ANNUAL REPORT
This report covers the period January—December 2014.
ANNUAL REPORT 2014
Created in September 2005, the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism was formed to provide students, professors and the larger community with a locus of intellectual and physical resources for engaging critically with the ways in which law affects some of the most compelling social problems of our modern era, most notably human rights issues. Since then, the Centre has distinguished itself by its innovative legal and interdisciplinary approach to understanding and advancing human rights in a complex and legally plural global community.

www.mcgill.ca/humanrights
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OPENING REMARKS

As we move towards the Centre’s tenth anniversary, we are exhilarated by the presence of a rich and dynamic community of scholars, human rights practitioners, and advocates from around the world. Our work is informed and enriched by a diversity of perspectives brought to us from Fellows and visitors from the global North and South. We also have the privilege of being surrounded by outstanding graduate and undergraduate students, a great source of innovation and creativity to our programs and initiatives. The Centre’s success in creating a vibrant space for conversations around pertinent human rights issues and collaborations on innovative initiatives is evident by the rich array of our events calendar.

As this annual report attests, 2014 was memorable on many levels. Never has the intellectual and scholarly exploration at the Centre been more important, nor has there ever been a time when it was more exciting to be part of the CHRLP community. We know that you share our enthusiasm in looking forward to the next chapters in the Centre’s bright future.

Colleen Sheppard  
Centre Director

Nandini Ramanujam  
Executive Director and Director of Programs

Montreal—Colleen Sheppard addresses the audience on November 4, 2014, for the Marriage Matters: 50 Years of Change and Continuity lecture. Panellists (from right) included Robert Leckey, Michèle Audette, and Jennifer Stoddart.
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

Launch of the Third Seminar Series on Disability Rights

Built Environments and Accessibility of Persons with Disabilities 2014-15

New cycle addresses inclusive education and the CRPD; universal design and accessible public spaces; work and economic security; and family and sexuality over a series of 4 seminars during the 2014-15 academic year.
International Human Rights Internship Program

Record Number of Students Placed with NGOs Across the World

21 McGill Law Student Participants
2 New Partnerships for Summer 2014
4 New Partnerships for Summer 2015
Justice Juan Guzmán Addresses a Packed Moot Court

Prosecutor of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet discussed the case and its significance.

Guests attended a documentary film screening and moderated discussion about Justice Guzmán’s investigation of Augusto Pinochet’s regime on day one of this two-day event.
Joseph Arvay, QC, awarded Robert S. Litvack Award for public interest work and lifetime achievement

Delivered lecture at the Faculty of Law entitled “Litigating Charter Challenges: Stories of a Constitutional Lawyer”

Arvay has argued numerous landmark cases involving civil liberties, human and constitutional rights, including 53 cases before the Supreme Court of Canada.
Marriage Matters Event Celebrates 50 Years Since Women’s Equality Milestone in Quebec Law

Lawyer
Marie-Claire Kirkland’s 1964 Bill Recognized Full Legal Capacity for Married Women

Panel considered the historical, legal, economic, and affective implications of marital status. Organized by Centre Director Colleen Sheppard and Wainwright Researcher Cee Strauss.

Poster design by Charlotte-Anne Malischewski
Raoul Wallenberg Lecture in Human Rights

Stephen Lewis delivers lecture entitled “United Nations Immunity versus Human Rights”

Lewis discussed the UN’s role and response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti.
LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH COMMUNITY

Colleen Sheppard
Centre Director

Nandini Ramanujam
Executive Director
Director of Programs

Sharon Webb
Program Coordinator

25
Full Members

5
Associate Members

Montreal—Centre fellows, staff, and directors gather outside Chancellor Day Hall (from left, Sharon Webb, Annyssa Bellal, Colleen Sheppard, Semahagn Abebe, Nadia Lefter, Klaudija Kremers, Olivia Smith, and Nandini Ramanujam).
In 2014, the Centre worked with a number of talented and dedicated student researchers on various initiatives. Nadia Lefter served as Program Coordinator for the McGill-Echenberg Fellows Network and the International Young Leaders Forum. The Centre worked with Nicholas Caivano, former Rathlyn Fellow, to assist with research and initiatives related to disability rights and rule of law. Alyssa Clutterbuck and Charlotte-Anne Malischewski were brought on as coordinators for the International Human Rights Internships Program. Claire Gunner ably coordinated the O’Brien Fellows in Residence Program. Anne-Claire Gayet and Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle served as coordinators for the Interdisciplinary Research Network on Discrimination and Inclusion. Cee Strauss contributed to the Centre as a Wainwright researcher.

The Centre is based at the McGill Faculty of Law, but is committed to an interdisciplinary vision of human rights. Full members include 20 professors and part time lecturers from the Faculty of Law and an additional 7 members are professors in other faculties and departments.

**FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS**

The CHRLP strives to attract the best students and the brightest minds from around the world. We are privileged to receive support from a range of public and private funds that allow us to offer a wide variety of fellowships to support students’ education and research initiatives.

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O’Brien Fellows in Residence

**Semahagn Abebe**, a law professor from Ethiopia, researches in the areas of African development, democracy and human rights. He is also McGill University’s first visitor from the Scholars at Risk Network.

