FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who would have foreseen a global pandemic?

In fact, some people did – including uOttawa colleagues. But as too often is the case, the warnings of threats to health and well-being – especially which entail preventive action – were ignored amidst the usual litany of excuses by “responsible” governments: due precautions were not taken. In 2020, the world paid the price both in lost lives (some 2 million) and treasure (estimated at USD10 Trillion)… and counting.

No one escaped COVID-19. From early March, we at HRREC felt the effects, quickly altering our programmes and plans only soon thereafter to suspend some. A short retreat from the office was prolonged and then made indefinite. Our routine lively inter-actions on a daily or weekly basis – at the photocopier, at guest lectures or seminars, or over lunch or coffee – simply ceased. Most significantly affected were our postgraduate students and visiting scholars for whom our Centre is more than a stimulating place of work; it is also genuinely a community and for some a sort of foster home far from their provinces or countries of origin.

The human capacity to adapt is remarkable, and so we adapted. For this, many people had to row in the same direction; small acts of assistance and care contributed substantially to our shared resilience. In fact, some gains soon became visible through new efficiencies and acquisition of new skills, notably in means of communication. For example, while we were sad not to be able to deliver our 14th annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law, with the Canadian Red Cross we delivered instead a week-long online series; while we missed the depth and stimulation of in-person classes and a day-long simulation, we extended our reach from the typical 60 or so participants to an astounding 2,391 who connected online from 62 countries. Similarly, in celebration of the life and contributions of Professor David Petrasek, we hosted a Memorial Forum which drew on-line high-level contributors and over 800 participants from around the world. So, we learned to use remote means to continue our work.

In some respects, the pandemic has done us a favour. The indiscriminate nature of the threat affirmed (if we had not grasped it) the universal character of the human condition and, thus, the central tenet and essential importance of human rights. It also revealed a range of manifest inequalities and inequities running throughout and beyond our society. “We’re all in this together” became a common refrain. Of course, we were not and are not all “in this” the same way. And so the vital work of human rights has been underscored. Unfortunately, governments have still not much listened even if the people can see what needs to be done. Amidst calls for “universal” regimes of support, to “leave no one behind” and to live up to the promise of human rights to address fundamental human needs, interests and rights there was yielded a number of positive steps. But a human rights-based approach to the pandemic, and more generally to our governance, we have yet to see.

In the meantime, we continue to work together and make new plans, thanks to science, for some return to normalcy. To that end – to a better end, we will re-double our efforts to promote all human rights for everyone everywhere and hope that the experience of the last year will yield a more receptive ear in the halls and seats of power. Having shared this experience, I am confident we will value our shared perspective and endeavour and delight in rowing together when the return comes. We are eager to do so.

Professor John Packer
Director | Human Rights Research and Education Centre | University of Ottawa
The Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) is one of the oldest such Centres in Canada and North America. Created in 1981, it comprises researchers in law, social sciences, management/business and the arts. The Centre strives to bring educators, researchers and students together with practitioners with a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspective, in order to promote the respect of human rights and explore the effective protection and enjoyment of such rights for everyone everywhere.

Our research activities include the research programs of our members as well as projects resulting from partnerships in which the Centre contributes to the production of research findings and their dissemination. To this end, the Centre places a particular emphasis on issues of public policy and social justice. Areas of preponderant interest among Centre’s members are: Diversity, Identity, Inclusion & Equality; Conflict, Violence, (In)Security & War; Governance, Rights a Rule of Law; and Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The HRREC benefits from a bilingual and plurilegal environment. Its strategic location in a G7 Capital supports the Centre at all levels of its initiatives, whether local, national or international. The Centre privileges research and education partnerships with academics and civil society organizations.

This image was designed to present the diversity, in terms of countries of origin, nationalities and languages of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre members.
WHO WE ARE

Our 90 members are academics, students and actors in the wider community. We are especially pleased with, and benefit from, the diversity of our members comprising over thirty nationalities and over forty languages, and our female:male ratio of 2:1.

