The Bernard and Audre
RAPPOPORT CENTER
For Human Rights and Justice
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law

Partners for Change at the Intersection of Academics and Advocacy

Annual Review 2009–2010
Our Mission
is to build a multidisciplinary community engaged in the study & practice of human rights that promotes the economic & political enfranchisement of marginalized individuals and groups both locally and globally.

Contents

Letter from the Directors 1
Curriculum and Clinics 2
Student Scholars, Fellows & Interns 4
Speakers Series 8
Annual Conferences 10
Human Rights Archives 13
Human Rights & the Arts 14
Prizes & Grants 16
Affiliated Faculty and Administrators 17
Thank You: Donors and Sponsors 17
Year to Come back

Center fellows Charlotte Nunes, Courtney Desiree Morris, and Raja Swamy, intern Malory Lee, and administrator Sarah Cline assisted in the preparation of this annual review.

Contact us:
Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice
The University of Texas
School of Law
727 East Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78705 USA

Telephone: 512/232-4857
E-mail: humanrights@law.utexas.edu
www.rapoportcenter.org

Karen Engle is Cecil D. Redford Professor in Law and founding director of the Rapoport Center. Engle lectures and publishes extensively on international law and human rights, with focuses on indigenous and Afro-descendant rights in the Americas, and gender and international criminal justice.

Sarah Cline is Rapoport Center administrator. She manages the everyday logistics of the Center and supervises interns and summer fellows. She has worked for various human rights organizations, including the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva and The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ariel Dulitzky is clinical professor of law and director of the Human Rights Clinic. Dulitzky also directs the Rapoport Center’s internship program. He is a leading expert on the inter-American human rights system and researches and publishes on human rights, racial discrimination, and the rule of law in Latin America.

Daniel Brinks is associate professor of government and faculty advisor for the graduate human rights concentration in Latin American Studies. He has researched and written broadly on law and human rights in Latin America, as well as in comparative politics in Latin America, particularly Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.

Barbara Harlow is Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor of English Literatures and chair of the faculty panel for the Human Rights and Social Justice Bridging Disciplines Program. She served as the interim director of the Center during fall 2009. Her teaching and research interests include imperialism and orientalism, and literature and human rights.

Lucas Lixinski is this year’s postgraduate fellow in human rights. He is completing his PhD on the protection of intangible cultural heritage in international law at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. As the postgraduate fellow, he will expand student internship opportunities, coordinate a new working paper series, and advise on advocacy research projects.

Photographs provided, from top to bottom: Karen Engle, by Mark Rutkowski; Sarah Cline, by Minnie Tao; Ariel Dulitzky, by Mark Rutkowski; Daniel Brinks, courtesy of Brinks; Barbara Harlow, by Heather K. Teague; and Lucas Lixinski, courtesy of Lixinski.
The joint signatures at the bottom of this page, along with the contents of this year’s Annual Review, are meant to celebrate the profound and resounding success of the Rapoport Center over the last half-decade in bringing the ever-more pressing issues, demands, and challenges of human rights and social justice to the educational mission and curricular innovations of the greater University of Texas at Austin. As the testimonies of undergraduate, graduate, and law-school students throughout this year’s review indicate, the Rapoport Center has made a significant and, we hope, ongoing impact on the educational experiences and career prospects and aspirations of multiple students across our campus.

This past year brought a unique opportunity for both of us: to share the directorship of the Rapoport Center. While Director Karen Engle was on leave in the fall from the Law School, Steering Committee member Barbara Harlow from the Department of English assumed the responsibilities of the Center’s many programs. As interim director, Harlow cross-listed her graduate seminar on literature and human rights with the law school, making it possible for law and literature students to engage with each other and learn side-by-side (p. 8). In turn, when Engle returned in the spring, she taught the inaugural required seminar for students in the new Bridging Disciplines Program concentration in human rights and social justice, creating a special opportunity for undergraduate students to take a course at the law school (p. 3). These arrangements brought the cross-campus exchanges that have long underwritten the Center’s mission to a concrete institutional level.

While the Rapoport Center has sought from its inception to break down walls that often divide the campus’s academic landscape, we are particularly optimistic about the inroads made in this regard over the past year. The Center’s efforts at drawing new lines connecting multidisciplinary inquiries were perhaps most vividly revealed by this year’s annual conference, “Walls: What They Make and What They Break” (pp. 10–11). Panelists included academics and advocates representing disciplines ranging from law to architecture and regions stretching from South Asia to the US Southwest. Such interdisciplinary connections also made their way into clinical practice (p. 2), community involvement (p. 12), student organizing (pp. 4–5), and international advocacy (p. 7). As demonstrated in the pages of this Annual Review, student engagement in these arenas, facilitated by the Center’s programs and resources, is key to and representative of our successes—and continued challenges.

This time of year always offers us a chance to reflect on both the past and the future. We were excited to see the two converge this past year in the intergenerational effects of the Center’s work. Advanced graduate students, for example, who grew up with the Center, are now teaching human rights to their own undergraduate students at UT, who in turn are participating in the Center’s work. And incoming law students seek out involvement with the Center, based on what they have learned about the opportunities from our alumnae.

That said, as we look toward the future, we will not rest on our laurels or pretend that further inroads are without their own pitfalls and potholes. In fact, it is responding to the critical challenges posed by protecting and practicing human rights in our contemporarily changing environment—both intra- and extra-mural—that the Rapoport Center takes as its imperative.