**Annyssa Bellal** is an international lawyer, specialised in international humanitarian law, human rights law and criminal law. She received her PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and an LLM from the University of Lyon and Grenoble.

**Anne-Marie Cotter** has served as Chief Advisor and Administrative Law Judge at the Veterans Review and Appeals Tribunal; attorney and director for the Legal Services Corporation; attorney with the Disability Law Center; and solo practitioner of the Social Security Disability Law Firm.

**Charles Ngwena** is a Professor in the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He has published widely on issues at the intersection between human rights and health care, including HIV/AIDS and reproductive and sexual health with a focus on the African region.

**Noam Schimmel** completed interdisciplinary doctoral research at the London School of Economics where he examined American Democratic presidential healthcare reform rhetoric, American healthcare reform policy and politics, and the human right to healthcare.

**Dzodzi Tsikata** is Associate Professor at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Her research is in the areas of informal labour; gender and development; commercial land deals and the livelihoods of small land holders.

**Zoneziwoh Mbondgulo Wondieh** is a feminist activist, storyteller, and blogger with over five years of experience in gender activism, policy advocacy and youth leadership. She serves as the executive director of Women For A Change, Cameroon.
Dissertation Defenses

CARLOS FUENTES
EDIN HODZIC

In 2014, O’Brien Fellows Carlos Fuentes and Edin Hodžić successfully defended their DCL dissertations.

Carlos Ivan Fuentes prepared his thesis, "Normative plurality in international law: The impact of international human rights law in the doctrine of sources of international law", under the supervision of Professor Evan Fox-Decent.

Edin Hodžić prepared his thesis, "The (not so) gentle civilizer of consociations?: International human rights law and the challenges of group political rights", under the supervision of Professor Mark Antaki.

O’Brien Graduate Fellows

Thanks to the generosity of alumnus David O’Brien, the Centre also awards O’Brien Fellowshipships to a select group of graduate students.

The Centre advertises the Fellowship Program in the Human Rights Quarterly and in the Legal Scholarship Network. The advertisement is circulated in English, French and Spanish on over 80 listservs.

In 2014, the Centre hosted the following O’Brien Fellows:

- Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle
- Alvaro Cordova
- Rokeya Chowdhury
- Marika Giles Samson
- Bethany Hastie
- Sabaa Khan
- Shimelis Kene

Associate Fellows

Éloge Butera is a human rights activist with an active involvement in Canadian public life, having worked in Parliament as a research and legislative assistant to Roméo Dallaire and articling student to Irwin Cotler.

Edin Hodžić is co-founder, Director and Head of Public Law Program at Analitika, Center for Social Research from Sarajevo, a think-tank in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He has worked on war crimes cases at the Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
**Associate Research Fellow**
Futsum Abbay, Associate Research Fellow, with the financial support of Sphere Quebec, worked on disability and human rights issues as an Associate Research Fellow. His research interests include international, comparative and African disability law, human rights law, comparative law and legal history.

**OSF/Hugessen Fellows**
LLM students Natalia Acevedo Guerrero and Bekithemba Mlauzi joined the Centre as Open Society Foundations/Hugessen Fellows in Disability Rights, and are also supported by the O’Brien Graduate Fellowships Program.

**Rathlyn Fellows**
The Centre awarded three Rathlyn Fellowships in Disability Rights to Izabella Karapetyan, Steve Payette, and Margery Pazdor, undergraduate law students at the Faculty, to organize and assist with the Centre’s third seminar series on disability rights and related initiatives.

**Post-Doctoral Fellows**
The Centre is host to Post-Doctoral Fellows Hassan Razavi (PhD, University of Neuchatel, Faculty of Law) and Olivier Barsalou (SJD, New York University School of Law).
In 2014, the Centre has continued its partnership with the Scholars at Risk Network. Dedicated to promoting academic freedom and defending scholars and universities worldwide, SAR has so far provided assistance to more than 400 academics who had been facing harassment, censorship, surveillance and intimidation in their home countries, including a risk of arrest on false charges, detention without trial, torture, disappearance and murder.

From October 2013 to June 2014, the Centre hosted Semahagn Abebe as McGill University’s first-ever Scholar at Risk.

The Centre’s second Scholar at Risk, Dr. Destaw Andargie Yigzaw, will arrive in January 2015.

Each year the Centre welcomes a number of Visiting Researchers, who are in residence at McGill for a limited time period.

In 2014, the Centre welcomed three new Visiting Researchers, Yavar Hameed, Iyiola Solanke, and Pierre Bosset, joining Genevieve Painter and Béatrice Vizkeley who arrived at the Centre in 2013.

Mr. Hameed practices as a lawyer in the area of administrative law and general civil litigation in Ontario with a focus on the defense of human rights against state and corporate action. He has advised clients in the context of unsolicited CSIS interviews and national security matters.

Professor Solanke is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at the University of Leeds and Associate Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple.

Professor Bosset is on sabbatical from Université de Québec à Montréal.