ACADEMIC MEMBERS

Nadia ABU-ZAHRA
Faculty of Social Sciences
(Management Committee)

Eric Allina
Faculty of Arts

Jane BAILEY
Faculty of Law

Lori G. BEAMAN
Faculty of Arts

Jennifer BOND
Faculty of Law

Angela CAMERON
Faculty of Law

Larry CHARTRAND
Faculty of Law

Magda DONIA
Telfer School of Management

Karen ELTIS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Jabeur FATHALLY
Faculty of Law

Larisa KURTÖVIĆ
Faculty of Social Sciences
André LALIBERTÉ
Faculty of Social Sciences

Jamie LIEW
Faculty of Law

Ravi MALHOTRA
Faculty of Law

Pacifique MANIRAKIZA
Faculty of Law

Nathalie MONDAIN
Faculty of Social Sciences

Isaac NAHON-SERFATY
Faculty of Arts

Delphine NAKACHE
Faculty of Law

Darren O’TOOLE
Faculty of Law

John PACKER
Faculty of Law

Mona PARÉ
Faculty of Law

Justin Piché
Faculty of Social Sciences

François ROCHER
Faculty of Social Sciences

Chantal RODIER
Faculty of Arts

Scott SIMON
Faculty of Social Sciences

Nadia ABU-ZAHRA
Faculty of Social Sciences

Oonagh Elizabeth FITZGERALD
Senior Fellow | Director, International Law Association of Canada & Co-chair, Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group under CETA

Andrew CARSWELL
Fellow | Director, International Rule of Law Initiative

Jordi Valero FEO
Fellow | Project Coordinator,
Human Rights Clinic, HRREC, University of Ottawa

Penelope SIMONS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Joanne ST. LEWIS
Faculty of Law

Valerie STEEVES
Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie-Ève SYLVESTRE
Faculty of Law

Meredith TERRETTA
Faculty of Arts

Sophie THÉRIAULT
Faculty of Law

Karine VANTHUYNE
Faculty of Social Sciences

João VELLOSO
Faculty of Law

FELLOWS

Andrew CARSWELL
Fellow | Director, International Rule of Law Initiative

Jordi Valero FEO
Fellow | Project Coordinator,
Human Rights Clinic, HRREC, University of Ottawa

Oonagh Elizabeth FITZGERALD
Senior Fellow | Director, International Law Association of Canada & Co-chair, Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group under CETA

Philip LEECH-NGO
Fellow | GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-17)

Jeremy WILDEMAN
Fellow

STUDENT MEMBERS

Yawo Kpayidra ALOU
Faculty of Law

Stéphanie BACHER
Faculty of Social Sciences

Vaeceslav (Slava) BALAN
Faculty of Law

Pierre-Gilles BÉLANGER
Faculty of Law

Anastasia BERWALD
Faculty of Law

Zoé BOIRIN-FARGUES
Faculty of Law

Tenille BROWN
Faculty of Law

Corinna Simeoni BUHAY
Faculty of Law

Aboubacar DAKUYO
Faculty of Law

Melisa HANDL
Faculty of Law

(Management Committee)

Salvador HERENCIA
Faculty of Law

Adam R. HOUSTON
Faculty of Law

Lilou JIANG
Faculty of Law

Jocelyn KANE
Faculty of Social Sciences

Andrea KHAN
Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie-Dominik LANGLOIS
Faculty of Social Sciences

