2021 ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTRE

University of Ottawa
When we were instructed to depart our offices in March 2020, most of us expected it might last some weeks. Two years later, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact us in myriad ways.

As incorrigible optimists, human rights advocates know that every challenge is an opportunity. And so we have succeeded in turning lemons into lemonade as best we might. Unable again to host our annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law we drew upon our expanded network to deliver another far-reaching series of lectures – far more participants from more countries than we could ever before have imagined. High officials who couldn't previously spare the time to come to Ottawa (and we could never have afforded to cover their costs) suddenly were within reach – just an hour of their time online with no inconvenience (especially in the depth of Canadian winter). Indeed, the mother of invention (necessity) spurred us and many others to work more closely together, more efficiently and often more effectively.

Of course, our ability to maintain a full programme of activities was only possible because of the dedication, ingenuity and good will of so many members, partners, associates and others. We are grateful for all the in-puts – and the valuable lessons learned.

While there have been many pronounced human rights challenges – some old and some new – the last couple years have underlined the importance of addressing apparent inequalities (such as in our workplace) and that with a cooperative spirit we can or must find the resources to succeed. In fact, we have demonstrated resilience as this report shows.

2021 was the 40th anniversary of our creation – a story that began with imagination, initiative, collaboration and determination. Two generations of impactful work have, we believe, proven HRREC is part of the solution and on the right side of history. From the original mobilisation for and around the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, bringing international human rights norms and standards into Canadian law and practice, so HRREC relations and activities have touched most issues and most parts of the world. Despite COVID-19, we have engaged a full programme of activities infused with the same strong spirit. Important in this has been respect for the past, acknowledgement of the present, and a turn to the future to face challenges, seize prospects and remain vital for our community and beyond.

Above all, we remain convinced that the world needs more respect, better protection and ultimately full realisation of all human rights for everyone. We remain dedicated to this endeavour.

Professor John Packer
Director | Human Rights Research and Education Centre
University of Ottawa
The Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) was created in 1981 and is one of the oldest such Centres in Canada and North America. The Centre comprises researchers in law, social sciences, management/business and the arts. It brings 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 & 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. Starting in September 2021, HRREC began with enthusiasm the celebration of its 40th anniversary which included a series of high-profile events, research and outreach activities and launching new projects involving our members and partners, reaching well beyond our normal constituents.

WHO WE ARE

Our 78 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 1.5:1.

Academic Members

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

Jane BAILEY
Faculty of Law

Lori G. BEAMAN
Faculty of Arts

Jennifer BOND
Faculty of Law

Magda DONIA
Telfer School of Management

Karen ELTIS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Jabeur FATHALLY
Faculty of Law

Larisa KURTOVIĆ
Faculty of Social Sciences

André LALIBERTÉ
Faculty of Social Sciences

Jamie LIEW
Faculty of Law

Ravi MALHOTRA
Faculty of Law

Pacific MANIRAKIZA
Faculty of Law

Nathalie MONDAIN
Faculty of Social Sciences

Isaac NAHON-SERFATY
Faculty of Arts

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

Scott SIMON
Faculty of Social Sciences

Penelope SIMONS
Faculty of Law
(Management Committee)

Karine VANTHUYNE
Faculty of Social Sciences

João VELLOSO
Faculty of Law

Valerie STEEVES
Faculty of Social Sciences

Marie-Éve SYLVESTRE
Faculty of Law

Meredith TERRETTA
Faculty of Arts

Sophie THÉRIAULT
Faculty of Law

Karina VANTHUYNE
Faculty of Social Sciences

David WISEMAN
Faculty of Law
### Fellows

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew CARSWELL</td>
<td>Director, International Rule of Law Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordi Valero FEO</td>
<td>Project Coordinator, HRREC Human Rights Clinic, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yawo Kpayidra ALOU</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stéphanie BACHER</td>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaeceslav (Slava) BALAN</td>
<td>Faculty of Law (Management Committee)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre-Gilles BÉLANGER</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoé BOIRIN-FARGUES</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenille BROWN</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corinna Simeoni BUHAY</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea KHAN</td>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fu-Wei CHANG</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa HANDL</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvador HERENCIA</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam R. HOUSTON</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jocelyn KANE</td>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea E. FITZGERALD</td>
<td>Senior Fellow, Director, International Law Association of Canada &amp; Co-chair, Canadian Environmental Domestic Advisory Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omid B. MILANI</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Law, Creator of Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anoush F. TERJANIAN</td>
<td>Former Special Adviser to the Vice-President, International and Francophonie, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy WILDEMAN</td>
<td>Research interests in peace, conflict studies, Middle East Politics, Canadian foreign policy and international relations.</td>
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### Student Members