Many people, including and in addition to those mentioned in these pages, are poised to help us in our continued attention to these challenges. Thank you all for your interest in and support for our shared work.
Clinic Project in Ghana Enriches Students’ Experience

My entire last year in law school spent in the Human Rights Clinic, especially working on the project of mining communities in Ghana, was the highlight of my educational experience at UT Law. As a testament to the unique interdisciplinarity of the Clinic, it was government professor Catherine Boone who put us in touch with our partner organization in Ghana, the Center for Public Interest Law (CEPIL). Starting with practically no knowledge of human rights in Africa, let alone Ghana, and few documents with which to guide or ground us, fellow law student Nita Garg and I quickly absorbed information on customary land tenure in Ghana and indigenous and tribal peoples’ rights.

When a field research trip to Tarkwa started earnestly to take shape, we doubled our preparation efforts. The trip was an eye-opening and convicting journey. Witnessing the plight of community members at the hands of large, multi-national mining companies, and hearing their calls for assistance and effective representation was a powerful reminder of why I came to law school: to help the voiceless and exploited. Translating the visceral and compelling moments from the trip into a human rights advocacy report, which will be released later in 2010, was a lengthy, but equally formative process.

Finally, collaborating with Clinic director Professor Ariel Dulitzky and CEPIL was a reward in itself, since it revealed the genuine joys and sorrows that accompany human rights advocacy work. The Ghana project was a realistic glimpse into that realm, where tenacity is needed not only because of the setbacks and frustrations that inevitably arise, but all the more for the worthy people and causes that drive it.

—by Melvin Huang

CONGRATULATIONS: The Rapoport Center congratulates Professor Ariel Dulitzky, director of the Human Rights Clinic, for his recent appointment to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. “I am deeply honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve at the Working Group,” Dulitzky said. “My appointment is, in part, recognition of the unique, interdisciplin ary approach to human rights teaching and practice we take at UT. I will do my best to enhance and build upon the extraordinary leadership of past and current members of the Working Group.”

A NUMBER OF OTHER CLINICS at the Law School provide students with opportunities to engage in human rights-related litigation and advocacy. Several former clinic students have shared their reflections:

National Security Clinic: “As a law student, not only do we get practical experience, but the cases are both unique and high-profile. It’s rewarding to work on cases that mean so much, both to your clients and to the development of the law in a relatively new and emerging field,” commented Jonathan Chaltain.

Immigration Clinic: “Working with the Clinic gave me the ability to directly represent clients and to assist them with a legal process that has significant impact on their lives. It provides students with opportunities to use their legal knowledge in a practical setting and to improve their advocacy skills in preparation for practicing in any field,” said Cate McGuire.

Transnational Worker Rights Clinic: “Enforcing the Fair Labor Standards Act was very rewarding. I felt like I made a difference, not only in making sure our clients were compensated, but also in deterring their employers from not paying their workers in the future,” explained Kathryn Olson.

Anjela Jenkins
School of Law
Class of 2011

“As a student in the Human Rights Clinic during the spring 2010 semester, I was assigned to work on a project regarding the rights of Costa Rican indigenous peoples in the face of a proposed hydroelectric project whose construction would affect them, including flooding some of their territory. Our advocacy report will be released by the Clinic in English and Spanish later in 2010.”
Educators are taking up the question of what human rights education should look like at universities across the nation, and UT is no exception. In 2009, the Rapoport Center partnered with the Bridging Disciplines Program (BDP) in the School of Undergraduate Studies at UT to offer an interdisciplinary certificate in Human Rights and Social Justice. During the spring 2010 semester, this partnership culminated in the inaugural course offering of BDP 101: Human Rights and Social Justice. As one of two required courses for the BDP certificate, the seminar aimed to provide its enrolled students with an understanding of the regional, ideological, historical, and cultural contexts of a variety of human rights issues. Taught by center director, Professor Karen Engle, and supported by teaching assistant and graduate student Charlotte Nunes (English), the eight-week seminar featured a series of lectures by human rights researchers and practitioners from a variety of disciplines at UT.

Over the course of the seminar, the importance of reflecting critically on ethical questions related to human rights research and advocacy, both domestically and abroad, emerged as a central theme. In his lecture on human rights and borderlands, Professor Itty Abraham (Government) noted that while the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that rights are universal, in fact, “they are only as good as the country you’re in.” He urged students to think about the conditions wherein rights might truly be universally enjoyed. In a lecture on human rights and literature, Professor Barbara Harlow (English), interim director of the Center during the fall semester of 2009 and chair of the faculty panel for the Human Rights and Social Justice BDP, pointed out that human rights are becoming more central to university curricula. “What are our shared responsibilities when we take up work—in any area or discipline—under the banner of human rights?” asked Harlow. One class session took the form of a “Human Rights in Practice” panel, including representatives from such organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition, the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and the Texas After Violence Project. Students and panelists brainstormed tactics to facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship between student interns and the community organizations with whom they seek to work.

Other guest lectures included professors Arturo Arias (Spanish and Portuguese), Benjamin Gregg (Government), and Neville Hoad (English). Regarding her experience in the class, student Lindsay Dworman (Government) reflected, “BDP 101 expanded my educational boundaries and gave me first-hand exposure to the work of organizations and people in the field of human rights.”

“BDP 101 expanded my educational boundaries and gave me first-hand exposure to the work of organizations and people in the field of human rights.”

— Lindsay Dworman
Student Scholars, Fellows & Interns
presented her research findings on the harmful effects of electronic waste on communities in India and China.

During the year, interns also learned about human rights through a variety of challenging research projects. Friedman delved into the papers of Rapoport Center advisory board member Frances “Sissy” Tarlton Farenthold, whose distinguished career includes service as a human rights observer in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. For Friedman, the rich history revealed in the papers, which are housed at the Briscoe Center, “helped to expand my knowledge of international women’s rights movements and of human rights issues in Latin America.”