New O’Brien Graduate Fellows

VANESSA CLERMONT-ISABELLE (LLM)  
ROKEYA CHOWDHURY (DCL)  

Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle a obtenu son LLB à l’Université de Montréal. Son implication dans la communauté a été soulignée par le Prix d’implication communautaire McCarthy Tétrault ainsi que par une Bourse d’implication décernée par le Service aux étudiants de l’Université de Montréal.

Rokeya Chowdhury holds a teaching position at the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka. Rokeya completed her LLB and LLM at the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, and the LLM Thesis Program at the Institute of Comparative Law, McGill University.

Scholars at Risk Network Partnership

In 2014, the Centre has continued its partnership with the Scholars at Risk Network.

Visiting Researchers

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Professor Bosset is on sabbatical from Université de Québec à Montréal.
Graduate Students

The Centre is currently affiliated with 24 graduate and doctoral students.

Ayodele Akenroye
Alvaro Cordova Flores
Maude Choko
Rokeya Chowdhury
Maria del Pilar Vanegas Guzman
Vanessa Clermont-Isabelle
Marika Giles Samson
Kate Glover
Claris Harbon
Alexandra Harrington
Bethany Hastie
Róisín Hennessy

John Hursh
Ivana Isailovic
Shimelis Mulugeta Kene
Saba Khan
Isabelle Martin
Catalina Peralta
Matthew Pritchard
Anna Purkey
Jeffrey Sachs
Mohamed Sesay
Mourad Shalaby
Jon Waind
**PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Joseph Arvay Delivers Robert Litvack Award Lecture**

“Litigating Charter Challenges: Stories of a Constitutional Lawyer”

March 18

Speaker and Award Recipient: Joseph Arvay, QC (Partner, Farris LLP)

The Centre awarded Joseph Arvay the Robert S. Litvack Award for his exceptional public-interest work and outstanding lifetime achievement. Mr. Arvay also gave an engaging lecture providing an insight into the work and the deliberations that took place behind the scenes in several of his cases. Mr. Arvay has argued numerous landmark cases involving civil liberties, human rights and constitutional rights, including no less than 53 Supreme Court of Canada decisions.

**Public Lecture**

“The Treaty of Niagara 1764 and Canadian Constitutionalism Today: Crown/First Nations Relations 250 Years In”

September 15

Speakers: Aaron Mills (PhD Student, University of Victoria; 2014 Trudeau Scholar); Alan Corbière (MA Environmental Science, York University)

This event examined the Treaty of Niagara and its implications for understanding the Royal Proclamation, the development of present-day Canada, and the Crown/First Nations relationship. Mr. Corbière explained the historical context in which the Treaty was negotiated, as well as the meaning and significance of wampum belts that embody the Treaty of Niagara. Mr. Mills discussed the significance of the Treaty of Niagara from the

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**Honours and Appointments**

**ARISTIDE NONONSI**

Aristide Nononsi, Associate Member of the Centre, was appointed to be the United Nations’ Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in the Sudan. Mr. Nononsi was awarded this critical role for his extensive experience in technical assistance and capacity-building activities on human rights systems and procedures.
Steven Ratner Delivers John P. Humphrey Lecture: “After Atrocity: Optimizing UN Action toward Accountability for Human Rights Abuses”

September 17

Speaker: Steven Ratner (Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School)

Professor Ratner discussed the UN’s engagement and capacity with regard to holding individuals accountable for human rights atrocities. He suggested that, in a post-tribunal era, the UN should focus its efforts on those processes where it holds a comparative advantage in its ability to deal with past atrocities.

Justice Juan Guzmán, Prosecutor of Augusto Pinochet

Film Screening and Conversation

October 14-15

This two-day event included a screening of the film “The Judge and the General” and discussion moderated by Professor Frédéric Mégret on October 14, and a conversation with Justice Guzmán on October 15, moderated by René Provost.

Juan Salvador Guzmán Tapia is a retired Chilean judge who gained international recognition for being the first judge to prosecute former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet on human rights charges, after Pinochet’s return to Chile following more than a year of house arrest in London, England.

A recording of the conversation with Justice Guzmán is available online.
Marriage Matters: 50 Years of Change and Continuity
November 4

Moderators: Cee Strauss (BCL/LLB Student, McGill), Colleen Sheppard (CHRLP)

Speakers: Jennifer Stoddart, (feminist legal historian, lawyer); Robert Leckey (Associate Professor, McGill); Michèle Audette (President, Native Women’s Association of Canada)

July 1, 2014 marks fifty years since the first woman elected to the Quebec National Assembly, Me Marie-Claire Kirkland, introduced the *Loi sur la capacité juridique de la femme mariée*, a law which recognized the full legal capacity of married women in Québec law. This anniversary event, organized by Colleen Sheppard and Cee Strauss (with the support of Wainwright Foundation funds), considered the historical, legal, economic, and affective implications of marital status.

November 12

Speaker: Stephen Lewis (Professor of Practice in Global Governance, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University; Visiting Professor, Ryerson University)

Mr. Lewis made an impassioned speech about the UN’s role and unacknowledged responsibility for the cholera outbreak in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake.