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<tr>
<td>Siobhán AIREY</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Law, uOttawa &amp; Marie Curie Research Fellow</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, HRREC Human Rights Clinic, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramon BLANCO-BARRERA</td>
<td>Ph.D., Artist, Interim Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Seville (Spain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboubacar DAKUYO</td>
<td>Part-time Professor, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilie Di GRAZIA</td>
<td>Human Rights Officer, OSCE, (Kosovo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jael DUARTE</td>
<td>Project Manager, New Brunswick Multicultural Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leilani FARHA</td>
<td>Executive Director, The Shift &amp; former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten FISHER</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-13), Assistant Professor, University of Saskatchewan</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>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>Sarah R. OLUTOLA</td>
<td>GFH Postdoctoral Fellow (2018-19), Assistant Professor, Lakehead University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nestor NKURUNZIZA</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiorella Rabuffetti</td>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abu SALEH</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murray SNIDER</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloria SONG</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob TATSITSA</td>
<td>Faculty of Arts</td>
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### Community Members

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<tr>
<td>John PACKER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viviana FERNANDEZ</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline FAUCHER</td>
<td>Communications &amp; Events Management Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson Arturo OVALLE DIAZ</td>
<td>Part-time Professor, Faculty of Law, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Ynéès ADA TCHOUKOU</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Law &amp; Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten VAN HOUTEN</td>
<td>Ph.D., School of International Development and Global Studies, uOttawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chen WANG</td>
<td>Ph.D. in Law, uOttawa</td>
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### Staff

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FEATURED PROFILES

Selected profiles from our members and visiting researchers.

PENELOPE SIMONS
Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights (2021-2024)

Penelope Simons was named Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights in the summer of 2021 for a three-year period. Penelope is an Associate Professor and Vice Dean Research at the Faculty of Law (Common Law Section), and a member of the Management Committee at HRREC. A global leader in the field of business and human rights, Penelope’s research focuses on corporate responsibility and human rights violations. Penelope was co-counsel for Amnesty International Canada in the Choc v Hudbay and Garcia v Tahoe cases, and for Amnesty International Canada and the International Commission of Jurists in the groundbreaking Nevsun v Araya case, as well as for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in the case of Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions and Attorney General of Quebec v 9147-0732 Quebec Inc.

ANN MARIE CLARK
2021 Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Human Rights & Social Justice

Ann Marie Clark is a Professor of Political Science at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. During her tenure at HRREC from September through December 2021, focused her project entitled Human Rights Defenders: Bringing Local Social Justice under the Global Human Rights Umbrella, examining global and local protection of human rights defenders, including defenders of environmental rights and Indigenous rights.

DAVID HUGHES
Alex Trebek Postdoctoral Fellow 2020-2022

In September 2020, David Hughes joined the collaborative research project Changing Orders: Shaping the Future and Securing Rights in a World in Transformation, funded by the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue and awarded to the HRREC, the Refugee Hub, the Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) and the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS). His work focused on how to secure fundamental human rights in the face of challenges to the rules-based international order. David holds a Ph.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School. In 2017-2019, David was a Grotius Research Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School and in January 2022, he accepted a position as Assistant Professor at the Canadian Forces College in Toronto.

During 2021, our Centre welcomed two new Fellows: Dr. Anoush Terjanian, former Special Adviser to the Vice-President, International and Francophonie at uOttawa, and Dr. Omid Milani, a graduate of the Faculty of Law and a pillar of our Arts and Human Rights Programme.
HRREC offered three online courses in Winter 2021, and four online courses in Fall 2021 (116 participants). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre replaced the 14th edition of its annual Summer School on International Humanitarian Law (IHL, a joint initiative with the Canadian Red Cross) by a series of six online lectures titled IHL NOW for a second year. Lectures were held from May 31 to June 4, 2021 and included leading Canadian and international scholars and experts. The sessions were offered in both French and English and benefitted 986 participants from 76 countries. During the past year, nine contracts or bursaries for teaching assistants/course coordinators/project coordinators were funded by the Centre, most of which benefited graduate students in Law. Students also worked in specific activities linked to the 40th anniversary programme, the Human Rights Clinic and/or the Canadian Yearbook of Human Rights.

