Science, jointly appointed with the Human Rights Institute. She specializes in comparative politics, human rights and international development, and has authored articles for academic publications including *Global Governance*, *Human Rights Review*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Journal of International Affairs*, and *Región y Sociedad*. Professor Hertel has served as a consultant to foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies in the United States, Latin America and South Asia. She has written professionally on the UN's role in economic and social development and helped develop a standard for labor rights monitoring in global manufacturing.

In what areas do you think the University has made the greatest strides in its commitment to Human Rights?

I believe the greatest strides have come in funding the creation of the Human Rights Institute (HRI) and the range of conferences and outreach activities that are ongoing. We have also committed hiring at least three new faculty to be jointly appointed with an academic department and HRI. I am the first of those hires and look forward to having new colleagues over the next few years.

What do you feel is the biggest advantage that the Human Rights Minor gives students?

The Minor offers wonderful opportunities for one-on-one faculty mentoring and requires an internship experi-

ence, which exposes students to the "real world" of human rights advocacy.

Which courses did you teach this past year? What courses do you plan on teaching next year?

In the Fall 2004 I taught comparative political development, which I will teach again in the Spring 2006 as well as advanced topics in human rights theory and practice with Dr. Wiktor Osiatynsky, which I will teach again in the Fall 2005.

In the Spring 2005 I am teaching globalization and contentious politics, which I may teach again at some point in 2006-2007, as well as introduction to human rights with Dr. Kathryn Libal, which I will co-teach again in the Spring 2006.

What do you feel has been your greatest contribution or achievement this past year?

I am really pleased with the growth and dynamism of the economic rights reading group that I run jointly with Professor Lanse Minkler. This is a faculty research and reading group that meets twice monthly to discuss scholarly articles from a range of journals. All of the articles focus in some respect on economic rights. I may eventually teach a graduate seminar in economic rights and will draw on the readings I first explored in the faculty reading group to build the syllabus.

I am also very excited about the progress that has been made on organizing our major conference on



Professor Shareen Hertel

economic rights for Fall 2005.

Are you part of any other groups on campus?

I am also an affiliated faculty member with the Latin American Studies program.

What area do you think the University needs to concentrate on most in order to further develop human rights commitment on campus?

We need to address student and community concerns about ethical sourcing of products that bear the UConn logo. Both Professor Minkler and I are part of a task force assembled by President Austin to address this issue.

Are there any specific goals or personal projects that you would like to come into being in the near future?

I would like to publish more specifically on economic rights, and am very much looking forward to co-editing with Professor Minkler the volume that will result from our economic rights conference next fall.

A Commitment to Human Rights

Student Spotlight:

Interview with Megan McDonald

Megan McDonald is a 2005 UConn graduate who majored in political science and minored in human rights. She was the vice president of Amnesty International on campus, house manager of the V-Day campaign (which raises money for domestic violence prevention and services), was a student ambassador for human rights for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and was involved with the Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN-USA). During her time at UConn she was heavily dedicated to human rights on campus and is currently attending law school this Fall. She hopes to eventually practice children's rights law and work on child advocacy issues.

What has been your experience with the Human Rights Minor?

I think that the Human Rights Minor is wonderful. It is unique because so few schools offer something like it, so it provided me with an opportunity few other people had.

While I always felt strongly about injustice, it was only at UConn that this turned into such a commitment. While studying there I was exposed to many issues and resources that I never knew existed. There is currently such a focus on human rights at the University with the Human Rights Institute's work, speakers, conferences, etc., which has been very educational and I think is very encouraging to anyone with an interest in seeing a more just and fair world.

However, one of the problems that I saw with this program was that not enough people knew about it. There

should have been more 100-level teachers introducing the minor as a topic of conversation.

Additionally, I think that the internship requirement was a really great aspect of the minor. It definitely pushed me to participate in an internship, which provided me with a lot of experience and served as a great resume builder. I believe that I accomplished a great deal more with my internship than I would have in any classroom.

Can you elaborate on your internship experience?

I interned with the Human Rights Institute at UConn for one semester in the fall of 2004. My major project and accomplishment during my time there was the compilation of a List-serv. I hope that the List-serv will be used as a growing resource for the University and surrounding community to promote human rights awareness and events. During the List-serv's development I was able to come into contact with a lot of human rights people that have since become great connections for me. It also was a great tool for me personally, because I was able to use it to post information from the various human rights groups that I belonged to and it has the potential to be a fantastic recruiting device!

Did your internship experience at UCONN's HRI lead you in any new directions?