Publications and Grants

ANGELA CAMPBELL

Centre member, Professor, and Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) Angela Campbell published several op-eds in *The Globe and Mail*: “Condom Case Reaffirms the Ability to Make Meaningful Choices” Globe and Mail (March 7); “For Sex Workers, the Nordic Model Still Falls Short” (May 20); “We Condemn Attacks on Women at Work, Unless it’s Sex Work” (November 11).
ENGAGED LEARNING AND RESEARCH

International Human Rights Internship Program
The International Human Rights Internship Program provides students with opportunities to serve as global citizens while contributing to important human rights work in the field. Many prospective and present students cite the Internship Program as a factor in their decision to study law at McGill, and the opportunities it affords create a unique and important contribution to our students’ education in human rights.

In the summer of 2014, twenty one students participated in the Internship Program.
2014 SUMMER INTERNS

Nicolas Aubin – Avocats Sans Frontières, Quebec City
McLean Ayerst – Legal Officer with Jesuit Refugee Services, Thailand
Kyle Best – One Earth Future Foundation, Colorado, USA
Cécile Capela-Laborde – Akwesasne Mohawk Council
Martha Chertkow – Maligianik Tukisiniakvik Legal Services, Iqaluit, Nunavut
Arielle Corobow – Equitas – The Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Montreal
Diana Arghirescu – Equitas – The Canadian Human Rights Foundation, Montreal
Jonathan Coulombe – LICADHO, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Guilhem de Roquefeuil – IHRDA, Banjul, The Gambia
Amanda Ghahremani – Human Rights Watch, New York City, USA
Peter Grbac – Calcutta Research Group, Calcutta, India
Matthias Heilke – Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities, Uganda

Matthew Millman-Pilon – One Earth Future Foundation, Colorado, USA
Iñaki Navarrete – Disability Rights International, Mexico
Annie O’Dell – Equality Effect, Nairobi, Kenya
Jacinthe Poisson – Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Costa Rica
Isabelle Rémillard – Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Toronto, Canada
Stacey Smydo – One Earth Future Foundation, Colorado, USA
Katie Spillane – Ateneo Centre for Human Rights, Manila, the Philippines
Lucia Westin – First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, Ottawa
Suzanne Zaccour – Coalition des ONG et OCB du Cameroun œuvrant dans le domaine des Établissements Humains (CONGEH), Yaoundé, Cameroun

Students receive 6 course credits that require the completion of a 12-week placement with a human rights organization, a report on the placement, and a research paper. Participants also enroll in a corresponding seminar, entitled “Critical Engagement with Discourses of Human Rights”, taught by Nandini Ramanujam. The seminar serves to provide students with a structured and supportive environment in which to reflect on their internship with their peers, and to place their experience within the broader context of critical engagements with human rights law in theory and in practice.

The Centre enjoys collaboration with a wide spectrum of human rights organizations. We are pleased to offer four new internships for 2015:

- L’organisation Aswat Nissa (Voix de femmes) – Tunis, Tunisia
- National Human Rights Council of Morocco – Rabat, Morocco
- Mental Disability Advocacy Centre - Budapest, Hungary
- Women For A Change - Buea, Cameroon

The new internship with Women for a Change in Cameroon is a fruit of our relationship with 2014 O’Brien Fellow in Residence Zoneziwoh Mbondgulo Wondieh.

**International Human Rights Internship Program Working Paper Series**

The Centre’s Working Paper Series enables the dissemination of papers by students who have participated in the International Human Rights Internship Program. Students enroll in the seminar “Critical Engagement with Discourses of Human Rights” seminar that allows them to write a research paper through a peer review and support process. The papers in this series are intended to showcase and disseminate original and innovative scholarship by our student interns, as well as to elicit feedback and encourage debate on important public policy challenges. The papers in this series are available online open source.
International Clerkships

Alongside New York University, Columbia, Yale, Michigan, Geneva and Strasbourg, McGill is a participant in the Judicial Assistants Programme of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA). The Centre is the Faculty’s representative to these international courts and selects a shortlist of law students to forward to each court for consideration. In 2014, Emilie Conway was selected to clerk at the ICJ and Sophie Poirier was selected to clerk at the PCA for the 2014-2015 program. The program is supported by the Ministère des Relations internationals du Québec.

Program in Global Governance

Based at the Institute for the Study of International Development (ISID) in the Faculty of Arts, the Program is a collaborative effort with the CHRLP at the Faculty of Law. The program welcomes Professors of Practice in Global Governance, including Stephen Lewis who delivered the Wallenberg Human Rights Lecture. As part of the program, the Centre has organized three student human rights internships with the One Earth Future (OEF) Foundation, a non-profit organization in Colorado which aspires to develop effective systems of governance to achieve a world beyond war.

McGill Model United Nations (McMUN)
January 24

CHRLP graduate student member and O’Brien Graduate Fellow Marika Giles Samson addressed the International Criminal Court Committee at this annual Model UN Conference for university students.