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.

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.
During 2021, the Human Rights Clinic worked on five projects involving 32 students, led by dedicated Project Coordinators, plus Salvador Herencia and Slava Balan, Ph.D. candidates in Law, as Director and Assistant Director of the Clinic respectively. The projects addressed or supported the following topics:

- Business and Human Rights in Latin America;
- Canadian Partnership for International Justice;
- UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers;
- Scholars at Risk in the Americas; and,
- Strengthening the Equality Council of Moldova.

In the context of our 40th anniversary, the Centre produced a comprehensive report about the activities and accomplishments of the Clinic since its creation in 2014 until summer 2021. Some highlights:

**Indepedance of Judges and Lawyers | 2017-2022**

The Clinic provides research support to, and otherwise assists, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers under the direction of Professor John Packer and HRREC Fellow Jordi Feo, Ph.D., researching and drafting on thematic reports. In 2021, the team contributed to two public reports:


**Scholars at Risk (SAR) in the Americas | Since 2018**

The Clinic monitors situations that may affect academic freedom in seven countries: Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela under the direction of Professors Isaac Nahon-Serfaty and João Velloso with support from Project Coordinator Catalina Arango and Clinic Director Salvador Herencia.

During 2021, HRREC signed an MOU with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to provide technical assistance and contribute to the development of the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS) through the strengthening of the capacities of the rapporteurships, special rapporteurships and sections of the Commission. The agreement also seeks to promote the use of the IAHRS and its norms and standards through the implementation of an Academic Network jointly spearheaded by our Clinic, the University of Monterrey (Mexico) and the Scholars at Risk Network (New York).

In December, the IACHR adopted and presented the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy. The Clinic ensured that the text reflected the regional reality that our team has monitored and analyzed over the years. Following previous years, the team also produced a report of their monitoring activities titled SAR uOttawa Monitoring Report 2020—2021.
This project functions in partnership with the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF based in Washington DC) and is led by Salvador Herencia with the supervision of Professor Penelope Simons. The project focuses on the responsibility of home States for the activities of private companies operating in Latin America.

In January 2021, the team submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Court of Appeals in Honduras related to international standards related to the arbitrary detention of human rights and environmental defenders of the Guapinol river. The Clinic in association with the Peruvian NGOs IDL (Instituto de Defensa Legal, a human Rights organization), and ORPIO (Organizacion Regional de los Pueblos Indigenas del Oriente), filed a request for precautionary measures before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, seeking to protect Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation in Peru.

As a result, on April 10, 2021, the Peruvian Ministry of Culture created the Yavarí Tapiche reserve in Loreto (a region in the heart of the Amazon). This Indigenous reserve comprises over 1 million hectares and is home to at least three Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation.

This project was created thanks to a partnership with the Equality Councill of Moldova, with Professor John Packer as academic advisor and Slava Balan as Project Coordinator. The project aims to support the resolution of interethnic conflict and prevent discrimination through research and advisory papers on human rights and discrimination issues under examination of the Moldovan Equality Council. Outputs developed to the date have to do with the functioning of languages in Moldova, a framework on human rights-based approach to languages, in addition to international and comparative law research in support of the Council’s analyses of selected cases.

In addition to the visiting researchers, Professor Ann Marie Clark (Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice 2021) and David Hughes (Alex Trebek Postdoctoral Fellow 2020-2022), who were featured in the *Selected Profiles* of this report, the HRREC has welcomed David DesBaillets, LLB, Ph.D.

David received a Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and was hosted by our Centre during 2021 under the supervision of Professor Darren O’Toole. His project was titled *The Right to Housing for First Nations Canadians Living on Reserve*. His research interests are housing rights and policy, homelessness and human rights, and comparative constitutional law.
During 2021, the Centre participated in ten grant applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Law Society of Ontario, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and an internal uOttawa competition.