In another research endeavor, Shannon learned about human rights violations relating to the construction of the Texas-Mexico border wall. She worked closely with members of the Border Wall Working Group to review documents from the Department of Homeland Security that were acquired through Freedom of Information Act requests (see side bar on page 11). Finally, in what she described as “a great learning experience,” Medellin helped develop a hypothetical case for the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition. She says she found the project, which was primarily based on the real plight of mining communities in Tarkwa, Ghana, particularly rewarding because “it emphasized the many human rights issues that our world faces and the immediate need to solve them.”

As summer interns, rising seniors Malory Lee (Psychology) and Minnie Tao (English) also joined the Center and learned about the legal, academic, and cultural contexts of human rights while assisting in numerous initiatives, including projects related to the Center’s reports on Afro-descendant land rights in Latin America and a global human rights education database.

Alia Hasan-Khan, who worked as Center administrator while Cline was on leave in the fall, echoed the sentiments of the many staff, faculty, and scholars who have worked with the undergraduate interns: “They are an integral and invaluable part of what we do, going above and beyond their responsibilities as interns. Their motivation, enthusiasm, and scholarship contribute both to the vision and work of the Center, as well as to its daily functioning.”

“Hands-On Human Rights Learning

Minnie Tao
Senior English

“I applied for this internship to gain more insight into the controversy surrounding ‘human rights,’ two words I found tossed around a lot in news headlines, but a term that to me remained vague and broad. All of the projects I have engaged in here have given me a sense of involvement, relevancy, urgency, interconnectedness, and awareness into what goes on around the world. I’ve gained a better understanding of the complexities that surround land rights for Afro-descendant groups in Colombia, Brazil, and Ecuador; I’ve participated in discussions that touch on very specific issues, ranging from racism to post-tsunami reconstruction to criticisms surrounding human rights discourse. Interning at the Rapoport Center, to say the least, has been a worthwhile, enlightening experience of my undergraduate career.”
Law and graduate students who serve as human rights scholars and summer fellows have always had an enormous impact on the daily functioning and intellectual and advocacy development of the Center. Last year was no exception,” said Center director Karen Engle. Professor Barbara Harlow, who served as interim director of the Center in the fall, echoed these sentiments: “It was an enormous pleasure to work with such a talented group. Individually and collectively they brought a cross-campus dynamism and an interdisciplinary perspective to the Center’s endeavors.”

Last year, law students Matthew Dunlap, Melvin Huang, Maka Hutson, and Latin American studies student Brandon Hunter were awarded scholarships for their academic achievements and commitment to human rights. They worked alongside Center faculty and staff on human rights-related projects, including curriculum development for the new undergraduate Human Rights and Social Justice BDP (see page 3), the planning of a new Working Paper Series, the coordination of the Center’s annual conference (see pages 10–11), and the Texas-Mexico Border Wall Working Group’s review of internal Department of Homeland Security documents obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request (see side bar on page 11). Huang, who worked with clinical law professor Ariel Dulitzky and undergraduate intern Berenice Medellin to develop a hypothetical case for the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition, said, “it gave me the rare opportunity to synthesize an array of human rights concepts I had learned over the past three years at UT Law, including children’s rights, the inter-American system, and indigenous and tribal peoples’ rights.”

Three summer fellows further contributed to the advancement of Rapoport Center goals by strategizing about future advocacy with the Center’s reports on Afro-descendant land rights in Latin America, drafting and designing Center publications, and working to develop a global human rights education database. PhD candidates Courtney Desiree Morris (Anthropology), Charlotte Nunes (English), and Raja Swamy (Anthropology) teamed up on these projects while simultaneously increasing their knowledge of human rights struggles and activism around the world. “This has been a great learning experience for me and a place for me to begin re-thinking my own research—on Afro-Nicaraguan women’s community-based activism—in ways that I had not imagined before,” commented Morris. Swamy added, “The fellowship challenged me to reconsider tensions between formal and customary land and resource rights issues arising out of post-disaster reconstruction, more broadly in terms of human rights.”

Postgraduate human rights fellow Vandana Nakka Peterson, who worked with the scholars throughout the year, organizing several informal meetings between scholars, undergraduate interns, and faculty, noted: “I was fortunate to work with a group of law and graduate students who were committed to the Center’s goals of promoting human rights scholarship and research and were eager to act as mentors to undergraduates.”
From Arusha to San Jose, Students Defend Human Rights

Rising third-year law student Anjela Jenkins spent two months assisting the prosecution team on a long-running high-profile case against the alleged intellectual architects of the Rwandan genocide—Édouard Karemera, Joseph Nzirorera, and Mathieu Ngirumpatse. Bianca Garcia, a rising 2L, spent last summer working on due process cases involving employment issues in various countries throughout the Americas. These are just two examples of how, over the past year, the Rapoport Center supported another group of law students in on-the-job human rights training by facilitating internships all over the world.

Jenkins interned at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania. “I learned a lot while interning at the ICTR,” Jenkins said. “The type of organization, the work environment, and even the continent—it was all new to me! Working in judicial chambers on that case was an important opportunity that I won’t soon forget.”

In similar internships during the summer, Garcia and fellow 2L Cristina Cigarroa served at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, DC and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in San Jose, Costa Rica, respectively. “My experience at the Court was invaluable,” said Cigarroa, continuing, “I was able to further cultivate my experience and interest in international human rights by working on contentious cases as part of an international team of lawyers and fellow interns,” she continued. For Garcia, “the conversations we had [at the Commission], comparing legal systems and sharing ideas, were so interesting. It was fascinating to learn about how different countries approach the same problem.”