Experiential Workshop in Civil Liberties and Civil Society
November 4

An innovative human rights workshop was held in the context of the seminar on Civil Liberties (taught by Centre member, Pearl Eliadis) bringing together lawyers, academics and journalists to coach students in preparing short, accessible case studies on the role of government in supporting or suppressing civil liberties, with a special focus on civil society and the media. (with support from the Law Faculty Experiential and Active Learning Fund)

Publications and Grants

PEARL ELIADIS

Following the 2013 workshop on Dissent, Democracy and the Law, co-chaired by Pearl Eliadis, human rights lawyer, CHRLP member and a member of the Voices Strategy Group, Voices-Voix Canada published the Workshop Report in 2014.
Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium Outreach Event  
November 7

Centre participants: Colleen Sheppard, Adelle Blackett, Vrinda Narain, Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo Wondieh

The Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium is McGill's high school Model UN conference. Every year, the International Relations Students' Association of McGill hosts over 1000 high school students from around the world, introducing them to international relations and diplomacy through simulation of the UN. Colleen Sheppard, Adelle Blackett, Vrinda Narain, and Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo addressed this year's delegates as part of the United Nations Human Rights Council simulation event.

Human Rights Article Lab

Centre Collaborators: Frédéric Mégret, Nandini Ramanujam, Colleen Sheppard, Marika Giles Samson

During the 2013-2014 academic year, several graduate students and Centre members collaborated in a project convened by Associate Dean Research and Centre member Frédéric Mégret. The project, which replicates a practice common in other faculties of collaborative research, saw ten participants work together to write a scholarly article, from topic selection through to final editing. The article, titled “Negotiating Rights: The Power and Limits of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Human Rights Field” will be submitted for publication in early 2015.
FOSTERING COMMUNITIES OF SCHOLARSHIP AND REFLECTION

SEMINARS

Disability, Human Rights and the Law Seminar Series

In 2014, the Centre hosted two seminars as part of its 2013-2014 seminar series on “Global Perspectives on Disability, Human Rights and Accessing Justice”:

“Proactive Approaches to Inclusion: Legislative and Policy Developments”
January 27

Moderator: Colleen Sheppard (Director, CHRLP)
Speakers: Arlene Kanter (Professor, Syracuse University College of Law); David Lepofsky (Chair, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Alliance, AODA); Aurélie LeBrun (Researcher, Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission)

“Disability, Dignity and End-of-Life Care”
March 18

Moderator: Colleen Sheppard (Director, CHRLP)
Speakers: Justine Farley (MD, Palliative Care Team, St. Mary’s Hospital, Montreal); Joseph Arvay QC (Partner, Farris LLP); Derek Jones (Research Group on Health & Law, CHRLP)
Commentator: Jonas-Sébastien Beaudry (Boulton Research and Teaching Fellow, McGill University)

Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation

COLLEEN SHEPPARD

Professor and Centre Director Colleen Sheppard taught in Osgoode Hall Law School’s Certificate Human Rights Theory and Practice Program in the spring of 2014, which draws on the expertise of leading human rights experts around the country to teach students how to assess, balance and resolve human rights issues.
The Centre also launched its third seminar series, entitled “Global Perspectives on Disability, Human Rights and Accessing Justice. Two of seminars in the series took place in 2014:

“Inclusive Education: Implementing the CRPD in Canada and the Global South”
September 22

Speakers: Charles Ngwena (O’Brien Fellow in Residence); Futsum Abbay (Research Associate, CHRLP); Roberta Thomson (Accessible and Inclusive Education Course Instructor, UDL Faculty Toolkit Project Coordinator)
Moderator: Frédéric Mégret (Associate Professor, McGill, Canada Research Chair in the Law of Human Rights and Legal Pluralism)

“Universal Design and Accessible Public Spaces”
October 20

Speakers: John Radford (Professor, York University, Critical Disability Studies); Mélanie Benard (Disability Rights Activist); Béatrice Vizkelety (Visiting Fellow, CHRLP)
Moderator: Margery Pazdor (Rathlyn Fellow, CHRLP)

In 2015, the series continues with a third seminar on “Work and Economic Security” and a fourth seminar on “Family and Sexuality”.

The series co-sponsored by the CHRLP, the McGill Faculty of Law, the Human Rights Working Group (Disability and the Law Portfolio), the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, the Aisenstadt Initiative, and the Rathlyn Fund for Disability Rights.
Gender, Disability and Global Health: The Rights Of Girls and Women with Disabilities
February 19

Moderator: Juan Sebastián Rodríguez Alarcón (OSF/Huggesson Fellow, CHRLP)
Panellists: Stephanie Ortoleva (Disability Rights International; Women Enabled), Rebecca Schleifer (Global Health Justice Partnership, Yale University), Yolanda Muñoz (Disability Rights Fund)

Panellists discussed how, while the right to integrity and the right of a woman to make her own reproductive choices are contained in a number of international human rights treaties, women with disabilities continue to be denied these rights through practices such as forced sterilization, sexual violence and the removal of their legal capacity in many parts of the world.

Disability and Law Reading Group
Winter 2014

Associate Research Fellow Futsum Abbay coordinated a disability and law reading group that explored comparative perspectives on disability law in Europe, Africa, and the Americas; issues related to end-of-life care; and accessibility to public spaces.