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

**FUNDING & RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS**

During 2021, the Centre participated in ten grant applications to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Law Society of Ontario, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy and an internal uOttawa competition.

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

- **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.

**Improving Student Experience**

The Student Travel Fund was relaunched on October 1st 2021, with a bigger scope to support virtual activities and training opportunities given continuing Covid restrictions. Since then, two student members (Slava Balan and Pierre Gilles Bélanger) benefitted from this dedicated fund to support their participation at an event organized by the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues around the UN General Assembly (New York) and at a human rights seminar and workshop in Chile.

**Professional Links**

Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez will serve as member of the Executive Committee in the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) for a three-years term. The election took place during the members general assembly which coincided with the 2021 AHRI Annual Conference (September), hosted virtually by the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights at Maastricht University in The Netherlands, under the theme Human Rights Strategies.

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.

In the context of the project Changing Orders: Shaping the Future and Securing Rights in a World in Transformation, postdoctoral fellow David Hughes initiated the Forced Displacement Workshop for junior scholars, a joint initiative from HRREC and the Refugee Hub. This grew into an interdisciplinary network of 25 early career academics from across the world who meet monthly to present and receive feedback on their work in progress or forthcoming work.
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
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.

NEW — COALITION FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN THE AMERICAS (CAFA) | COALICIÓN POR LA LIBERTAD ACADÉMICA EN LAS AMÉRICAS (CLAAS). (NEW)
Jointly led by the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC), the University of Monterrey (Mexico) and the Scholars at Risk Network and funded by the Open Society Foundation. The two-years project involves members Salvador Herencia, Catalina Arango and Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez.

Congratulations to our members who received research funding during 2021:

STUDENT MEMBERS

Amira Maameri, doctoral candidate in Law co-tutored at the University of Bordeaux and uOttawa, received the Faculty of Law’s special merit scholarship. This scholarship is intended for students who have demonstrated excellence, leadership and commitment during their academic career.

Gloria Song (doctoral candidate in Law) received a uOttawa Graduate Student Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Training Scholarship for her project on Re-Conceptualizing Access to Justice in Nunavut as Inuit Self-Determination. The award was given by the Office of the Vice-President Research and includes a $7,000 stipend.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Olabisi Akinkugbe (Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University) received a Belong Research Fellowship Award from the Offices of the Provost & Vice President Academic and the Vice President Research & Innovation at Dalhousie University. The goal is to provide pre-tenure, tenure-track faculty members from equity-seeking groups with up to $5,000 over two years to further their research.

Ramon Blanco-Barrera (University of Seville) was awarded the Atalaya Project Cultural Observatory Research Grant, financed by the Regional Ministry of Economic Transformation, Industry, Knowledge and Universities of the Government of Andalusia (Spain). Ramon’s work was selected among 40 proposals from around the world accompanied by a grant of 2,000€.

Ramon also received a 510€ research contract from a private funder for the project Emprendimiento, desarrollo económico y transformación social a través del diseño y la idea artística en la imagen gráfica, fotográfica y digital and a 1,960€ grant from the University of Sevilla for this Project Prácticas artísticas y políticas de desarrollo social - Estancia de investigación en la Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal).

Kirsten Fisher (University of Saskatchewan) received a $69,633 SSRHC Insight Development Grant for the project ICC Reparations, Child Soldier Reintegration, and Post-Conflict Social Reconstruction: A Ugandan Case Study in Theory and Policy.
ACADEMIC MEMBERS

Nadia Abu-Zahra is a collaborator in an application led by part-time Professor Ruby Dagher (Faculty of Social Sciences) and received $40,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities for their project In the Wings: Role Play Exercise and Toolbox for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour Resurgence and Allyship.

Lori Beaman was co-applicant in a €2,000 grant led by Professor Lene Kühle (Aarhus University), for the organization of the workshop The Juridification of Religion. The funder is the International Society for the Sociology of Religion.

Jennifer Bond was awarded four grants. The first one, a $199,958 SSHRC Horizon 2020 grant for the project Sustainable Practices of Integration (SPRING). The second, a $35,720 grant from the Migration Policy Institute Europe for the project Global Mapping of Opportunities for Growth of Resettlement and Advancement of Complementary Pathways. Finally, Professor Bond and the Refugee Hub received two $10,000 grants from the Alex Trebek Forum for Dialogue for the projects Canada's Role in Global Refugee Protection and Refugee Sponsorship in Canada and Around the World: A Research Symposium.