The Center awarded an additional ten Cain-Rapoport summer fellowships to the following law students: Caitlin Boehne (Human Rights Watch, New York); Martha Buttry (American Gateways, Austin); Michael O’Keefe Cowles (American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, Austin); Han Gao (Zhengzhou Legal-aid Center, Henan Province); Leanne Heine (Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund, San Antonio); Lok-Sye Lee (South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, Harlingen); Alissa Parsley (American Gateways, Austin); Jordan Pollock (American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Los Angeles); and Della Sentilles (Documentation Center of Cambodia, Phnom Penh).

Funding for the internship program is made possible by the Effie and Wofford Cain Foundation, the Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Karpen Moffitt Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law, and the Rapoport Foundation.
Torture and universal jurisdiction, international adoption, and violence in Colombia and Sri Lanka: these are just a few of the topics that were discussed during the Rapoport Center’s 2009–2010 Human Rights Happy Hour Speaker Series. The speaker series saw record attendance with filled-to-capacity rooms at nearly every talk, evidencing a clear interest in interdisciplinary human rights discussions at UT.

During the fall semester, Barbara Harlow (English), serving as interim director of the Rapoport Center, coordinated the speaker series with her graduate seminar on literature and human rights. Cross-listed in English and Law, the course facilitated students’ involvement in the series through written responses to readings assigned in preparation for each lecture, and through critical exchange at the happy hours themselves.

The fall speakers addressed topics both controversial and contextually diverse. Following Sarah Snyder’s (History, Yale) discussion of “The Development and Influence of Helsinki Watch,” Lisa Hajjar (Law & Society, University of California, Santa Barbara) addressed the question “Does Torture Work?” by way of a historical narrative that ranged from the CIA program against the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War to French counter-insurgency operations throughout the Algerian War. According to Hajjar, torture might well “work” to terrorize those subjected to it, but it patently does not “work” in eliciting actionable intelligence. Hajjar concluded that recent US experiments in torture have drastic implications: “The fate of humanity and the fate of state power are at stake.”

Questions of tactics in war were also raised by Murhabazi Namegabe from Democratic Republic of the Congo (Volunteer Office in the Service of Children and Health) who discussed the impact of armed conflict on youth in Africa, particularly in the context of child soldiers in his home country. Namegabe came to Texas to receive the Óscar Romero Award from the Rothko Chapel in Houston, bestowed biannually on a distinguished human rights activist. According to Namegabe, “I don’t think there is just one past,” remarked UK novelist Gillian Slovo, addressing related themes of political history and activism.

In a lecture co-sponsored by UT’s English department, Slovo reflected on her own childhood in apartheid-era South Africa and described the contributions of her mother, writer and activist Ruth First, to ending apartheid in that country, a regime that was dismantled only in 1994, twelve years after First was assassinated by a letter bomb. Slovo traced her family’s legacy of political activism and indicated the influence of that background on her latest novel, Black Orchids. The novel opens in Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka) during the 1940s, yet takes up themes of racial discrimination in 1950s England that still resonate with her South African background.

The spring speaker series was in turn coordinated with Karen Engle’s (Law) workshop in international human rights and justice. To further cross-disciplinary and interregional dialogue, Engle invited UT professors to respond to the presentations. The series opened, for example, with a provocative exchange on international adoption between Elizabeth Barthollet (Law,
Emphasize Multidisciplinary Dialogue

Harvard) and Charles Hale (Anthropology, Latin American Studies). Gabriela Polit (Spanish and Portuguese) raised concerns about the state’s role in perpetuating the narco-trafficking war following a presentation by Rapoport Center-LLILAS Visiting Resource Professor Eduardo Restrepo (Anthropology, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá) regarding the effects of armed conflict on Afro-descendant organizing in Colombia; Kaushik Ghosh (Anthropology) brought out nuances of comparative analyses in his remarks on Maria Victoria Uribe’s (Colombian National Commission of Reparations and Reconciliation) discussion of violence in Colombia and Sri Lanka, co-sponsored by LLILAS; and Harlow responded to Adeno Addis’s (Law, Tulane) lecture on diasporic communities and jurisdiction. Second-year law student and workshop participant Caroline Carter reflected, “Each lecturer had a distinct perspective and each addressed human rights in a different way. One of the things that I took away is that human rights issues can be raised from increased resources and independence, yet raised the question of whether the legalization of the inter-American system may have raised new challenges for victims of human rights abuses: “Is the judicial response the best that the inter-American human rights system has to offer Latin America?” Graduate student Charlotte Nunes (English) attended Medina’s talk with students in her class on rhetorical analysis and human rights alongside each other.”

In addition to spearheading the Human Rights Happy Hour Speaker Series, the Rapoport Center co-sponsored a Law & Philosophy Program lecture in October by Henry Shue (Politics and International Relations, Oxford), entitled “Limiting Killing in War: Military Necessity, Not Individual ‘Liability.’”

For more information on the speakers and recordings of their talks, please visit the Center website. See the back cover for the 2010–2011 schedule.

“For the poor and the weak, the law is the power.” —Cecilia Medina

Anna Marin
PhD candidate
Program for Comparative Literature

“The Human Rights Happy Hours helped me gain a better understanding of the important collaborative work between academic scholars of human rights and the activists who work on the ground. I feel reinvigorated in my own effort to understand the crucial negotiations between scholarly work and its incorporation by activists, and the way activists change scholarly research.”

Marin studies the literary and textual representations of late 20th- and early 21st-century US imperial wars, focusing on the War on Drugs in Colombia with future research on the War on Terror in Iraq.
“It is not enough to simply want walls down. We must learn to love them too.” So said Thomas Oles, landscape architect, professor at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture, and panelist at the Rapoport Center’s sixth annual human rights conference, “Walls: What They Make and What They Break.” Oles captured what would emerge as a central theme of the conference as a whole: the tension between the sustaining and disenfranchising effects of walls on the individuals and communities influenced by them. Building on the efforts of its Border Wall Working Group to investigate the impact of the Texas-Mexico border wall (see side bar on the next page), the Rapoport Center partnered with the Texas International Law Journal (TILJ) for the conference, which brought together an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars, architects, and advocates on February 25–26, 2010, for consideration of the social, political, and philosophical significance of walls. The panels addressed a series of pressing questions: Why are walls constructed? How do walls function? Who litigates over walls? What does the future hold for walls as indicators of national sovereignty?