It led me to interning/volunteering with Lawyers without Borders (LWOB) in Hartford, CT during my Spring 2005 semester. I decided to take on



Megan McDonald, 2005 UCONN graduate.

another internship because I got a lot out of my first internship experience at HRI and I chose to work with LWOB because I have a friend who worked there last summer and really enjoyed her time with the organization. I actually helped my friend to organize a student division of LWOB at UConn. This is the first undergraduate division in the world. The fact that they are based in Hartford gives the group the unique opportunity to actually go into the headquarters and assist them with their daily tasks.

How do you think the Human Rights Minor will help you in the future?

I think that it was extremely beneficial in terms of applying to law school. Both the uniqueness of my minor and my experience in the field of human rights with HRI and LWOB helped to set me apart from other applicants. Also, the minor along with my internship experiences put me in contact with some very important people in the field. Additionally, the entire experience expanded my knowledge about human rights events and resources, both at UConn and the community at large.

William Benton Museum Dedicates Human Rights Gallery

The William Benton Museum's February 1, 2005 commemoration ceremony marked the start of the second phase of the Benton Renaissance Project—the Human Rights Gallery. The museum's center gallery, which was dedicated in the ceremony, is actually a prototype, according to museum director Salvatore Scalora. "What we really want to do is create a second addition, and this is what would truly become our human rights gallery," said Scalora.

This Human Rights addition would include space for changing exhibits, a space to show videos to classes, a documentary film library, a research study room, and a space to display permanent works dealing with human rights issues collected by the museum. The reason for the dedication of the proto-type gallery is to demonstrate the museum's commitment to this subject matter. "The whole idea is to start on this project immediately instead of just saying, 'someday' or 'if we get a donor' then we'll do this and we'll do that," explained Scalora.

The first exhibit in the Human Rights Gallery in 2005 was the "Human Race Machine" by New York artist Nancy Burson. This exhibit consists of an interactive machine that makes it possible to view one's face with the characteristics of six different races: Caucasian, African, Asian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Indian. The viewer sits down, a digital photograph is taken, and then they are asked to map the edges of their facial features. After doing this they will see an approximation of what they would look like as a different race.

Also on display with the machine are two

of Burson's large digital composites, "Male Mankind" and "Female Mankind." Adjacent to the race machine is a small make-shift theater playing an award winning PBS video entitled "Race, the power of an illusion." This is a three hour, three part series which runs continuously.

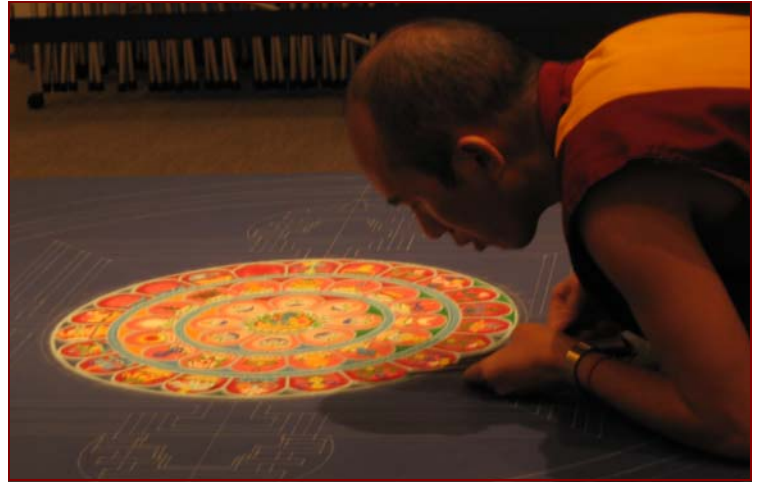
Scalora described the purpose of this exhibit is to serve as a

launch pad for discussion. He went on to say, "So much of what happens in the world is really due to racial hatred. I think that this exhibit will create a dialog concentrated around the definitions of race, the pros and cons of race terminology, and the ways in which race hatred contribute to violence and genocide in the world."

In 2001, a three show combination at the museum served as inspiration for a strictly human rights gallery on campus. These shows included "Facing Death," a traveling show of 100 images from the Cambodian killing fields, "Rescuers of the Holocaust," photographs of non-Jews who risked their lives to save others and "Crowd IV," 54 life-size figures with no heads and arms, symbolic of the persistence of the witness by sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz.

"Those three exhibits were so powerful and had tremendous amounts of visitation. I saw that we at the museum could add to the University's exploration of human rights by introducing visual exhibits," said Scalora. The museum is interested in becoming a visual archive in the same way that the Dodd Center is a document archive.