Interdisciplinary Research Network on Discrimination and Inclusion

The Interdisciplinary Research Network on Discrimination and Inclusion, directed by Colleen Sheppard, includes researchers, practitioners as well as collaborators from community-based organizations. Its objectives are to promote interdisciplinary collaboration and reflection on discrimination and inclusion. It convened three meetings this past year, including a session lead by Me Béatrice Vizkelety (Visiting Researcher) on “Litigating Systemic Discrimination”, a seminar by a visiting professor (in collaboration with the Annie MacDonald Langstaff workshops) Marie Mercat-Bruns (Sciences Po, Paris) on her recent book, Discriminations en Droit du Travail: Dialogue avec la Doctrine Americaine and a seminar by Professor Iyiola Solanke (Leeds University) on her research exploring the intersection between stigma, intersectionality and discrimination.

FRANÇOIS CRÉPEAU

Annie MacDonald Langstaff Workshop Series

The Centre co-sponsored the following workshops, coordinated by Centre member Vrinda Narain:

“Invisible Inequalities: Disappearing Women and the Stagnation of Equality in Ireland”
Olivia Smith (Dublin City University)
January 10

“Discriminations en Droit du Travail: Dialogue avec la Doctrine Americaine”
Marie Mercat-Bruns (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers)
March 11 (in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Network on Discrimination and Inclusion)

“Equality and the Indian Supreme Court: The Naz Foundation Case”
Madhav Khosla (PhD Candidate, Harvard University)
March 27

“Creating New Norms of Work and Care”
Jennifer Nedelsky (University of Toronto)
October 24

Economic Justice Seminars

In 2014, the CHRLP continued its speaker series intended to facilitate interdisciplinary conversations amongst scholars interested in/working on issues related to Economic Justice. The sessions aim to foster critical reflections on economic justice.

During the first session, on January 29, Professors Shauna Van Praagh and Colleen Sheppard discussed intersections of identity, inequality and vulnerable communities, in the analysis of, and responses to, socio-economic justice – particularly from the perspective of children, persons with disabilities and Aboriginal people. During the second session, on March 14, Professors Catherine Lu and Pablo Gilabert explored the moral desirability and practical feasibility of global principles of distributive and labour justice.
“Like Your Own Child: Employers’ Perspectives and the Regulation of Domestic Work in Ghana”
March 31

The CHRLP, in collaboration with the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory, presented a talk by Dzodzi Tsikata, O’Brien Fellow in Residence. Professor Tsikata spoke about the challenges of regulating domestic work in Ghana.

SCHOLARLY AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CONFERENCES

Centaur Jurisprudence Project Conference: The Legalization of Culture and the Enculturation of Law
February 21
Chair: René Provost (CHRLP)
Co-organizers: Kirsten Anker (CHRLP), David Howes (Concordia) and Eric Reiter (Concordia)

This one-day conference, the outcome of a team research project, explored the potential of legal pluralism to account for the varied and dynamic roles of culture within legal discourse. Featuring four panels of distinguished speakers, the conference explored this issue from a multidisciplinary perspective in the context of international law, aboriginal law, alternative dispute resolution, and the recognition/accommodation of minority cultural practices.

Global Justice After Colonialism
May 9-10
Host: Catherine Lu (CHRLP)

Global justice has become a central focus of research in contemporary political philosophy. This conference addressed questions raised by historical colonialism and its legacies for global justice debates.

Honours and Appointments

CATHERINE LU

Centre member and Associate Professor Catherine Lu, of the Department of Political Science, McGill University, was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation renewal research fellowship, taken in the summer of 2014 at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, in Bad Homburg, Germany.
Annual Graduate Law Students Conference: “Emerging Scholars, Emerging Scholarship”
May 29-30

The CHRLP co-sponsored this conference, which reflected the notion of graduate students as emerging scholars—the next generation of legal minds. It served as a coming-together of tomorrow’s academics, and offered an opportunity to collectively reflect on the ideas of tomorrow and the place this cohort will occupy, both in the legal community and the world at large. CHRLP graduate student member Marika Giles Samson designed and convened a pre-conference presentation skills workshop to help students enhance their public speaking, presentation structure, and use of technology. This was followed up during the conference with a peer feedback programme, which enabled participants to receive constructive, individualized critiques on the manner of their presentations.

Tax Justice and Human Rights Research Symposium
June 18-20

Hosted by CHRLP member Allison Christians, this conference brought together students, academics, and tax justice advocates and activists to collaborate on the emerging topic of tax justice. Professor Christians, who also holds the Stikeman Chair in Tax Law, also hosted an extensive series of tax policy colloquia, explicitly linking issues of tax policy to questions of economic justice and engaging a number of Centre members.

15th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN): “Re-Democratizing the Economy”
June 27-29

The Centre co-sponsored the 2014 BIEN Congress, held at the Faculty of Law. Organized every two years, the Congress brings together stakeholders from around the world interested in basic income. This year, over 200 scholars and activists from more than 30 countries participated.