Jamie Liew received a $48,325 SSHRC Insight grant for the project titled Sons & Daughters of the Soil: The Making of Citizens and Stateless Persons in Post-Colonial Malaysia. Jamie also received a $248,142 SSHRC Insight Grant as co-applicant for the project Mapping the Discursive and Institutional Landscape of ‘Birth Tourism’ and its Perceived Attack on Canadian Birthright Citizenship.

Ravi Malhotra is co-applicant on a $39,750 grant from Transport Canada, led by Professors Linda Garcia and Michael Mulvey for the project Canadians D-AIRing to Travel: Air Travel and Passengers Living with Dementia.

Jennifer Beaman received grants from uOttawa of $4,000, $3,500 (Visiting Researchers Program) and $20,000 for her projects: 1) Les pratiques pédagogiques alternatives et leur impact dans le contexte scolaire africain. Le cas de la Maison de l’Éducation à Ziguinchor, Sénégal; 2) Regards croisés sur la recherche et la pédagogie d’initiation à la recherche. L’expérience d’un partenariat Sénégal-Canada; and 3) Accès à l’école et autonomisation des filles en situation de travail précoce au Sénégal : Mesurer et évaluer les processus de changement social.

HRREC Director John Packer and Alex Trebek Postdoctoral Fellow David Hughes were awarded a research contract of $11,600 from the Canadian Defence Academy to assess how the Canadian Armed Forces can effectively implement the United Nation’s Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

Professor Packer and HRREC student member Fu-Wei Chang (doctoral candidate in Law) received a grant from the Canadian Defence Academy of $11,200 to consider the implications of, and possible need for, adapting Canadian Armed Forces implementation of the Vancouver Principles (2017) in non-United Nations settings.

Mona Paré was awarded a $180,602 SSHRC Insight Grant for the project Children as human rights defenders and their access to justice.

François Rocher received a $27,700 grant from the Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes (SQRC), gouvernement du Québec for the projet Traduction vers l’anglais et production du livre Les enjeux d’un Québec laïque. La loi 21 en perspective. He was also a collaborator in a $299,500 grant from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) in the project Citoyennetés recomposées, souverainetés et constitutionnalisme au sein des démocraties plurinationales.

Scott Simon received a $25,000 grant from the ROC Ministry of Education for his work as co-Research Chair in Taiwan Studies at uOttawa during 2021 and 2024. He also received a $50,000 SSHRC Insight grant for his project Austronesian Worlds: Human-Animal Entanglements in the Pacific Anthropocene.

Penelope Simons received a $291,579 SSHRC Insight Grant as Collaborator in the project Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in Resource-Rich Communities: Comparative Cases from the Global South and High North with Principal Investigator Nathan Andrews, of the University of Northern British Columbia.

João Velloso received a $3,500 grant from the uOttawa Visiting Researchers Program.
The University of Ottawa became part of the IIE Scholars Rescue Fund Alliance in December 2020, making possible to offer a one-year placement for a Communications Engineering scholar from Yemen (name withheld) who arrived in Ottawa in November 2021.

The program also launched a Remote Scholars Program in January 2021 with a focus on Venezuela. Two scholars were chosen in the fields of science policy and infectious diseases for two-year appointments.

The Centre spearheads the work of an academic freedom monitoring team through our Human Rights Clinic. As indicated above, during 2021 the Clinic concluded an MOU with the Inter American Commission on Human Rights to provide technical assistance and contribute to strengthen the capacities of the rapporteurships, special rapporteurships and sections of the Commission. Thanks to this collaboration, the Commission adopted in December the Inter-American Principles on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy. More information is available on the HRREC website.

uOttawa joined the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network in 2014 and, since then, HRREC has held organizational responsibility for the program at uOttawa. Since spring 2020, Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez has chaired the Canadian Section (SAR Canada) Steering Committee and, since 2016, represented Canada in SAR’s International Advisory Committee.

