HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





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ADVANCE

HUMAN RIGHTS



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FROM THE DIRECTORS...



DAVID CINGRANELLI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE OFFICES AA 348 AND LNG 56 DAVIDC@BINGHAMTON.EDU

For the Human Rights Institute, 2024 was a year for collaboration on topics ranging from cultural exchange to environmental justice to modern slavery. We focused our efforts in our areas of strength: research and experiential learning. We fostered transdisciplinary academic research in human rights with partners both on and off campus that resulted in peer-reviewed publications and grant applications. And we worked with undergraduate and graduate students on projects that involved experiential learning and public facing human rights research. In addition, we sponsored and co-sponsored events, talks, writing workshops, films, and conversations about a wide range of human rights topics, and were especially pleased to host two distinguished members of our external advisory board for multi-day visits around their respective expertise in modern slavery and environmental justice.



PROFESSOR AND CHAIR,
ENGLISH,
GENERAL LITERATURE AND
RHETORIC
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We began the year with a book launch event for a collection co-edited by Alexandra Moore and Elizabeth Swanson on The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi: Deaf Walls Speak. The book features contributions by Joshua Reno, Professor of Anthropology, and Olivia Vinson and Maya Gamer, both of whom began work on the project as Binghamton University undergraduates, in addition to external scholars and practitioners with expertise in art and art history, rhetorics of social justice, and law and culture. The book also features two essays by former detainees, include Moath al-Alwi, whose testimony is remarkable both for his reflections on his artistic practice and the publication of his work while he was still detained (he has since been transferred to Oman).

FROM THE DIRECTORS...

Spring semester also marked the launch of our Women Peacebuilders in Exile project, coled by Moore and Suzy Lee, Assistant Professor of Human Development, Director of the Master's of Science in Human Rights program, and HRI advisory board member, and generously funded with a 2024-25 Provost's Award for Research Grants in Justice, Human Rights, and Equity. From the scholarly literature review to training in interview research methods to our final workshop with many of the women peacebuilders we interviewed, undergraduate and graduate students gained firsthand experience in a wide range of research methodologies and worked directly with human rights defenders. Together we deepened our understanding of the laws and practices that limit women's political agency especially once they have been forced into exile. We first examined the legal gaps between the UN's Women, Peace, and Security agenda and international protections for refugees, and then reviewed over one hundred scholarly articles about topics at the intersection of gender, exile, and peacebuilding.

The Women Peacebuilders in Exile project also brought together students in the capstone course for the human rights minor with advanced students in rhetorics of social justice from Appalachian State University. Together they compiled and published an extensive report based on the scholarly literature review. In the fall, another Binghamton class, this one in peacebuilding, under the direction of Dr. Christopher Davey, along with a number of independent student researchers, completed IRB training and conducted detailed interviews with fourteen women peacebuilders from different parts of the world who now live in exile. The interviews helped us to learn more about the challenges to peacebuilding that force women into exile as well as those challenges to both day to day life and political agency women face in their new environments. A detailed independent research project undertaken by BU undergraduate Abigail Connors on social activism and digital violence added another layer of analysis to our growing understanding. This project continues in 2025-2026.

During the fall semester, we hosted BU alumnus and former Sierra Club President Dr. Aaron Mair for a visit focused on environmental justice and workforce development. During Dr. Mair's four-day visit to Binghamton, he delivered a series of keynotes and talks, including presentations on the global UN Council of Parties (COP) climate challenges in Dr. Divya Gupta's International Policy class and participation in the New Energy New York (NENY) Battery Week on advancing clean energy solutions. Dr. Mair drew on his extraordinary career and his own intellectual development to engage students, faculty, and community partners in the conceptual frameworks and policy apparatuses necessary to address the effects of environmental change (especially on vulnerable populations) and how to train students and ourselves to meet these challenges.

FROM THE DIRECTORS...

