**HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM**

**WINTER RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

**3119 International Center**

**463 California Avenue, Davis, CA 95616**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**

**12:00 noon to 6:30 pm**

This is an opportunity to build a more cohesive community on human rights, to discover common areas of interest, and to promote interdisciplinary and collaborative research. The conference will allow us to share our current research agendas; you will have 10-12 minutes to present with 3-5 minutes for questions from the audience. To ensure that the conference can accommodate the largest number of participants, we will enforce the time deadlines. Note: Paper abstracts are posted at end of program as are attendees without presentations

12:00 Gather for lunch

12:30 Opening welcome: Jeannette Money

12:35 Remarks: Renatta Tull, Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, “Sustainable Development Goals as Human Rights and Humanitarian Engineering”

12:45 **Tools of Oppression and Strategies of Resistance** – Moderator: Marian Schlotterbeck

1. Joanna Regulska and Zofia Włodarczyk, “Confronting Layers of Discrimination: Fighting for Women’s Rights in Polish Politics”
2. Benjamin Weber, “Anticarceral Internationalism: Rethinking Human Rights through the Imprisoned Black Radical Tradition”
3. Zofia Włodarczyk, “A Report from the Polish-Belarusian Border: Deadly Politics and Grassroots Humanitarian Aid”
4. Heghnar Watenpaugh, “Irreparable Harm: Cultural Heritage Protection and the International Court of Justice”

1:45 **Children and Non-Combatants as Targets of Oppression** – Moderator: Jeannette Money

1. Keith Watenpaugh, “Thoughts at the Intersections of Humanitarianism, the Transfer of Children and the Possibilities of a Comparative History of Indigenous Genocide”
2. Lauren Peters, “Sophia’s Return:  Locating and Rematriating Stolen Children who Died in Native American Boarding Schools”
3. Adam Zientek, “Air Power and Aerial Bombardment of Civilians during World War I”

2:45 Break for coffee

3:00 **Program Director’s remarks** – Keith Watenpaugh

Human Rights Program Project 1: Backpack presentation

Human Rights Program Project 2: High School Teacher Project

3:30 **Constructing Human Rights: Building Alliances or “Going it Alone”** – Moderator: Michael Lazzara

1. Amy Argenal, “Environmental Activism, Human Rights and Transnational Solidarity in Honduras”
2. Liza Grandia, “Sacred Reforestation of the Autonomous Indigenous Communities of Northern Guatemala”
3. Charles Walker, “Divergent Paths: The Human Rights Community and the Shining Path in Peru, 1970s and 1980s”
4. Jeannette Money, “Migrant Rights through Ethnic Organizations or Community Alliances.”
5. Marc Dadigan, “The Salmon Die/We Die: Run4Salmon and the Human Rights Implications of Indigenous-led Environmental Movements”

4:45 **Media and Memory – The Representation of Human Rights Abuses** – Moderator: Keith David Watenapugh

1. Claudia Huerta, “Memory, Documentary, and the Peruvian Internal Armed Conflict”
2. Michael Lazzara, “¡Desobediente!: Memory and Responsibility in Lissette Orozco’s *Adriana’s Pact”*

5:30 Concluding remarks

5:35 Reception

6:30 Conference ends

Attending without presenting:

Daniela Arce, Graduate Program of Environmental Policy and Management

Kimberly Johnson, PhD candidate, Department of Native American Studies

**Paper abstracts – in alphabetical order**

**Amy Argenal, EdD, Lecturer, Human Rights Program**

**Environmental Activism, Human Rights and Transnational Solidarity in Honduras**

Vamos a la Milpa is project of hope, justice and solidarity.  This presentation will share details of a transnational solidarity campaign between human rights activist in the United States and Honduras.  Vamos a la Milpa centers land rights, environmental activism, and the right to remain.  This presentation offers an overview of the *Vamos a la Milpa* campaign and names how communities are displaced as well as an update on the situation in Honduras post-election of 2021 from a scholar doing work in Honduras for the last six year.