Cohen Doctoral Seminar in International Law
August 23

Centre Collaborators: Frédéric Mégret, Olivier Barsalou, Marika Giles Samson, René Provost

The Faculty of Law hosted doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from around the world for this biennial seminar held in honour of the late former Dean Maxwell Cohen. Participants in this intensive day-long program were invited to present papers, which were reviewed and discussed by leading members of the international law around the theme of International Law: Between Internationalism, Transnationalism and Cosmopolitanism.

ROUNDTABLES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Tsilhqot’in: The Future of Aboriginal Title
September 30

Organized by Centre member Kirsten Anker, the CHRLP co-sponsored this panel discussion with Garrett Tomlinson and Cynthia Tomlinson of the Lubicon Cree, Michel Thusky the Algonquins of Barriere Lake, along with Aboriginal law practitioner Me Caroline Briand on the impacts of the recent SCC decision declaring Aboriginal title for the Tsilhqot’in Nation.
**Live Stream and Discussion: A Canadian Right to Physician-Assisted Suicide? Carter v. Canada**

October 15

Co-sponsored by the CHRLP and the MJLH, participants of this event were invited to watch and discuss the historic arguments in *Carter v Canada*, the physician-assisted suicide (PAS) case currently before the Supreme Court of Canada. The event was facilitated by Derek J. Jones (CHRLP) and Jennifer Anderson (MJLH).

**First Nations Child Welfare: Research Contribution to the Human Rights Tribunal Case on Inequitable Funding**

October 27

Speaker: Nico Trocmé (Director of the School of Social Work, McGill University)

Organized by the Aboriginal Law Students’ Association and the CHRLP, Dr. Trocmé was invited to reflect on the historic First Nations child welfare case and what its outcome might mean for First Nations children and families, and the country as a whole.

**Roundtable: Religious Diversity in Childhood Education**

October 30

This event was organized by Shauna Van Praagh (CHRLP) and Blair Major (DCL Candidate, McGill). A group of academics, graduate students, grade-school teachers, and youth workers shared their experiences of religious diversity within the public and private education setting.

**Human Rights Roundtable for DCL Students**

November 20

Organized by Daniel Weinstock and co-sponsored by the CHRLP, this roundtable invited DCL students and professors to discuss draft papers on human rights issues which were circulated to participants before the event.

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**Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation**

**FRÉDÉRIC MÉGRET**

In 2014, Centre member, Associate Professor, and Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Frédéric Mégret taught a course on victim rights in international criminal justice as part of the Advanced Course on the International Protection of Human Rights of Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland, and a course on transitional constitutions at the Institut Louis Favoreu at the Faculté de droit d’Aix-Marseille.
COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH INNOVATION

Mental Health Information Privacy: Interface with Equality in the Workplace
Researchers: Derek J. Jones (CHRLP, Research Group on Health & Law), Colleen Sheppard (Director, CHRLP)

Sponsored by the Privacy Commission of Canada and led by Me Derek J. Jones, this project aims to identify issues and questions, best practices, and standards that can be used in the development of a guidance document for managing mental health information privacy in the workplace. Preliminary results of the research were presented to the Tribunal des droits de la personne du Québec at an educational training seminar on mental health and discrimination at work in February 2014.

Rule of Law and Economic Development Research Group
Researchers: Nandini Ramanujam (Executive Director & Director of Programs, CHRLP), Nicholas Caivano (CHRLP), Semahagn Abebe (CHRLP)

The Rule of Law and Economic Development Research Group (ROLED) brings together international and Canadian researchers and thinkers interested in the links between rule of law and economic development. In 2014, ROLED launched a new research axis on the link between rule of law and food security in developing contexts. A research paper on the right to food in India and Ethiopia will be published in early 2015.

ROLED recently joined the Conference on Global Law and Development (CGLD), a newly-formed network based in Brazil devoted to promoting law and development scholarship in the Global South. CGLAD’s goal is to explore new directions in the study of the role law may play in alternative development strategies.

Honours and Appointments

ADELLE BLACKETT

Centre member, Associate Professor and William Dawson Scholar Adelle Blackett received the Barreau du Québec’s 2014 Christine Tourigny Award of Merit, an award attributed each year to a female lawyer in recognition of her social commitment and contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession.
Disability and Human Rights Consortium
Centre Liaison: Nandini Ramanujam (Executive Director, CHRLP)

Under the stewardship of Open Society Foundations, the Disability and Human Rights Consortium brings together seven institutions, including McGill, that demonstrate cutting edge capacity for legal education in disability rights. Since 2011, the Centre has hosted two LLM students from Southern Africa and South America who are supported by this program and focus their studies on disability law.

The Centre is also leading a project of the Consortium that seeks to establish an open-source research portal on disability and human rights. The portal will serve as a landing page for the Consortium to disseminate research and news about disability rights issues, and will house a searchable database for articles, reports, legal judgments from many jurisdictions, and other resources related to disability and human rights.

Special Issue of the Oñati Socio-legal Series: Indignation, Socio-Economic Inequality and the Role of Law
Lead Researchers: Jane Matthews Glenn (CHRLP), Anneke Smit (Windsor) Véronique Fortin (Berkeley)
Co-researcher: Colleen Sheppard (Director, CHRLP)

A special journal issue of the Onati Socio-Legal Series including workshop papers on Indignation, socio-economic inequality and the Role of Law is forthcoming.