Amira MAAMERI
Faculty of Law

Omra MASSTAN
Fac. Social Sciences & Law

Elysa McCONNELL
Faculty of Arts

Justine MONETTE-TREMBLAY
Faculty of Law
## WHO WE ARE

### STUDENT MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Siobhán AIREY</td>
<td>Postdocoral Fellow, Irish Research Council Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (Ireland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olabisi AKINKUGBE</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawkab AL-WADEAI</td>
<td>Researcher &amp; Mental Health Counsellor (Gender, Peace &amp; Security)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalina ARANGO</td>
<td>Project Coordinator, Human Rights Clinic, HRREC, University of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joaquín BARDALLO BANDERA</td>
<td>GFH Scholar (2013-14), Ph.D. candidate, University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chétima MELCHISEDEK</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2017-18), &amp; Baniting Postdoctoral Fellow, York University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emilie Di GRAZIA</td>
<td>Human Rights Officer, OSCE, (Kosovo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney DOAGOO</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, CIGI International Law Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jael DUARTE</td>
<td>Project Manager, New Brunswick Multicultural Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leilani FARHA</td>
<td>Executive Director, The Shift &amp; former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten FISHER</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-13), Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audace GATAVU</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rasha JARHUM</td>
<td>Co-founder and Director, Peace Track Initiative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graciela JASA SILVEIRA</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2014-15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucie LAMARCHE</td>
<td>Full Professor, Université du Québec à Montréal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janine LESPÉRANCE</td>
<td>Independent External Decision-Maker, App. by Canada’s Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omid B. MILANI</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Law, University of Ottawa, Creator of Contekst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonya NIGAM</td>
<td>Former Director, Human Rights Office, University of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah R. OLOTUOLA</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Arturo OVALLE DIAZ</td>
<td>Part-time Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Stobo SNIDERMAN</td>
<td>Visiting Researcher, Faculty of Law &amp; HRREC, University of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten VAN HOUTEN</td>
<td>Ph.D., School of International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nestor NKURUNZIZA</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloria SONG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chen WANG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin WHITEHEAD</td>
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<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<td>Caroline FAUCHER</td>
<td>Communications &amp; Events Management Officer</td>
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### STAFF

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FEATURED PROFILES

In spring 2020, the Centre created a new category of members: HRREC Fellows. The group includes scholars, researchers or professionals from organizations other than uOttawa who work with the Centre in various capacities, including consultation, strategic advice and collaboration on projects. Meet our first five HRREC Fellows!

ANDREW CARSWELL
Andrew Carswell is Director of the International Rule of Law Initiative and a consultant to governments on the law of armed conflict. Over his 14-year career with ICRC, he contributed to building the international humanitarian law capacity of armed forces worldwide, most recently in Syria. A lawyer, former military officer and prosecutor, his career is now dedicated to international justice and improving the UN system of peace and security.

OONAGH FITZGERALD
Dr. Oonagh Fitzgerald is an international lawyer, artist and choreographer, Director of the International Law Association of Canada, Co-chair of the Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group under the CETA, and a candidate for the INDI PhD in Fine Arts at Concordia University. Her interests are human rights remedies, sustainable development, and Indigenous peoples’ rights.

JORDI FEO VALERO
Dr. Jordi Feo holds a Ph.D. in Human Rights, Democracy and International Justice from the University of Valencia (Spain). He has worked in the field of governance, international development and human rights for more than 15 years in countries like Haiti, Lithuania, Spain and Canada. Jordi currently teaches International Law at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain) and is the Project Coordinator for the Centre’s project on the “Independence of Judges and Lawyers” which assists the United Nations Special Rapporteur, focusing on the thematic reports for the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly.

JEREMY WILDEMAN
Dr. Jeremy Wildeman is a scholar of global and Middle East politics, Canadian foreign policy, colonialism and the nexus of human security, “development” aid and peacebuilding. His specializations include the impact of foreign aid on the Palestinians, and Canada’s relationship with the Middle East. He has extensive experience supporting communities in crisis in the Middle East and the Balkans.

PHILIP LEECH-NGO
Dr. Philip Leech-Ngo is a skilled researcher, analyst and communicator with more than ten years of experience as a consultant and academic with a focus on international affairs. He is the blog editor for the Centre for International Policy Studies, Canada’s leading centre for analysis and debate of international affairs. Philip is also the coordinator for a new project called “Voices” under the Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution and the Joint Chair in Women’s Studies at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, which highlights the work of activists in exile in Canada who continue to work to improve conditions in their countries of origin.
HRREC offered three online courses in Winter 2020, and four online courses in Fall 2020 (143 participants). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 14th edition of the annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), a partnership with the Canadian Red Cross, was replaced by a series of ten online lectures titled *IHL NOW*, held from May 25 to 29, 2020. Lectures were facilitated by leading Canadian and international scholars and experts from the Canadian Armed Forces and international organizations and were offered in both French and English (2,391 participants from 62 countries). Eight contracts for teaching assistants/course coordinators/project coordinators were funded by the Centre, most of which benefited graduate students in Law.