**Lizbeth De La Cruz Santana, PhD Candidate, Department of Spanish and Portuguese**

**U.S. Childhood Arrivals Diaspora: A Digital Humanities and Public Scholarship Approach**

This presentation will outline the various public scholarship efforts that have resulted in my intervention at the U.S.-Mexico Border as a migration and public scholar. It will provide an overview of digital humanities projects that intend to bring my doctoral dissertation project to a broad audience. In general terms, my doctoral dissertation project focuses on the deportation of migrants that entered the U.S. as minors ('childhood arrivals') and centers on the digital stories (testimonial audiovisual shorts) authored by this same population. Stories of interest are hosted in the Humanizing Deportation digital project, which has shaped community participatory (action) research projects, and the Childhood Arrivals Critical Theory (CACrit) framework, a concept I coin in my dissertation. Projects will include the "Humanizing Deportation digital storytelling project," the "DACAmented: DREAMs Without Borders digital storytelling project," and the "Playas de Tijuana Mural Project."

**Liza Grandia, Associate Professor, Department of Native American Studies**

**Sacred Reforestation of the Autonomous Indigenous Communities of Northern Guatemala**

My 2011 participatory research on land grabbing in northern Guatemala inspired a large Maya peasant federation, ACDIP, to initiate a process to reclaim sacred sites lost to land privatization through a legal usufruct category akin to “land trusts” in the U.S.  As part of that process, almost a hundred communities have now declared themselves as Autonomy Indigenous Communities, creating a zone of Q'eqchi' governance on par and contiguous with the Zapatistas and the Maya homeland of southern Belize.  After five years of slow, consultative work with Q'eqchi' spiritual leaders in northern Guatemala to inventory and map sacred places lost to land grabs, village authorities and Q'eqchi' youth are ready to move forward with our plan for broad territorial reforestation based on sacred species used in Q'eqchi' ceremony, primarily cacao trees, but also other spiritually-useful species like incense, annatto, and more.  This presentation will emphasize how western biodiversity organizations have failed to recognize and respect Q’eqchi’ vernacular values of the forest and their forms of community organization for climate change resilience across the lowland Q’eqchi’ territory.

**Claudia Huerta, PhD candidate, Department of History**

**Memory, Documentary, and the Peruvian Internal Armed Conflict**

With almost seventy thousand casualties, the Peruvian Internal Armed Conflict (1980-2000) was the deathliest conflict in Peruvian history since its foundation as an independent state. My research focuses on the ways in which this conflict is being represented in documentaries made both in Peru and abroad. Because of the narratives of the past that the documentaries craft, I consider these documentarians to be “Memory Entrepreneurs” (Jelin 2003) which brings them closer to also being Human Rights activists. In this presentation, I will explain this approach, I will give an overview of the different narratives that are currently being represented in these documentaries, and I will also explain how approaching this subject from a Human Rights perspective will contribute to understanding the current struggles over memory in Peru.

**Michael Lazzara, Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese**

**¡Desobediente!: Memory and Responsibility in Lissette Orozco’s *Adriana’s Pact***

Discussions of “postmemory” or “inter-generational memory” within Latin American memory studies have focused almost exclusively, to date, on the memories of children of victims of state-sponsored violence. Since mid-2017, however, in a global climate in which the political right has become emboldened, new voices are emerging in the Southern Cone that are revealing “other” experiences of dictatorship: namely, the voices of children or relatives of perpetrators of human rights violations and crimes against humanity. This short presentation will read filmmaker Lissette Orozco’s 2017 documentary film *Adriana’s Pact* as an example of how relatives of perpetrators are breaking longstanding pacts of silence and speaking publicly in defense of truth and justice. The paper illustrates how “implicated subjects” (Michael Rothberg)—those who were not responsible for violence directly but who are nevertheless implicated in its legacy by association—are beginning to take responsibility for past wrongs and model ethical speech and action in the public sphere.

**Jeannette Money, Professor, Department of Political Science**

**Migrant Rights through Ethnic Organizations or Community Alliances**

Migrants are themselves actors who may mobilize to protect their rights. One question is whether they work in alliance with civil society where they reside or whether they mobilize as an ethnic community. Collective action is expensive. It takes time and energy and resources – which is one of the reasons that it is not more ubiquitous. Each host country has a civil society that is more or less well developed and that is more or less open to the foreign population. It is important to recognize that civil society organizations in the host country may be domestic but can also include international organizations. Both may offer resources to the migrants that are useful for achieving the goals of precarity reduction in either the home or host country. This paper delineates the conditions under which migrants “go it alone” or ally with local organizations. I argue that, in countries where the civil society is flourishing and migrants are welcome, there is lesser need to mobilize as a national migrant group to change host or home country policies. Where resources are scarce, a generic host country organization may well serve the needs of the migrant community.