Whether discussing walls within countries—such as those delimiting privately constructed enclaves for the wealthy in Johannesburg, South Africa and those surrounding Brazilian favelas—or walls between states—such as the barrier in construction between Iran and Pakistan, panelists addressed a diversity of geographical and historical contexts. Wendy Brown, Heller Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, opened the conference with a keynote address analyzing the reasons why states attempt to seal borders. Drawing on her new book, Walled States, Waning Sovereignty (Zone Books, 2010), Brown argued that while wall-building is an ancient phenomenon, the recent spate of walling internationally is a response to the political and social tensions resulting from increasing transnational flows of capital, ideas, and people that characterize globalization. Walls, according to Brown, indicate states’ loss of authority by “codify[ing] the conflicts they respond to” as “permanent and unwinnable.”

Several panelists took up Brown’s critical approach to walls. On the panel “Who Litigates Over Walls,” Margaret Dorsey, professor of anthropology at The University of Texas-Pan American, focused on the immediate impact of the Texas-Mexico border wall on local communities in Hidalgo county, severing ties between friends and family and denying them access to recreational areas they had enjoyed for decades before the wall construction started.

Yet in a discussion about the future of walls and national sovereignty, Oles argued that “walls are not always abominations,” noting that historically “they have been markers of citizenship and inclusion.” Yishai Blank, a senior lecturer at Tel-Aviv University’s Buchmann Faculty of Law, presented the possibility that inclusion in a community might
not hinge on walls, and expressed the hope that in the future, individuals and communities will be able to “engage politically with one another without engaging the concept of the wall.” Undergraduate rhetoric major Andrea Shannon attended, remarking, “It was fascinating to learn how walls can be a method of unification, a means of division and, ultimately, a reflection of communities and their values. I’m starting to see how we use walls and borders to define our group-oriented identities.”

“Walls: What They Make and What They Break” was co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute, the South Asia Institute, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, the School of Law, the Center for American Architecture and Design, the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies, and UT Libraries. The event benefited from a conference committee composed of a number of Rapoport Center affiliated faculty at UT, including Denise Gilman (Law), who presented a paper on the Texas-Mexico border wall, Kamran Ali (Anthropology), Karen Engle (Law), William Forbath (Law), and Barbara Harlow (English), all of whom served as panel moderators. Other members of the committee included law students and TILJ editors Kelly Stephenson, Lara Vartivarian, and Cynthia Velarde. “As a law student, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and work with faculty outside of the law school. Collaborating with the committee members was essential to developing the unique, multidisciplinary panels that made the conference so interesting,” said Stephenson, editor-in-chief of TILJ. The spring 2011 issue of TILJ will include a selection of papers presented by conference panelists.
Sponsored by the Rapoport Center’s Health and Human Rights Working Group, the third annual World AIDS Day Conference, “HIV/AIDS: Human Rights, Archives, and Memory,” convened on December 1, 2009. Organized by the chair of the Working Group, Professor Neville Hoad (English), and Harry Ransom Center archivist Gabriela Redwine, the conference brought together a diverse group of UT faculty, students, and staff, as well as members of the Austin community involved in work related to HIV/AIDS, to explore issues of public memory, human rights, documentation, and representation related to the global pandemic. Redwine remarked, “The annual conference alerts people to resources at The University and in the local community. The event is important because it brings together people from a variety of local constituencies—UT, the city and county, non-profits, people living with HIV/AIDS—and fosters discussion among them.” Student representatives of Face AIDS and the Student Global AIDS Campaign, two campus organizations dedicated to raising AIDS awareness, opened the conference with Rapoport Center interim director and English professor Barbara Harlow. Panelists also included students and faculty members from the UT departments of Art History, English, History, Latin American Studies, Social Work, and Sociology, as well as staff from the UT Gender and Sexuality Center, Travis County Health and Human Services, and AIDS Services of Austin.

The variety of perspectives represented at the conference provided attendees with insight into the historical and social context of the AIDS crisis both internationally and in Texas. The lunch hour poster session included presentations on the impact of HIV/AIDS on sex workers in Honduras and the responses of religious congregations in East Africa to the pandemic. In a panel on archives and pedagogy, Cynthia Buckley, professor of sociology, centered her discussion on social responses to HIV/AIDS in the Caucasus, while undergraduate Daniel Friedman discussed archival materials that demonstrate the development of AIDS awareness in the Latino community in central Texas. Roger Temme, Outreach Coordinator for The Care Communities, concluded the panel with a discussion of the importance of compassion and care to any consideration of HIV/AIDS. Harlow noted that “the panels were instructive in suggesting opportunities for expanding campus/community cooperation.” She added, “I learned more and more about the HIV/AIDS resources (for research, study, pedagogy) available at UT, their under-use at times, and new possibilities for enhancing their visibility.”