**IHL NOW | DIH MAINTENANT**

A Special Online Learning Series
Une série spéciale d’apprentissage en ligne

**MAY 25-29, 2020**
**25-29 MAI 2020**

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**ONLINE COURSES**

**DCC2303**  
**Legal Aspects of Human Rights**  
*Offered in English.*

**DCC2703**  
**Dimensions juridiques des droits de la personne**  
*Offered in French.*

Historical origins of international human rights law. Presentation of international law as a legal system that includes rules, principles and requirements, as well as specific methodological research tools.

**DCC3110**  
**Inter American System of Human Rights**  
*Offered in English.*

Introduction to the Inter American system of human rights protection by subject areas including womens’ rights, the rights of indigenous peoples, the right to democracy and social rights.

**NEW ONLINE COURSE**

**DCC4119**  
**Selected Topics in Law: International Human Rights**  
*Offered in English.*

Problems and challenges affecting the realization and/or implementation of international human rights in contemporary contexts. The first edition focused on *Human Rights and governance: Human Rights Based Approach to Policy, Law and Development.*
Since 2018, a team led by Professors Isaac Nahon-Serfaty and João Velloso with Coordinator Catalina Arango and Salvador Herencia has monitored situations that may affect academic freedom in seven countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela. The team contributed to the United Nations General Assembly Report on academic freedom prepared by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (UN doc. no. A/75/261 of 28 July 2020). The document includes legal arguments and findings submitted by our Clinic and summarized in a document titled Threats to Academic Freedom in the Americas. The group also participated in advocacy actions with Scholars at Risk and Scholars at Risk Canada.

During 2020, the Human Rights Clinic worked on four projects involving 22 students, led by dedicated Project Coordinators and Salvador Herencia, Ph.D. candidate in Law, as Director of the Clinic. The projects addressed or supported the following topics: Business and Human Rights in Latin America; The Canadian Partnership for International Justice; the Independence of Judges and Lawyers; and Scholars at Risk in the Americas. Some highlights:

**INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES & LAWYERS**

Since 2017, the Clinic provides research support to, and otherwise assists, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers under the direction of Professor John Packer and HRREC Fellow Jordi Feo, Ph.D., focusing on thematic reports. In 2020, the team contributed to two public reports:


**SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR) IN THE AMERICAS**

Since 2018, a team led by Professors Isaac Nahon-Serfaty and João Velloso with Coordinator Catalina Arango and Salvador Herencia has monitored situations that may affect academic freedom in seven countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela. The team contributed to the United Nations General Assembly Report on academic freedom prepared by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (UN doc. no. A/75/261 of 28 July 2020). The document includes legal arguments and findings submitted by our Clinic and summarized in a document titled Threats to Academic Freedom in the Americas. The group also participated in advocacy actions with Scholars at Risk and Scholars at Risk Canada.

**BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS**

This project began in 2014 thanks to a partnership with the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), an NGO based in Washington, D.C. The project is led by Salvador Herencia with the supervision of Professor Penelope Simons. It seeks to address the responsibility of home States for the activities of private companies operating in Latin America, as well as international standards set within the Inter-American Human Rights System regarding business and human rights. In April 2020, the team submitted an amicus to the Civil Court of the Amazon State in Brazil related to the protection of land and territory of Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Brazilian Amazon Forest.
HRREC continues to foster connections with members from the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), the global association of academic centres or institutes in the field of human rights. Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez represented the Centre at the 2020 AHRI Annual Conference, organized under the theme The Future of Human Rights: Socio-Economic Rights, Equality and Development. The event took place virtually on 4-5 September 2020 and marked AHRI's 20th anniversary.