We were also delighted to welcome to campus Dr. Todd Landman, Research Director of the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham and now a member of our external advisory board. Dr. Landman led a day-long workshop with David Cingranelli on Human Rights and Data Analytics. This interdisciplinary workshop—bridging political science, sociology, economics, and data science—aimed to assess and distinguish human rights practices, visualize global networks, and apply advanced analytical techniques to model their crossnational and temporal variations. By systematically examining global patterns and drivers, the workshop sought to advance scientific understanding and contribute to the development of new human rights measures, global datasets, and network analyses—all of which are being made publicly available. The workshop was open to the entire Binghamton University community, and about 40 BU faculty, staff, and graduate students participated. Although the grant landscape remains uncertain, the visit allowed the working group to prepare multiple applications and brainstorm about future directions.

With a Community Practice Grant, the Human Rights Institute also initiated a partnership with the Ghana Think Tank, a collective that flips traditional relationships in human rights consulting by sending problems identified in the Global North to "think tanks" of intellectuals and activists in the Global South for solutions. Human rights students in the undergraduate Source Project worked throughout this academic year with a think tank in Indonesia and a collective of former Guantánamo detainees on the problem of welcoming newcomers, including migrants and refugees, into US communities facing their own socioeconomic challenges. The project launched in fall 2025 with students fanning out through the campus, Binghamton, and Vestal to survey people about their greatest local human rights concerns. Responses ranged from hunger, housing, and transportation to threats of sexual violence to relationships between established local communities and newcomers (whether students or otherwise). From there, we entered into conversation with our think tanks about creative and meaningful ways to address harms. As might be expected, the process itself (which culminated in spring 2025) was as meaningful as the proposed solutions as students learned to see their own spaces through others' perspective and to understand how a human rights framework might apply on the local level and in daily life.

We are pleased to welcome two new internal advisory board members, Diren Valayden (Human Development) and Divya Gupta (Environmental Studies), and look forward to drawing on their expertise in the years to come.

In 2025, we continued to be challenged by staffing changes and uncertainties. We are grateful for the crucial support from Amy Keough and Lindsay Buchta during that period, and we wish them well in their new roles (and are glad they aren't too far away).

PEOPLE

DVISOR

Elisa Camiscioli

Associate Professor of History: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

John Cheng

Associate Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies

Divya Gupta

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

Suzy Lee

Assistant Professor of Human Development

Diren Valayden

Assistant Professor of Human Development

<u>STAFF</u>

Amy Keough

Assistant Director for Operations

Amanda Ward

Assistant Director for Research and Teaching

Lindsay Buchta

Assistant to the Directors

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

Amy Hyatt ('78)

Ambassador to Palau 2015-2020. U.S. Department of State

Todd Landman

Research Director and Professor of Political Science, the Rights Lab, University of Nottingham

Aaron Mair ('84, Honorary Doctorate '18)

Director of "Forever Adirondacks" campaign, Adirondack Council, former president of the Sierra Club

Eric Schwartz ('79)

Former president of Refugees International, former Assistant Sec of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration

Joseph R. Slaughter

Executive Director, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University

Sunita Toor

Professor and Head of Human Rights. Division of Law and Criminology and the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, Sheffield Hallam University