The Working Group will hold the fourth annual World AIDS Day Conference in December 2010 (see back cover).
El Salvador Archives, Undergraduate Education Advance Libraries Partnership

Last year saw a series of exciting developments at the UT Libraries Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI), an important partner of the Rapoport Center. In addition to advancing its ongoing collaboration with the Kigali Genocide Memorial Project in Rwanda, the Free Burma Rangers in Southeast Asia, and the Texas After Violence Project in Austin, the HRDI launched a partnership with the Museo de la Palabra y Imagen (MUPI, Museum of the Word and the Image) in San Salvador, El Salvador to digitize the broadcasts of Radio Venceremos, one of the few sources of oppositional press in the country during the reign of the repressive military regime. The HRDI’s connection with MUPI began during the Rapoport Center’s 2008 conference, “Image, Memory, and the Paradox of Peace: 15 Years After the El Salvador Peace Accords,” which was co-sponsored by the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies. At the conference, archivist Christian Kelleher of the Benson Latin American Collection met panelist Carlos Henriquez Consalvi, founding director of MUPI and founder of Radio Venceremos. Building upon Kelleher’s initial connection with Consalvi, human rights archivist T-Kay Sangwand visited MUPI last year to collaborate with Consalvi and MUPI staff on the digitization plan. Sangwand will return to San Salvador next fall to conduct a training for MUPI staff that will enable them to digitize and archive the broadcasts. Once digitized, UT Libraries will facilitate a publicly accessible collection of the broadcasts online.

The Rapoport Center also furthered its partnership with the HRDI last year through Professor Karen Engle’s Bridging Disciplines class in Human Rights and Social Justice (see page 3), which took advantage of the unveiling of the new HRDI website. Sangwand said of the website, “We needed a way for people to find out what the HRDI is about, plus a way for people to find out about human rights events, student organizations, research centers, and collections around campus. The website contains a list of human rights related archival collections at UT and archived human rights websites, as well as valuable information around human rights advocacy and documentation of rights violations. We cover a wide breadth of geographic locations and subject areas.” Sangwand and Kelleher led an archival research session for Engle’s class, which was centered on human rights library resources at UT. The final assignment for the course required students to write a paper based on archival research they conducted through the HRDI. During the research session, students learned how to navigate human rights-related collections available through UT Libraries, including particularly vulnerable, difficult-to-access web-based archives available through the HRDI’s Archive-It online resource.

“As the HRDI continues to garner active interest from faculty, students, community organizations and the archival profession, it will...contribute to human rights and social justice struggles locally and globally.” —T-Kay Sangwand

Human rights archivist T-Kay Sangwand and Radio Venceremos founder Carlos Henriquez Consalvi in front of the exhibit wall for “Los Mundos de Salarrué” (The Worlds of Salarrué) at the Museo de la Palabra y Imagen in El Salvador. Photograph courtesy Sangwand.
What do human rights and the arts have in common? What do they have to say to each other? These are questions that the Rapoport Center continued to reflect upon last year through a variety of collaborations.

The Center was proud to see the culmination of UT’s collaboration with El Colegio del Cuerpo (The College of the Body), a school of dance in Cartagena, Colombia, established by choreographer and Center advisory board member Álvaro Restrepo and co-directed by Marie France Delieuvin.

El Colegio offers dance education for at-risk youth in and around Cartagena, where seventy percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Its top students comprise a professional dance company that performs all over the world.

Restrepo’s initial visit to UT in 2008—as a speaker for the Human Rights Happy Hour and a visiting resource professor with the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS)—led to further meetings in Austin and Cartagena with Joe Randel, director of ArtésAmericas, as well as Lyn Wiltshire, professor of dance, and some of her students. Restrepo’s and Wiltshire’s collaborative choreographic product, Canción del Cuerpo, was performed in March by five dance students from UT and five Colombian dancers from El Colegio. “The project was a huge success,” said Randel, “both as an artistic endeavor as well as a catalyst for dialogue on a variety of important issues facing Colombia today. The experience of creating a new work of dance was truly life-altering for everyone involved, and one which speaks eloquently of the power of the arts to affect change.”

During a panel discussion on the opening night of the performance, panelists including Restrepo and Center director Karen Engle addressed points of intersection between human rights and the arts. Restrepo noted the unifying power of art as “that which puts us in contact with transcendence, with a profound sense of existence,” while Engle observed that “within the arts and within human rights work there are similar struggles and divides.” She continued, “‘Good’ art, like ‘good’ human rights practice, especially that which attempts to cross national and class boundaries, emerges from a particular—and particularly humble—form of empathy that always recognizes its incompleteness and invites the exploration of self and other, as well as the relationship between the two.” Randel later remarked, “On the surface, lawyers and artists may appear to have little in common. However, collaborations such as these continue to reveal a range of common interests, from issues of citizenship to the empowerment of communities and individuals to an individual’s right to culture.” He continued, “By sharing different strategies and fresh perspectives, we all move closer to achieving our common objectives.”
Also in March, the Center joined with Texas Performing Arts (TPA) and UT’s Musicology and Ethnomusicology Division to offer a lecture by Japanese composer Koji Nakano, entitled “Innovation and Tradition: A Confluence of Asian Musical Cultures and Philosophies,” at the Butler School of Music. Nakano played recordings of performances of contemporary music he has composed using classical Thai and Cambodian instruments. Discussing the influence that Buddhism has had on his work, Nakano emphasized “the universality of the musical language.” For Rapoport Center human rights scholar Melvin Huang, who is also a cellist, the talk provided a chance to see his two worlds come together: “Mr. Nakano demonstrated how music, the most moving language of human emotions, reveals the innate desires from which such emotions derive—such as the desire to live, be free, and worship—and that human rights aim to uphold.”

The Center also continued its affiliation last year with the Living Newspaper Project, which trains UT graduate student consultants to guide area high school students in researching and scripting performances on human rights issues (see side bar on this page). Huang led the human rights history portion of a fall training for graduate consultants, while Rapoport Center postgraduate fellow Vandana Nakka Peterson helped students in a creative writing class at Round Rock High School to prepare a performance about issues of national security and civil liberties.