HRREC is a founding member of the Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes (CAHRI, 14 members across the country). The Centre also holds a permanent position on the Steering Committee of the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child and, starting in October 2020, supports the Laboratory in operational matters and communication related tasks.

Professor Janelle Diller was named Fulbright Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice from October 2019 until April 2020. Her Fulbright project explored the State's role in facilitating inclusive regulatory governance of transnational activities affecting human rights and social justice.

Professor Ann Marie Clark, Department of Political Science, Purdue University, was selected as Fulbright Chair for 2020-21. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, she deferred the visit to fall 2021.

Dr. Jeonghyeon Kim (University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumna) continued her stay at HRREC until summer 2020. Shortly after her arrival in winter 2019, she launched a writing circle for HRREC members with fellow member Tenille Brown that lasted until the COVID interruption in March 2020. She is currently back in her native country, South Korea.

Ph.D. student Amira Maameri, Université de Bordeaux, was hosted at the Centre from March 2019 until spring 2020. She worked with Professor Mona Paré (cotutelle) and became a member of the Centre.

Andrew Stobo Sniderman continued his affiliation with HRREC as a community member until spring 2021 working to complete a book on Indigenous peoples and education. He is a former Special Advisor for Human Rights to the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stéphane Dion.

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FUNDING & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

During 2020, the Centre participated in seven grant applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue (uOttawa), the Open Society Foundations and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German research funding organization).

The Centre continued to be actively engaged in nine research partnerships, eight funded by SSHRC and one supported by the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue. Themes and principal investigators are listed below:

ACCÈS À LA JUSTICE DES ENFANTS ET VULNÉRABILITÉ
Led by HRREC member Professor Mona Paré.

BOKO HARAM, ISLAMIC PROTEST AND NATIONAL SECURITY
Led by Professor Paul Lovejoy (York University) with HRREC members Meredith Terretta and Chétima Melchisedek.

STRENGTHENING JUSTICE FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMES: A CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP
Led by Professor Fannie Lafontaine (Université Laval) including HRREC members Professors Jennifer Bond, John Packer, Penelope Simons, and João Velloso.

IMPACTS - COLLABORATIONS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS
Led by Professor Shaheen Shariff (McGill University) and including HRREC members Professors Jane Bailey and Valerie Steeves.

ACCÈS AU DROIT ET À LA JUSTICE - ADAJ
Led by Professor Pierre Noreau (Université de Montréal) with HRREC member Professor João Velloso.

THE eQUALITY PROJECT
Led by HRREC members Professors Valerie Steeves and Jane Bailey.

AUTONOMY THROUGH CYBERJUSTICE TECHNOLOGIES
Led by Professor Karim Benyekhlef (Université de Montréal) with HRREC member Professor Jane Bailey.

OBSERVATOIRE SUR LES PROFILAGES (NEW)
Led by Professor Céline Bellot (Université de Montréal) and HRREC members Professors Marie-Ève Sylvestre and João Velloso.

CHANGING ORDERS: SHAPING THE FUTURE AND SECURING RIGHTS IN A WORLD IN TRANSFORMATION
Jointly led by the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP), Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC), and The Refugee Hub, including members Professors Jennifer Bond and John Packer.
Congratulations to our members who received research funding during 2020:

Jane Bailey received $1,500 from the British Columbia Society of Transition Houses for the initiative called BCSTH’s Preserving Tech Evidence: Legal Education for BC Anti-Violence Workers & Women to Respond to Tech Facilitated Violence.

Lori Beaman was co-applicant in a grant titled Religious Freedom, LGBT+ Employees, and the Right to Discriminate from the Australian Research Council valued at $517,445. Lori also received $8,000 from the uOttawa Shared Online Projects Initiative (SOPI).

Community member Ramon Blanco-Barrera received a €1,000 research contract for the project Arte gráfico-anatómico corporal como instrumento terapéutico y emocional de cambio social funded by the Centro de Educación Permanente “Alfonso Muriel”. Ramon also received a €3,000 grant for the Project Reactivación del sector cultural en Andalucía en la línea de apoyo a la creación artística from the Junta de Andalucía.