The SAR uOttawa program hosted a scholar (name withheld) from Turkey at the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies from September 2019 until August 2021. In the context of the Afghan crisis, additional funding was allocated to the program by uOttawa Central administration with the goal to host scholars. Recruitment efforts are ongoing.

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Events & Related Engagements

HRREC organized a public event featuring SAR uOttawa’s work titled Cases and Documented Experiences of Gender Violence on Latin American Campuses (March 9).

Salvador Herencia presented about SAR uOttawa during a SAR Canada event (May) and spoke to the Scholars at Risk Board about the Americas Hub and the IACHR academic network (June).

Viviana Fernandez presented about SAR Canada and SAR uOttawa to the newly created SAR Australia Section (May), SAR University of Victoria (September), Metropolis Francophonie Mondiale (October) and during a roundtable titled Safeguarding Academics and the Academy in Times of Crisis: Developing a Framework for Rapid and Coordinated Response organized by McGill University (December).

She also presented about the IACHR academic network to the SAR International Advisory Committee (June) and contributed to an article in University Affairs titled Universities, Faculty Gearing Up in Response to Afghan Refugee Crisis (October).
The Centre is celebrating its 40th anniversary during the academic year 2021-2022. This initiative required extensive planning since summer 2020 and benefitted from the ideas and energy of our 40th Anniversary Committee members: Professors Valerie Steeves, André Laliberté and Scott Simon (Faculty of Social Sciences, uOttawa), former uOttawa President and Professor Allan Rock, Alex Neve (former Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada [English Section]), Anoush F. Terjanian (HRREC Fellow), Ph.D. Candidates Stéphanie Bacher and Slava Balan, Professor Tenille Brown (Bora Laskin School of Law), as well as Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez and Director John Packer.

The anniversary required a rebranding of the Centre’s logo and the creation of a special webpage where people can find information about upcoming events, articles about the Centre, its history and work, as well as fundraising goals for flagship initiatives, etc. A programme of activities and events spanning from September 2021 through June 2022 was launched in the fall. Thanks to these activities, the public could learn about key moments of the Centre’s origin story, in particular the direct link between the creation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and freedoms (1982) and the birth of our Centre a few months earlier.

In that context, the Centre also redefined its mission statement:

**We ‘REACH’ — Research, Educate, Advocate & Convene for Human Rights.**

The work of the HRREC is essential to better understand, advance, and support human rights in Canada and beyond. By promoting human rights through a dynamic and rigorous action-research approach, we add value to global and national progress on human rights through the original research and outreach activities of our members, and our partners. By building on links with relevant actors in government, civil society, Indigenous communities and academia for events, knowledge exchanges, research projects and other initiatives, the HRREC also offers training opportunities for students and civil society organizations on cutting edge concepts and methodologies.

**Activities & Events**

During 2021 and in spite of the restrictions posed by the pandemic, the Centre hosted 47 activities or events (online), including a virtual art exhibition and eight (8) academic workshops. These were organized with 41 partners representing government agencies, research groups, foundations, national and international NGOs, law firms, student groups, etc. with total attendance of around 3,500 participants. The list of the Centre’s events, reports and outputs can be found on the HRREC website.

The Centre also held a Trivia Night, partnered with Human Rights Watch in their annual Toronto Human Rights Film Festival and organized two virtual networking events for students and recent alumni with speakers Samantha Peters, J.D., M.A. (Black Legal Mentor in Residence, Faculty of Law, Common Law Section) and Marie-Claude Landry, Ad. E. (Chief Commissioner, Canadian Human Rights Commission).
Unblocking the United Nations Security Council

HRREC hosted the launch of Professor Jennifer Trahan’s ground-breaking book, *Existing Legal Limits to Security Council Veto Power in the Face of Atrocity Crimes*, in which she challenges the legality of the veto where the Council is called upon to address situations of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Americas Regional Forum on Conflict Prevention and the Protection of Human Rights of Minorities

The Forum aimed at providing regional insights to feed into the thematic work of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues for his report to the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2022 and the 14th session of the Forum on Minority Issues, which took place in Geneva in December 2021.


The project VOICES was launched on OCT 6, 2021 and supports activists in exile who are trying to make the home they left a better place. Those voices are important for the perspectives they offer and for the ideas they generate. Voices will provide platforms for those who would otherwise not be heard, in situations of violent conflict.