STUDENT SSISTANTS

Liyang Dong, Graduate Assistant

Caryn Gagnon, Undergraduate Research Assistant Research Assistant

Ryan Stears, Graduate Assistant

Katie Bae, Undergraduate Research Assistant

Shahdukht Tapesh, Graduate Research Assistant

Amaris Carrillo, Undergraduate Research

Johanna Seppala, Undergraduate

Alexandra Chigrinuk, Undergraduate

Research Assistant

Say Lay Paw, Undergraduate Assistant

8 **Assistant**

PEOPLE

FACULTY AFFILIATES

Marta Agüero Guerra, Romance Languages and Literatures

Amir Ahmadi Arian, English

Anne Bailey, History

Barrett Brenton, Center for Civic

Engagement

Kanisha Bond, Political Science

Gabriela Buitrón Vera, Romance Languages

and Literatures

Tina Chang, English, General Literature and

Rhetoric

Rosemary Collier, Nursing

Sidney Dement, German and Russian Studies

Shahab Derhami, School of Management

Elizabeth DiGangi, Anthropology

Deborah Elliston, Anthropology

Zeynep Ertem, Systems Science and

Industrial Engineering

Jakob Feinig, Human Development

Mikhail Filippov, Political Science

Nicole Hassoun, Philosophy

Laura Hill, Human Development

Douglas Holmes, Anthropology

Michael Jacobson, Office of Strategic

Research Initiatives

Vanessa Cañete Jurado, Romance

Languages and Literatures

Kristina Marty, Public Administration

Miesha Marzell, Social Work

Loretta Mason-Williams, Teaching, Learning and Educational Leadership

Saeideh Mirghorbani, School of

Management

Sarah Nance, Art and Design

Lubna Omar, Anthropology

Sabina Perrino, Anthropology and

Linguistics

Kathleen Provinzano, Social Work and

Teaching, Learning, and Educational

Leadership

Belinda Ramirez, Sociology and

Global Public Health

Birgit Brander Rasmussen, English

Anthony Reeves, Philosophy

J. David Schaffer, Center for Community

Schools

Kent Schull, History

Stacey Shipe, Social Work

Olga Shvetsova, Political Science

Anne-Caroline Sieffert, Romance

Languages and Literatures

Kaitlyn Sorenson, Comparative Literature

Marguerite Wilson, Human Development

Leo Wilton, Human Development

Susan Wolcott Hanes, Economics

Wan Yu, Geography

Denise Yull, Human Development

Lisa Yun, English

PEOPLE

EXTERNAL AFFILIATES

Stephanie Athey, Cultural Studies, Lasalle University

Vanessa Farr, Law and Criminology, Sheffield Hallam University

Hanna Musiol, Modern and Contemporary Literature, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Belinda Walzer, English and Rhetoric, Appalachian State University



Advanced Data Analytics and Global Patterns in Human Rights

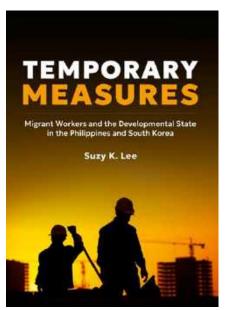
David Cingranelli

The CIRIGHTS Dataset, the largest and most widely used human rights dataset in the world, contains annual scores measuring the human rights practices of all nations over more than forty years. In 2022, David Schaffer of the Computer Science Department of the School of Engineering and the three political scientists who direct the CIRIGHTS Data Project (David Cingranelli, Mikhail Filippov, and Skip Mark) began exploring possibilities for using advanced computer science techniques to explore this dataset. In the spring of 2023, several other faculty, mostly from the BU Computer Science Department, joined us. During the summer of 2023, that larger working group met several times to assemble a data set combining CIRIGHTS data with indicators of drivers of government respect for human rights. During the fall of 2023, our group met frequently to assemble a data set and begin data analysis. In October 2024, we invited Professor Todd Landman, Director of the Human Rights Lab at Nottingham University to participate in a day-long workshop on Data Analytics and Human Rights. The workshop, held at the BU Human Rights Institute, was well attended. In 2024, we published our first journal article titled "Multivariate Analysis of the Temporal and Spatial Correlations of the Global Human Rights Dataset" showcasing the value of our approach. In August 2024, we submitted our first research proposal to the National Science Foundation. It was turned down, but we plan to revise and resubmit in 2025. We also applied for a networking grant that will allow doctoral students and junior faculty at Binghamton and Nottingham Universities to travel to workshops on human trafficking to be organized at each campus during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Capitalism and Human Rights

Suzy Lee and Jakob Feinig

This working group analyzes and contributes to the debate over capitalism's relationship to human rights: Does capitalism foster the best conditions for freedom to flourish? Are normative human rights limited by their conceptual, structural and historical ties to private ownership? The group shares research and core readings, with an eye toward future collaborative research projects. This year, co-facilitator Suzy K. Lee's book, *Temporary Measures: Migrant Workers and the Developmental State in the Philippines and South Korea*, was released as an e-book from Oxford University Press. Print copies will be available in February 2025.