Jennifer Bond received $25,000 from the Canadian Bar Association for the project Remote Connections: Building Canada’s diversity and inclusion through technology-enabled refugee sponsorship support; $13,959 from the Ottawa Community Foundation for the project Immigration 101 for Refugee Settlement Sector; and $99,996 from the Law Foundation of Ontario for the project Enhancement and Remote Expansion of the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (SSP).

Student member Andrea Khan received a $49,000 doctoral scholarship from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) for her project Évaluation des efforts des entreprises pour réduire le travail des enfants dans les pays en développement: Le cas des adolescentes dans l’industrie du prêt-à-porter de l’Inde.

Student member Marie-Dominik Langlois received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for 2020-2021.

Nathalie Mondain received $7,500 from the Knowledge Mobilization Program in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Invited Researchers’ Programs at the University of Ottawa.

John Packer and Jennifer Bond received a $390,000 grant from the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue for the project Changing Orders: Shaping The Future And Securing Rights In A World In Transformation (a joint project as indicated above).

Justin Piché was co-applicant in a $24,900 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), under the Partnership Engage Grant Program, for the project COVID-19: Investigating Canada’s Carceral Response to the Coronavirus through the Prison Pandemic Partnership. Justin also received a $69,135 Law Foundation of Ontario grant for the project Jail Accountability & Information Line (Phase II).

Karine Vanthuyne was co-applicant on a US$20,000 grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Inc. for her project titled The future of reparation in Latin America: Imagination, belonging and environment in restorative politics.

João Velloso received a $6,000 grant from uOttawa under the program Conference/Workshop on Campus Opportunity (CWCO) for the initiative Law & Learning in an Era of Partnerships.

Dean Marie-Ève Sylvestre with Professors Justin Piché and João Velloso are co-applicants in a $2,495,140 SSHRC Partnership Grant (seven years) led by Céline Bellot (Université de Montreal) for the project Observatoire sur les profilages.

Sophie Thériault is co-applicant in a $390,000 grant from the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue – Smart Changes for a Better World – for the project The uOttawa Water Law and Governance Project led by Professor Marie-France Fortin.
The University of Ottawa joined the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network in 2014 and, since then, HRREC has held organizational responsibility for the SAR uOttawa Program. Since spring 2020, Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez chairs the Canadian Section (SAR Canada) Steering Committee and has represented Canada in the SAR’s International Advisory Committee since 2016.

The SAR uOttawa program hosted two scholars in 2020:

- Mr. Fayyaz Baqir (Pakistan) arrived in May 2018 affiliated with the School of International Development and Globalisation Studies and remained at uOttawa until December 2020.
- A second scholar (name withheld) from Turkey is hosted by the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies since September 2019.

The Centre spearheads the work of an academic freedom monitoring team through our Human Rights Clinic. As indicated above, the Clinic contributed to a Report on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression focusing on academic freedom and presented to the United Nations General Assembly on October 23, 2020. More information can be found on the HRREC website.

**EVENTS & RELATED ENGAGEMENTS**

HRREC organized four public events for SAR uOttawa during 2020:

**MARCH 3 | Free to Think 2019: Academic Freedom Monitoring in the Americas**
This event launched a SAR uOttawa Fundraising Campaign that was to take place throughout the month of March; due to the pandemic, the campaign was suspended by uOttawa after the first week.

**JULY 7 & 9 | Academic Freedom, Research & Democratic Values: A Latin American Perspective**
Two sessions were organized virtually, one in English and one in Spanish. The recordings are available on the HRREC website.

**OCTOBER 21 | Teaching Virtually: Challenges and Risks for Students**
SAR uOttawa partnered with SAR Canada for this event. A blog summarizing the discussion was published by the Canadian Bureau for International Education in January 2021.
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

During 2020 and in spite of the restrictions posed by the pandemic, the Centre hosted 37 activities or events (in person or online) including two virtual art exhibitions, one major academic workshop and one film screening. These were organized with 50 partners representing government agencies, research groups, foundations, national and international NGOs, law firms, student groups, etc. with total attendance of almost 4,000 people.