**Jessica Bissett Perea (Dena’ina), Associate Professor, Department of Native American Studies**

**Peoples, Places, Projects: Frameworks for Radical and Relational Human Rights Studies**

I am an interdisciplinary musician-scholar who currently works as an Associate Professor of Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis. I will briefly outline a “Peoples, Places, Projects” framework that guides my research, teaching, and service activities to demonstrate the value of radical and relational approaches to human rights studies. I will also briefly draw examples from my own current projects that include:

* co-convening an Asia-Pacific Indigenous Studies seminar in partnership with researchers from Universiti Malaya (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia);
* co-directing the “Radical and Relational Approaches to Food Fermentation and Food Security” project in partnership with researchers from Ilisimatusarfik Kalaallit Nunaat (Nuuk, Greenland);
* co-editing *Sovereign Aesthetics: Indigenous Approaches to Sound Studies*, which gathers works by Indigenous scholars innovating new pathways for sound studies research with, by, and for Indigenous Peoples’
* my first book *Sound Relations: Native Ways of Doing Music History in Alaska* (Oxford University Press, 2021), which delves into histories of Inuit musical life in Alaska to amplify the broader significance of sound as integral to Indigenous self-determination and resurgence movements.

**Lauren Peters, PhD student, Department of Native American Studies**

**Sophia’s Return:  Locating and rematriating stolen children who died in Native American boarding schools**

There were 486 Indian schools in the US alone, almost all of them had their own children’s cemetery. In the early 1900s, almost 85 percent of all Native children were enrolled in a boarding or day school, meant to assimilate children into Eurosettler culture in English. In 1895, two young girls were taken from their homes on St. Paul Island, Alaska by Methodist Missionaries, never to return. They were my aunt Sophia and her sister Irene. Irene died at the Jesse Lee Home on Unalaska Island.  Sophia was sent to the infamous Carlisle Indian School. 4000 miles away in Pennsylvania, where she later died.  In 2021, my sons and I went to Carlisle Cemetery and returned Sophia to her island home. Sophia is leading the way in returning the stolen Alaska Native children home. Bringing home our children allows for healing and justice.

**Joanna Regulska, Professor, Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies**

**Zofia Włodarczyk, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology**

**Confronting layers of discrimination: Fighting for women’s rights in Polish politics**

Over the last couple of years, Polish politics became more violent and discriminatory towards women. Multiple gender tensions are also visible among Polish politicians across all levels (local, regional and national). In 2021, we conducted a series of interviews with twenty-five Polish women parliamentarians, focusing on the violence and discrimination they face in everyday language and media, and on institutional and structural levels. Our analysis revealed three main dimensions through which women’s rights are attacked and questioned: 1) through use of language, 2) everyday behavior, and 3) spatial discrimination. Language discrimination is manifested in the differentiated ways through which women and men parliamentarians are addressed, with often violent comments targeting women in media, and from their colleagues. Everyday behavioral discrimination is discernible in the ways that women politicians are treated by institutions and entities or assigned a priori roles they should perform or claim subject matter expertise (e.g., by “traditionally female” topics being imposed on women politician). Finally, spatial discrimination is externalized in the way that the parliament building is arranged, seats are assigned in the parliamentary rooms or simply by perpetuating the predominant male figure of a politician, and thereby making invisible women’s roles and responsibilities (e.g., lack of nursing facilities, changing rooms). We conclude our analysis by describing various strategies used by women parliamentarians in order to address and fight the discrimination they face in everyday political life and to assert their rights.

**Marian E. Schlotterbeck, Associate Professor, Department of History**

**Making Neoliberal Citizens: Childhood in Pinochet’s Chile**

**Renatta Tull, Professor and Vice Chancellor for Diversity**

**Sustainable Development Goals as Human Rights and Humanitarian Engineering**

**Charles Walker, Professor, Department of History**

**Divergent Paths: The Human Rights community and the Shining Path in Peru, 1970s and 1980s**

Human rights groups in Peru have often been understood as emerging with the Internal Armed Conflict dating from 1980, a conflict that led to over 70,000 dead. My work seeks to show the deeper roots of human rights work, an entryway that allows a broader perspective on the violence of the era and the conflicts among the Peruvian state, the Shining Path, and human rights activists.