“‘Good’ art, like ‘good’ human rights practice...emerges from a particular—and particularly humble—form of empathy that always recognizes its incompleteness and invites the exploration of self and other, as well as the relationship between the two.” —Karen Engle

Charlotte Nunes
PhD Candidate
English

“Working as a Living Newspaper Project graduate consultant in a creative writing classroom at Round Rock High School was a fantastic opportunity to experiment with the intersection between human rights and the arts. The students I worked with were eager to express themselves creatively and to engage with issues of civil liberties and national security. As a teacher, I found it both edifying and inspiring to see how the students’ creative impulses and their research processes informed each other.”

Last summer, as part of a training for high school teachers selected from across the country to participate in a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, Engle gave a presentation on human rights and the arts in Brazil. The program, offered by LLILAS and ArtesAméricas, enabled the teachers to spend the month of July in Brazil, learning about the role of the performing arts in social justice education.

The Center will continue to expand the dialogue about human rights and the arts through its collaboration with TPA and many other centers and institutes on campus. Next year’s annual conference, entitled “Aftershocks: Legacies of Conflict,” will take advantage of TPA’s presentation of the National Theatre of Scotland’s award-winning play Black Watch. The play depicts the experiences of Scottish soldiers fighting in the Black Watch regiment in Iraq, and will be performed in February (see back cover). Regarding the Center’s collaboration with TPA, Kathleen Panoff, director of TPA and a Rapoport Center affiliated faculty member, remarked, “I am particularly impressed with how much work the Rapoport Center has done in the area of human rights and the arts. I am proud to be a part of it and especially excited that the annual conference is structured around a major theatrical event.”
Audre Rapoport Prize Winner Explores Consequences of Anti-trafficking Rhetoric for Intervention Efforts

Sherief Gaber won the fifth annual Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on Gender and Human Rights for his article, “Verbal Abuse: Anti-Trafficking Rhetoric and Violence Against Women.” Graber explores the complex relationship between “rhetoric and action” in the movement to end the global traffic in women. He argues that much anti-trafficking rhetoric relies on “dangerous conceptions of the subjectivities and bodies of women in the Global South” and that interventions in these women’s lives often reflect a distorted view of these women and their (presumed lack of) agency.

“The award has since encouraged me to continue challenging my own thoughts and to further pursue issues of gender, human rights and justice in all of my work.” —Sherief Gaber

Grant Will Enhance Partnership on Women’s Human Rights Programming

The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) is one of the Rapoport Center’s many critical partners on campus. Next year will see a significant increase in collaboration between the two centers, as CWGS has received a generous grant from the Embrey Family Foundation to develop a Women’s Human Rights Initiative that will promote teaching, research and activism in the areas of women’s rights and human rights.

“We are particularly delighted by the opportunities the Embrey funding will provide to strengthen our collaboration with the Rapoport Center.” —Susan Sage Heinzelman

“Verbal Abuse: Anti-Trafficking Rhetoric and Violence Against Women.” Graber explores the complex relationship between “rhetoric and action” in the movement to end the global traffic in women. Graber argues that much anti-trafficking rhetoric relies on “dangerous conceptions of the subjectivities and bodies of women in the Global South” and that interventions in these women’s lives often reflect a distorted view of these women and their (presumed lack of) agency.

“The award has since encouraged me to continue challenging my own thoughts and to further pursue issues of gender, human rights and justice in all of my work.” —Sherief Gaber

Grant Will Enhance Partnership on Women’s Human Rights Programming

The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) is one of the Rapoport Center’s many critical partners on campus. Next year will see a significant increase in collaboration between the two centers, as CWGS has received a generous grant from the Embrey Family Foundation to develop a Women’s Human Rights Initiative that will promote teaching, research and activism in the areas of women’s rights and human rights.

“We are particularly delighted by the opportunities the Embrey funding will provide to strengthen our collaboration with the Rapoport Center.” —Susan Sage Heinzelman

“Verbal Abuse: Anti-Trafficking Rhetoric and Violence Against Women.” Graber explores the complex relationship between “rhetoric and action” in the movement to end the global traffic in women. Graber argues that much anti-trafficking rhetoric relies on “dangerous conceptions of the subjectivities and bodies of women in the Global South” and that interventions in these women’s lives often reflect a distorted view of these women and their (presumed lack of) agency.

“The award has since encouraged me to continue challenging my own thoughts and to further pursue issues of gender, human rights and justice in all of my work.” —Sherief Gaber

Grant Will Enhance Partnership on Women’s Human Rights Programming

The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) is one of the Rapoport Center’s many critical partners on campus. Next year will see a significant increase in collaboration between the two centers, as CWGS has received a generous grant from the Embrey Family Foundation to develop a Women’s Human Rights Initiative that will promote teaching, research and activism in the areas of women’s rights and human rights.

“We are particularly delighted by the opportunities the Embrey funding will provide to strengthen our collaboration with the Rapoport Center.” —Susan Sage Heinzelman
Affiliated Faculty and Administrators