The Centre also held two virtual Human Rights Networking Events for students and recent alumni with speakers Obiora C. Okafor (Professor and York Research Chair in International and Transnational Legal Studies, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University) and HRREC member Leilani Farha (Global Director of The Shift and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing 2014-2020).

Due to the pandemic, some events were cancelled or postponed starting in March. The list of the Centre’s events, reports and outputs can be found on the HRREC website.

SELECTED EVENTS

I Ain’t Sorry: Beyoncé, Serena, and Hegemonic Hierarchies in Lemonade
This presentation was inspired by Sarah Olutola’s article for the Journal of Popular Music and Society, dealing with neoliberal and biopolitical representations of blackness and black femininity in Beyonce’s Lemonade. Sarah holds a Ph.D. from the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University and was Gordon F. Henderson Postdoctoral Fellow 2018-19 at HRREC. Her research concerns youth culture, representations of race in popular media culture, postcolonialism and global capitalism.

Arab Diapora Conference
This conference brought together around 30 Middle East and North Africa human rights and democracy defenders to discuss the various situations of human rights in the region, socio-political mobilization initiatives and community organizing. It was organized in partnership with the Joint Chair in Women’s Studies, University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and the Zajel Institute for Justice and Liberty.

Human Rights in COVID-Times: An Online Forum in Honour of Professor David Petrasek
This high-profile event explored global human rights topics with three former United Nations High Commissioners for Human Rights: Mary Robinson, Louise Arbour and Zeid Ra’ad Al-Hussein. A special video message from current UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, opened the forum. The recording is available on the HRREC website. Organizers included the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, the Centre for International Policy Studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences at uOttawa, Amnesty International Canada, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Open Global Rights, the Global Centre for Pluralism, and the Dialogue Advisory Group.

The Corporate Citizen & COVID-19
This series of four virtual panels was organized to highlight the publication Corporate Citizen: New Perspectives on the Globalized Rule of Law, edited by HRREC Senior Fellow, Oonagh E. Fitzgerald. This was a joint activity with the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). Recordings from the series can be found on YouTube.
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

FOCUS
on the Rohingya Crisis

HRREC Director John Packer continued his active engagement regarding the ongoing Rohingya genocide in Myanmar and related matters including the situation of refugees in Bangladesh and beyond.

This translated into several radio and television interviews, articles, and participation in and/or hosting of meetings and consultations in Canada and abroad.

Notable activities included a visit to Rohingya refugees in the camps near Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh (January), an address for the 3rd Free Rohingya Coalition Genocide Memorial and Rally (August 25) and the publication of a report from an international (virtual) roundtable of experts titled *Justice for the Rohingya: The Role of Canada* co-hosted with Senator M. McPhedran and the Faculty of Law, University of Victoria.

John was quoted on this subject in *The Globe and Mail*, *the Dhaka Tribune*, *The Daily Star* and *Prothom Alo* (Bangladesh), and elsewhere.

ROHINGYA
Photography Competition

The Oxford Human Rights Festival (UK) and HRREC co-sponsored a Rohingya Photography Competition which ran during spring 2020, attracting an array of submissions from Rohingya refugees, humanitarian workers, well-known photographers and others.

The winning photographs can be viewed in an online gallery at Rohingya Photography Competition (kutupalong.com).

An exhibition at uOttawa is expected to occur when conditions permit and a book is planned with a selection of photographs and other contributions about the situation prevailing in the world’s largest refugee camp in Kutupalong near Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh.
Since 2014, HRREC has deliberately engaged in a multidisciplinary experiment of human rights issues framed through the various forms of creative artistic expression such as visual, performance, media, cinematographic, musical and literary arts.