Centaur Jurisprudence Research Project
Researchers: René Provost (CHRLP), Kirsten Anker (CHRLP), David Howes (Concordia), Eric Reiter (Concordia)

The encounters of law and culture within legal institutions are complex and dynamic, intersecting at multiple sites. The project identifies three distinct sites, understood as normative sites in which legal knowledge is produced. The project critically analyzes each of these sites by combining legal and anthropological perspectives. It seeks to assess the rayonnement of legal culture beyond the boundaries of legal institutions and, by the same process, analyze the extent to which legal culture itself is shaped through these encounters.
Aisenstadt Equality and Community Initiative

Coordinator: Colleen Sheppard (Professor and Director, CHRLP)

The Initiative is aimed at generating insights and new knowledge about inequality and obstacles to effective access to justice within local communities, strengthening the capacity of community-based organizations to identify and contest the systemic and recurrent violations of equality, and promoting transformative human rights education. This past year, the Initiative continued to collaborate with the Barreau du Québec on research into racial discrimination in the legal profession. The Initiative supported the Disability, Human Rights and the Law seminar series, which engages with the community on issues of disability rights and equality. Spearheaded by Centre member, Derek J. Jones, with the assistance of CHRLP student researcher, Anne-Claire Gayet, and in collaboration with the Comité des orphelins de Duplessis, research was also conducted into historical human rights abuses and ongoing efforts to obtain reparations and justice.

Define the Line: Clarifying the Blurred Lines Between Cyberbullying and Digital Citizenship

Centre Researchers: Shaheen Shariff (Department of Integrated Studies in Education, McGill), Shauna Van Praagh (CHRLP)

Through its website (definetheline.ca), its research projects (Facebook, SSHRC), and its outreach initiatives, this program aspires to help clarify the blurred lines between cyberbullying and digital citizenship, with a focus on policymaking, education and law. It aims to share its research findings and expertise with policymakers, educators, and jurists to help them understand the complex nature of cyberbullying and address the existing policy vacuum on the legal and ethical limits of online expression.
NEW BOOKS

The Last Post-Cold War Socialist Federation: Ethnicity, Ideology and Democracy in Ethiopia
Author: Semahagn G. Abebe (O’Brien Fellow in Residence 2013-2014, CHRLP, McGill)
(Aldershot: Ashgate, 2014)

Declarations of Interdependence: A Legal Pluralist Approach to Indigenous Rights
Author: Kirsten Anker (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, McGill)
(Aldershot: Ashgate, 2014)

Speaking Out on Human Rights: Debating Canada’s Human Rights System
Author: Pearl Eliadis (Human Rights Lawyer; Course Lecturer, Faculty of Law, McGill)
(Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2014)

Ways of Sensing: Understanding the Senses in Society
Editor: David Howes (Professor of Anthropology, Concordia University; CHRLP member, McGill)
(London and New York: Routledge, 2014)

Rationalism, Pluralism, and Freedom
Author: Jacob Levy (Tomlinson Professor of Political Theory, Department of Political Science, McGill)
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)

The Structure of Pluralism
Author: Víctor Muñiz-Fraticelli (Associate Professor, cross-appointed Faculties of Law and Political Science, McGill)
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)
CONCLUSION

The Centre continues to build on its impressive and multifaceted research and program initiatives while strengthening its partnerships with the Canadian and international human rights community. Within the university, we have emerged as a distinct meeting point and hub for dialogue and debates on cutting edge human rights issues. Students and colleagues increasingly turn to the Centre to provide a platform for their human rights-related initiatives. The Centre has been particularly successful in creating strong connections with the community and civil society through its public initiatives. Our seminar series on disability rights is a good example of bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders together under the auspices of the Centre.

Innovation in teaching and research is another hallmark of the Centre. The International Human Rights Program is an excellent model of integration of experiential learning into classroom and research. O’Brien Visiting Scholars have helped to bring diverse perspectives as guest speakers and in seminar teaching. Charles Ngwena shared his insights on transformative constitutionalism and South Africa in the first year constitutional course. Our first scholar from the Scholar at Risk Network taught a course on African Governance and Institutions at the Faculty of Law. We have also continued to deepen our commitments to interdisciplinary and engaged research into the complexities of human rights in diverse legal contexts and institutions. Our project on Mental Health Information Privacy and Equality draws on expertise in law, medicine, psychology, occupational health and human resources. Our Interdisciplinary Network on Discrimination and Inclusion continues to grow with scholars from a range of disciplines including law, political science, business, economics and industrial relations. And of course, individual Centre members continue to contribute in diverse and multiple ways participating in global conferences, seminars and continuing education initiatives and sharing their insights in an impressive array of published scholarship.

The Centre is deeply indebted to the individuals and institutions that have made a tremendous contribution to our rich, evolving and vibrant life over the past decade.
McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism

Centre sur les droits de la personne et le pluralisme juridique de McGill

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