The Human Rights Gallery has also secured affiliation with two important off-campus organizations: The Namgyal Monastery and Institute of Buddhist Studies, which is the North American seat of the personal monastery of the fourteenth Dalai Lama in Ithaca, New York, and Curbstone Press in



Tibetan Monk from Namgyal Monastery works on a sand mandala at the Benton Museum of Art.

Willimantic, Connecticut.

The Monks from Namgyal Monastery have visited Benton once per year for the past several years to create a sand mandala, which remains on display at the museum for approximately one month afterwards. "I felt that if I give people angst-ridden exhibits that are very difficult to take in, then I also have to give them something of hope. So this idea of the monks creating a mandala which is a loving, peaceful, regenerative religious act is in a sense making something good in the world each time one is created," stated Scalora.

Curbstone Press is a not-for-profit publisher that has been a leader for the voice of social justice for many years. Their mission includes publishing creative literature that promotes human rights and advancing literacy in the community. Benton is eager to have an affiliation with Curbstone Press, and all that they stand for, as a part of their museum experience.

The Benton Museum is looking to cooperate with the different human rights institutes on campus. The Museum wants to add a significant layer to what the institutes are doing to participate in the education and creation of humanistic students. "I think that there are a lot of meaningful lessons and ongoing discussions that all of the institutes are providing, and I am just really seeing the Human Rights Gallery as the greatest opportunity that the art museum has," said Scalora.



Students take part in Nancy Burson's interactive art, the Human Race Machine.

Fall 2005 Calendar of Events

September 20

Lecture—"Globalization, International Law and Human Rights"

Dodd Center 10th Anniversary Program , sponsored by the Human Rights Institute/ Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

Speaker—David Held: Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Director of LSE Global at the London School of Economics.

Location/Time: Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, 4:00 p.m.

October

17

Award Ceremony- Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights

The 2nd Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights will be awarded to **Louise Arbour**, U.N. High Commissioner of Human Rights, and **Richard Goldstone**, one of the world's leading figures in international human rights. Both have been prosecutors in international war tribunals, continuing the legacy of Thomas J. Dodd and the Nuremburg Trials.

Location/Time: Plaza, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, 11:00a.m. A reception will follow the award ceremony. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the Rome Commons Ballroom, South Campus Complex.

27–29

Human Rights Conference: "Economic Rights: Conceptual, Measurement, and Policy Issues"

Location: Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center—for details please visit: www.humanrights.uconn.edu

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Fair Trade Fair: This Fair will provide community members an opportunity to purchase fair trade products including: coffees, teas, chocolate, craft goods, and other miscellaneous fair trade products. It will also provide a chance to learn more about the importance of purchasing fairly traded products and about organizations and student groups promoting economic rights.

Location/Time: Homer Babbidge Library Patio (Bookworms entrance), 8:00am-5:30pm

Rugmark Rug Raffle: Emma Gardner Design, LLC a design and development company based in Litchfield, CT, has donated a RUGMARK certified rug that will be raffled off at a reception at **5:30pm at the Benton Museum**. RUGMARK is a global nonprofit organization working to end illegal child labor in the carpet industry , <http://www.rugmark.org/>. The rug is on display in the Thomas J. Dodd Center Reading Room. Tickets are \$5 or 3 for \$12; and can be purchased at the Human Rights Institute, Monday–Friday between 1-4pm. The proceeds of the raffle will go to support RUGMARK schools for children who formerly worked on the rug looms. For details, visit www.humanrights.uconn.edu

ECONOMIC RIGHTS FILM SERIES

Sept. 14	Oct. 12
Thirst	Stolen
Sept. 21	Childhoods
Strong Roots	Oct. 19
Sept. 28	The New Heroes
The Corporation	Oct. 26
Oct. 5	The Take
Life and Debt	

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: DODD CENTER

ADMISSION IS FREE



Burial Plot, Nyanga Cemetery

Kevin Laccone

"What I most want to capture in my pictures is a personal connection. I don't want viewers of my photographs to feel sad for these people or to imagine them dying. Instead, I want to portray these people in a positive light and make them easy to relate to while I document the consequences of the virus." — Kevin Laccone

Documentary Photographer and 2005 UConn graduate Kevin Laccone, spent ten weeks in Nyanga informal township, South Africa, in the summer 2004. With a research scholarship from the UConn undergraduate fund, he went to South Africa with the goal of raising awareness in the U.S. about HIV in Africa.



Madonna and Child

Kevin Laccone

HIV/AIDS Pandemic in South Africa
(Unami Memani HIV + since birth)



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