**SELECTED EVENTS**

**#COVICATURE**

Our World amid COVID-19

This initiative was created in partnership with CONTEKST, a research project that explores the relationship between Law and the Image, directed by HRREC community member Omid Milani, Ph.D.

#COVICATURE ran from April until October 2020, using satirical and comic cartoons to address aspects impacted by COVID-19, broadly relating to human rights, justice, peace and well-being.

The campaign received submissions from all over the world that were displayed in a virtual gallery and shared on social media. Selected cartoons will be published in the Canadian Yearbook of Human Rights, 2019-2020 edition.

**IMAGES OF JUSTICE 2020**

Children & Human Rights

HRREC, CONTEKST, the Interdisciplinary Research Laboratory on the Rights of the Child (uOttawa), the School of Child and Youth Care (Faculty of Community Services, Ryerson University), and the Canadian Journal of Children’s Rights (Landon Pearson Resource Centre for the Study of Childhood and Children’s Rights) partnered to create the second edition of Images of Justice, a virtual exhibition of cartoons on the rights of the child, their freedoms, as well as various political, social, and legal issues.

An international jury selected ten works from among 390 submissions coming from 34 countries and the public was invited to vote online to choose the winning cartoon.

The grand prize winner of this edition of Images of Justice was Walter Toscano from Peru.
PUBLICATIONS

Our members publish regularly in peer-reviewed academic journals, contribute to blogs, reports, policy briefs, opinion pieces, etc. They can also contribute to the HRREC Working Papers Series available on uOResearch. Here is a selection of their publications.

BOOKS


BOOK CHAPTERS


**ARTICLES**


**REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**


**HRREC WORKING PAPERS**

Student member **Slava Balan** participated as an OSCE, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights long-term observer to the November 2020 U.S. General Elections.

**Angela Cameron** was nominated to the Canadian Northern Corridor Scientific Advisory Committee. Angela also made the Hill Times list of 100 Best Books in 2020 for the collection, Creating Indigenous Property: Power, Rights, and Relationships, co-edited with Professors Sari Graber and Val Napoelon.

**Karen Eltis** was named member of the Société québécoise d’information juridique.

Community member **Kirsten J. Fisher** received the 2020 New Scholar/Artist Research Award from the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. This award is presented annually to faculty members who have had an exceptional impact in their field.

**Justin Piché** received the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Activities in the Media or the Community for 2020.


**Penelope Simons** also received a 2020 Reviewer Award by the Business and Human Rights Journal in recognition of her invaluable review work.

**Sophie Thériault** was nominated to the Global Young Academy for 2020-2025.

**Karine Vanthuyne** was appointed Chair in University Teaching with a focus on Indigenizing post-secondary curricula with Indigenous Curriculum Specialists.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Welcome to our Postdoctoral Fellow David Hughes!

Dean Marie-Ève Sylvestre: Dynamism and innovation at the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section

Meet the New HRREC Fellows

HRREC Endorses Open Letter Calling Canadian Government to Ban Use of Facial Recognition by Federal Law Enforcement, Intelligence Agencies

HRREC Statement Against Racism

New Online Course on Human Rights with Professor John Packer Offered in the Fall 2020

Congratulations to HRREC Members Lilou Jiang & Ramon Blanco-Barrera for defending their Ph.Ds.!

HRREC Academic Members in the Faculty of Civil Law Involved in the Innovative Summer Course on the Socio-Legal Issues of the COVID-19 Pandemic!

HRREC Joins the Call on All Levels of Government in Canada to Strengthen Human Rights Oversight amid the Pandemic
A FEW STATISTICS FOR 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA & LISTSERVS

- **Facebook Likes**: 898 (11% increase)
- **Twitter Followers**: 1,704 (18% increase)
- **LinkedIn Followers**: 1,063 (79% increase)
- **Email Subscribers**: 1,213 (0.2% increase)

EVENTS

- 2013: 25
- 2014: 30
- 2015: 50
- 2016: 70
- 2017: 70
- 2018: 50
- 2019: 40
- 2020: 20
Strengthening Justice for International Crimes: A Canadian Partnership
Université Laval