**Heghnar Watenpaugh, Professor, Department of Art History**

**Irreparable Harm: Cultural Heritage Protection and the International Court of Justice**

My current research approaches the issues of cultural destruction and threats to cultural heritage through a human-rights framework. It focuses on analyzing ongoing lawsuits at the International court of Justice.

In September 2021, two lawsuits were brought before one of the highest courts in the world, when Armenia and Azerbaijan instituted proceeding against each other before the International Court of Justice, the main judicial organ of the United Nations, alleging violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Threats to cultural heritage featured prominently in both suits as did violations of cultural and religious rights. In December, the ICJ delivered its Order on the request for the indication of provisional measures, and indicated provisional measures to protect cultural heritage, and to prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration. This decision is significant for the cultural heritage in question; but it also has significant implications for other minority and indigenous cultural heritage around the world.

The intentional destruction of culture is a global phenomenon that continues to proliferate. Most instances of the destruction of culture are met with near universal condemnation. But accountability has been elusive. The local and international communities are hobbled in their response to such situations. Few international instruments have the teeth to defend cultural rights and cultural heritage in danger, not just issue statements of concern and publish watchlists of heritage in danger. Therefore, with this decision, the ICJ has effectively set a precedent for the protection of cultural heritage, one that constitutes a strong statement condemning the destruction of culture as a result of racial hatred and discrimination. I analyze the possibilities and limitations of this decision for the protection of cultural heritage, and its possibly major implications for the international cultural heritage regime, and for the study and practice of cultural rights.

**Keith Watenpaugh, Professor, Department of Religion**

**Thoughts at the Intersections of Humanitarianism, the Transfer of Children and the Possibilities of a Comparative History of Indigenous Genocide**.

This contribution proposes drawing the genocide of ethnic Armenians into the comparative study of indigenous genocide. Using a Human Rights Studies approach, it focuses on a core element of genocide – the transfer of children – to explore this possibility, and argues that the genocide of Armenians and Native Americans by state authorities through institutions of humanitarian care is a common element to both. It seeks, as well, to understand how the ideology and practices of modern humanitarianism are elemental to indigenous genocide. Shared experiences of denial and cultural erasure invite added comparison and intersectional solidarity, too. The work seeks to engage Native American and Armenian Studies scholars and to elaborate a common vocabulary.

**Benjamin Weber, Assistant Professor, Department of African American and African Studies**

**Anticarceral Internationalism: Rethinking Human Rights through the Imprisoned Black Radical Tradition**

From Garveyism to the Black Panthers, from campaigns to free political prisoners to the current fight to #FreeThemAll, imprisoned Black activists and their allies have deployed expanded conceptions of human rights. These anticarceral organizers have internationalized the struggle against state violence by condemning genocidal police and prison practices at the United Nations, building global solidarities, and appealing to the world. In redefining traditional understandings of human rights, imprisoned Black radicals have called forth a right to breathe in the face of state killings, a right to resist in individual and collective self-defense, and a right to repair in restorative and abolitionist terms. Rethinking human rights through the imprisoned Black radical tradition offers insight into the genealogy of a major anticarceral thread of Black internationalism that has been reanimated in the current phase of the global struggle for Black liberation."

**Zofia Włodarczyk, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology**

**A Report from the Polish-Belarusian Border: Deadly Politics and Grassroots Humanitarian Aid**

The humanitarian crisis that has been happening for the past four months on the Polish-Belarusian border (as well as on Belarus' borders with Latvia and Lithuania) is unprecedented in Europe. Thousands of women, children and men have been trapped between Belarussian soldiers, barbed-wire fence and Polish border guards with neither of the two countries allowing them in. Multiple people have died in result.

The Polish government, European Union, NATO and the USA accuse Alexander Lukashenko, Belarus’ authoritarian leader, of intentionally manufacturing the crisis by loosening restrictions and encouraging refugees and migrants with false promises of a safe passage to Europe via its border. His actions are believed to be a response to EU sanctions imposed on Lukashenko after rigged re-election in 2020 and severe repressions on mass pro-democratic protests that followed.

In my presentation I will talk about a new deadly bill passed by the Polish parliament that legalizes pushbacks and an extensive rescue operation started by non-governmental organizations and local people who have provided incessant support for refugees and migrants trapped in the forest.

**Adam Zientek, Assistant Professor, Department of History**

**Air Power and Aerial Bombardment of Civilians during World War I**