David Petrasek Memorial Forum 2021: Climate Change, Migration, Human Rights & Conflict: Vital Interdependence

The Centre partnered with the uOttawa Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA), the Dialogue Advisory Group (DAG) and the World Refugee & Migration Council to organize the second David Petrasek Memorial Forum. The session focused on Climate Change, Migration, Human Rights and Conflict. David Petrasek was an esteemed professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa who passed away in spring 2020.

Why Reconciliation Fails Indigenous Peoples and How to Fix It: A Conversation around Bruce McIvor’s *Standoff*

The Centre partnered with the Institute of Indigenous Research and Studies to present this virtual launch of the book *Standoff* written by Bruce McIvor. He holds a law degree, a Ph.D. in Aboriginal and Environmental History, and is a Fulbright Scholar.

Advancing Human Rights as a UN Special Rapporteur: Reflections from Three Canadians

To mark International Human Rights Day 2021 and the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, HRREC and the International Law Group organized a roundtable with three current or former Special Rapporteurs, with mandates that cover the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the right to adequate housing and the rights of migrants. The conversation was moderated by Alex Neve, Senior Fellow at the University of Ottawa’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
FOCUS ON GENOCIDE

Director John Packer continued his active engagement regarding the ongoing Rohingya genocide in Myanmar and the Uyghurs genocide in China (Xinjiang Province).

This translated into interviews and articles throughout the year and, importantly, the publication of a report showing evidence that China bears state responsibility for breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention titled *The Uyghur Genocide: An Examination of China’s Breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention* (March). Director Packer served as the principal advisor for the report which is the first independent expert application of the Convention to the ongoing treatment of the Uyghurs in China. The publication was undertaken by the Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy, in cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights.

Together with uOttawa President Emeritus Allan Rock, who was a contributor to the report, Professor Packer responded to media interest including CNN International, CBC Power and Politics, CTV News, and other agencies as well as contributed to parliamentary and governmental deliberations.

ARTS + HUMAN RIGHTS

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.

Virtual Exhibition
 IMAGES OF JUSTICE (IOJ): The Right to Housing | 3rd Edition

The Centre partnered with CONTEKST, the SHIFT, the Lincoln Alexander School of Law (Ryerson University) and the Common Law Section of the Faculty of Law to create a virtual exhibition of cartoons on the right to housing.

For this new edition of IOJ, close to two hundred submissions from 36 countries (five continents) were received from remarkable editorial cartoonists from around the world.

An international jury selected the work of Mahnaz Yazdani (Iran) as the grand prize winner and the public voted for Nikolas Listes's piece (Croatia) as the Public Award winner.
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**


JOURNALS (Guest Editors)


ARTICLES


REPORTS, POLICY BRIEFS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS


Julie Ynès Ada Tchoukou successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled *Legal Development and the Democratization of Human Rights in Post-modern Africa: A Case for the Legal Regulation of Cultural Violence against Girls*, under the supervision of Professor Mona Paré. She then joined the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section as Replacement Professor for a two-years term. During the academic year 2021-2022, she is teaching *Property and Immigration* and *Refugee Law* in the English Program.

Community member Olabisi D. Akinkugbe was appointed Viscount Bennett Professor of Law at the Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law. The professorship was established in 1944 by the Right Honourable RB Bennett, a Dalhousie law school alumnus, lawyer and founding partner of Bennett Jones, benefactor, and former Prime Minister of Canada. Its aim is to support great teaching and meaningful contributions to scholarship and international affairs.

Community member Ramon Blanco-Barrera was a finalist of the XIII Award *Andaluces del Futuro*. The award aims to recognize the talent, dedication and professional career of five young Andalusians (Spain) from different fields of knowledge: Culture, Science, Sports, Business and Social Action.

Melchisedek Chétima (GFH Postdoctoral Fellow at HRREC, 2017-2018) was appointed assistant professor of sub-Saharan African history at the Université du Québec à Montréal’s History Department starting in December 2021.

Aboubacar Dakuyo successfully defended his doctoral thesis *À la recherche d’un modèle de justice transitionnelle pour le Soudan du Sud* (In Search of an Effective Transitional Justice Model for South Sudan). He studied under the supervision of Professor Pacifique Manirakiza.