Itty Abraham, Asian Studies, Government
Omoniyi Afolabi, Spanish & Portuguese
*Kamran Ali, Anthropology
Katherine Arens, Germanic Studies
Arturo Arias, Spanish & Portuguese
Javier Ayuyero, Sociology
Cecilia Balli, Anthropology
Bill Beardall, Law
Antonio Benjamin, Law
Catherine Boone, Government
Oren Bracha, Law
Daniel M. Brinks, Government
James Brow, Anthropology
Cynthia Buckley, Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Sociology
Virginia G. Burnett, History
Luis E. Carcamo-Huechante, Spanish & Portuguese
Evan Carton, English
Mounira M. Charrad, Sociology
Michael J. Churgin, Law
Ann Cveticovitch, English
Donne DeCesare, Journalism
Mercedes Lynn de Uriarte, Journalism
Henry Dietz, Government
*Ariel Dulitzky, Law
David V. Edwards, Government
Sheldon Ekland-Olson, Sociology
Tarik El-Ariss, Middle Eastern Studies
Zachary Elkins, Government
*Karen Engle, Law
Neil Foley, History
William Forbath, Law, History
Gary P. Freeman, Government
James Galbraith, Public Affairs, Government
Julius Getman, Law
Kaushik Ghosh, Anthropology
Denise Gilman, Law
Edmund T. Gordon, Anthropology
Laurie B. Green, History
Benjamin Gregg, Government
Frank Guridy, History
*Charles R. Hale, Latin American Studies, Anthropology
Patricia Hansen, Law
*Barbara Harlow, English
Eden Harrington, Law
Fred Heath, UT Libraries
Clement Henry, Government
Richard Heyman, Geography
*Barbara Hines, Law
*Neville Hoad, English
Juliet Hooker, Government
Kristine Huskey, Law
Robert Jensen, Journalism
*Derek Jinks, Law
Christian Kelleher, Benson Collection
Robert King, Linguistics
Alan Kuperman, Public Affairs
Jennifer Laurin, Law
*Mark Lawrence, History
Jeffrey Leon, Philosophy
Sanford Levinson, Law, Government
Ray Marshall, Public Affairs
Tracie M. Matysik, History
John McKiernan-Gonzalez, History
Robin Moore, Ethnomusicology
Forrest A. Novy, Social Work
Kathleen Panoff, Texas Performing Arts
Jemima Pierre, Anthropology
Gabriela Polit, Spanish & Portuguese
Jonathan Prater, Law Library
John T. Ratliff, Law
*Joe Randel, Texas Performing Arts
Judith Rhedin, Texas Performing Arts
Gretchen Ritter, Government
Bryan R. Roberts, Sociology
Sharmila Rudrappa, Sociology
Christine E. Schmidt, Engineering
Megan Seaholm, History
Stephen Slawek, Ethnomusicology
Christen Smith, Anthropology
*Shannon Speed, Anthropology
Denise A. Spellberg, History
Jordan Steiker, Law
Pauline Turner Strong, Humanities Institute, Anthropology
*Gerald Torres, Law
Joao H. Vargas, Anthropology
David Warner, Public Affairs
Jay Westbrook, Law
Lyn Wiltshire, Theatre & Dance
Zipporah Wiseman, Law
*2009-10 Steering Committee Member

Thank You

The Rapoport Center’s endeavors would not be possible without the support of our 2009-10 donors and sponsors:

**Ambassador**
The Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation
The Effie and Wofford Cain Foundation
Orlando Letelier and Ronnie Karpen Moffitt Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law
Mr. Scott M. Hendler
Texas International Law Journal
UT School of Law

**Supporter**
Dean Susan L. Karamanian
Dr. Robert D. King
Mr. Herbert B. Rothschild
UT Center for American Architecture and Design
UT Center for Middle Eastern Studies
UT Department of English
UT Humanities Institute
UT Libraries
UT South Asia Institute
UT Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies
Mr. Judson Wood, Jr.

**Contributor**
Ms. Margaret A. Eubank
Mr. Jeremy Bennett Freeman
Mr. Thomas E. Quigley
The Rothko Chapel
Ms. Rhonda M. Sigman
Mr. Philip Spertus
Texas Performing Arts
UT Department of Middle Eastern Studies
UT Musicology and Ethnomusicology Division
The Year to Come

Human Rights Happy Hour Speaker Series
3:30–5:30 PM; UT Law School Faculty Lounge (3.214)

Monday, September 27, 2010

Monday, October 11, 2010
Karen Knop on “The Informal State in International Law: the United States, Gender and Unilateralism.” Knop is professor of law at the University of Toronto.

Monday, October 25, 2010
Lora Wildenthal on “Asylum Rights between Left and Right: The German Case.” Wildenthal is associate professor and departmental chair of history at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Monday, November 8, 2010
Samera Esmeir on “Temporalities of Struggle: National Liberation Movements and International Strategies of Rule.” Esmeir is assistant professor of rhetoric at the University of California, Berkeley.

Thursday, November 18, 2010
Thomas Pogge on “The Health Impact Fund: How to Make New Medicines Accessible to All.” Pogge is Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Part of the Law & Philosophy Program’s workshop series.

Monday, November 22, 2010

Conferences
December 1, 2010
World AIDS Day Conference
February 17–18, 2011
Annual Conference: “Aftershocks: Legacies of Conflict,” will capitalize on the performance of Black Watch at the University of Texas, an award-winning play written by Scottish playwright Gregory Burke and performed by the National Theater of Scotland. The play explores the experiences of Scottish soldiers deployed to fight in Iraq from the Black Watch regiment, one of the oldest regiments in British history. “Aftershocks” will explore some of the same intersections of violence, the colonial past, memory, and trauma that Black Watch invokes, as well as the unique role that performance might play in the analysis. It will consider these issues in a variety of geographic spaces and places, with a special emphasis on the legal and political regimes that are meant to preserve memory while also transitioning into post-conflict.

Be a Partner for Change!

Attend a lecture, conference or other event.

Connect students to outreach and internship opportunities. If you are aware of a human rights advocacy project suitable for the Rapoport Center, or of a valuable internship experience for students, the Center wants to know.

Join us online. Become a fan on Facebook, where we and our friends discuss human rights topics and post Center activities. Follow us on Twitter: UTRapoport.

Donate! In addition to major sources of funding from the Rapoport Foundation and the School of Law, the Rapoport Center depends on individual donations.

Contact us:
Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice
The University of Texas
School of Law
727 East Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78705 USA

Telephone: 512/232-4857
E-mail: humanrights@law.utexas.edu
www.rapoportcenter.org