Karen Eltis, Full Professor in the Civil Law Section, was designated member of the Quebec Legal Information Society for five years.

Assistant Director Viviana Fernandez was elected to the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) Executive Committee for a period of three years.

Kirsten Fisher received the New Scholar/Artist Research Award from the College of Arts and Science, University of Saskatchewan in January 2021. This recognition is presented annually to faculty members who have had an exceptional impact in their field.

Larisa Kurtović, Associate Professor in Sociological and Anthropological Studies received the 2021 Faculty of Social Science Excellence in Teaching Award.

Jamie Liew was appointed Director of the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies starting July 1, 2021, for a period of two years. The Institute is hosted in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ottawa.
Sarah Olutola (GFH Postdoctoral Fellow at HRREC, 2018-2019) joined Lakehead University’s Department of English as their Assistant Professor in Writing. As an academic and professional writer, Sarah’s primary areas of research and teaching include Black Anglophone literature, critical race studies and creative writing.

Director John Packer received the Public Engagement Award: Public Education & Outreach from the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section.

Mona Paré, Full Professor in the Civil Law Section, was nominated Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, of the Faculty of Law for a three-year term.

The Faculty of Social Sciences and the Ministry of Education (Taiwan) renewed the Research Chair in Taiwan Studies for three years. This chair is shared between Professors Scott Simon (School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies) and André Laliberté (School of Political Studies).

Penelope Simons was appointed Gordon Henderson Chair in Human Rights at the HRREC for a period of three years.

Penelope Simons and student member Melisa Handl were selected as the 2021 recipients of the Canadian Council on International Law (CCIL) Scholarly Paper Award for their co-authored paper, *Relations of Ruling: A Feminist Critique of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Violence against Women in the Context of Resource Extraction*. Penelope also received an Annual Reviewer Award from the Business and Human Rights Journal to recognize her invaluable reviewer’s work.

Dean Marie-Ève Sylvestre was appointed to SSHRC’s Governing Council. Professor Sylvestre has been a long-time member of our Centre and is full professor at the Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section, University of Ottawa. SSHRC’s governing council offers a broad view of Canada’s needs and opportunities, and advises the president of SSHRC on strategy, risk management, performance management and stakeholder relations.

Dean Marie-Ève Sylvestre and co-authors Nicholas Blomley (Simon Fraser University) and Céline Bellot (Université de Montréal) were awarded the 2021 W. Wesley Pue Book Prize by the Canadian Law and Society Association for their book *Red Zones: Criminal Law and the Territorial Governance of Marginalized People*.

Chen Wang defended her doctoral thesis entitled *Highly Skilled Chinese Immigrant Women’s Labour Market Marginalization in Canada: An Institutional Ethnography of Discursively Constructed Barriers* last June. Chen studied under the supervision of Professors Jamie Liew and Angela Cameron.
HRREC turns 40!

Rideau Institute and HRREC Launch a New Report on Economic Sanctions

A New Hub to Protect Academic Freedom in the Americas

HRREC Signs MOU with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

HRREC Human Rights Clinic Contributes to the Creation of Indigenous Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon

John Packer Contributes to Report Showing Evidence that China Bears State Responsibility for Breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention

Rasha Jarhum’ Powerful Statement Calling on the UN to Defend the Standard for Women’s Participation in All Peace Processes

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights Cites a Report Drafted by the HRREC Human Rights Clinic Team

Navraj Kaushick Awarded the Jacques Gaudreau Graduate Scholarship
SOME STATISTICS FOR 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA & LISTSERVS

LIKES
Facebook: 990 (10% increase)
Twitter: 1,952 (14.5% increase)

FOLLOWERS
LinkedIn: 1,278 (20% increase)
Email: 1,213 (0% increase)

NON-MEMBERS SUBSCRIBERS

EVENTS

Events: 30 40 50 70 70 60 50 40 50
OUR PARTNERS

CAHRI | Canadian Association of Human Rights Institutes

Forum pour le dialogue
Alex Trebek
Forum for Dialogue

Gordon F. Henderson
Chair in Human Rights

Research Chair in Taiwan Studies | FSS | uOttawa
Chaire de recherche en études Taïwanaises | FSS | uOttawa