Carceral States

Joshua Price (Toronto Metropolitan University) and Alexandra Moore

This group currently has two initiatives. Price and Moore are editing The Handbook of Structural Violence (under contract with DeGruyter). The volume devotes significant attention to various forms of carcerality and their effects around the world. Contributors include BU, national, and international scholars.

The group also continues to support BU students' partnership with Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST), especially through its initiative in the Broome County Jail. The student group meets weekly, typically followed by jail visits to incarcerated individuals who have requested them. Students visit as human rights observers and as interlocutors.

This year, BU and Toronto Metropolitan University also finalized their MOU for future collaborations.

CIRIGHTS and Measuring Human Rights Data Project

David Cingranelli and Mikhail Filippov

The CIRIGHTS Data Project (2013-present) is co-directed by Skip Mark (University of Rhode Island), David Cingranelli and Mikhail Filippov (Binghamton University), and David Richards (University of Connecticut). The goal of the CIRIGHTS project is to use the predecessor CIRI Data Project methodology to annually update the CIRI human rights scores, to expand upon the original list of rights scored so that it is more representative of the full set of rights in the International Bill of Human Rights, and to supplement human coding with machine coding to produce more scores in a shorter period. The CIRIGHTS project released its latest scores and released its 2024 Global Rights Project (GRIP) Report in December 2024.

The project directors worked with students at their respective institutions to update human rights scores for 2023 based on human rights reports issued in 2024. Both Cingranelli and Filippov teach seminars at Binghamton University where undergraduate and graduate students contribute to the project's development. Skip Mark, Cingranelli and Filippov wrote an article for *Human Rights Quarterly* that was published in Spring 2024 describing some of the insights gleaned from analysis of the most recent data. They also have a contract for a book with the working title, *Who Has the Best Human Rights?* with SUNY Press. They also have several articles in progress providing comparative, crossnational analyses of human trafficking, indigenous rights, prisoners' rights, and groupbased discrimination. In December 2024, Mark and Cingranelli were invited to present the CIRIGHTS data at a UN-sponsored roundtable on preventing mass human rights violations, held at NYU Law School.

Food Justice Working Group (FJWG)

Co-Facilitators: Barrett Brenton and Valerie Imbruce

This transdisciplinary working group was first established and convened in the summer of 2020. Originally focused on the impact of COVID-19 on food justice, the group has continued with a wider scope of issues related to the Right to Food. It assembles faculty, students, staff, and community partners in order to create active dialogue, organize research, and advocate for rights-based socially just food policies. The working group is founded on actions that are participatory, collaborative, and inclusive of all voices.

2024-related activities for members of the group have included biweekly meetings; public presentations; grant writing; participation on local and regional food policy coalitions; public outreach activities; academic scholarship; and course-based community-engaged learning and research experiences.

Members include Barrett Brenton, PhD (Center for Civic Engagement), Valerie Imbruce, PhD (Lammot du Pont Copeland Director, Center for Environment and Society, Washington College, Chestertown, MD), Monica Adams, PhD (Social Work), and Aidan Gajewski (Environmental Studies and Economics/MBA – 4+1).

2024 Grant Writing and Funding Activities

Grants were applied for and received involving the FJWG from the following sources:

- USDA-NIFA Food and Ag Service-Learning Program Farm to School grant awarded to a
 collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension, Broome-Tioga BOCES School
 Nutrition Services and the Rural Health Network (2024-2025). This USDA grant will
 support the Growing Towers School-Based Food and Nutrition Education Program. The
 FJWG group provided consultations and program assessments for supporting this
 initiative.
- Ross Grant awarded to CHOW and the FJWG/CCE to support the Greater Good Mobile
 Market bus to travel to locations throughout Broome County (2023-2024). The Greater
 Good Grocery was originally founded as a community effort to provide access to
 affordable fresh and healthy food on the Northside of Binghamton, NY. Adams and
 students conducted research while traveling on the bus throughout 2024.
- Co-Investigators, FEMA (U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency) Higher Education Research Funding. Binghamton Two Degrees Climate Change Project (2023-2024). Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY (Adams, Brenton).
- Funding from the Human Rights Institute for undergraduate/graduate research assistant Aidan Gajewski to work on a comparison of county-level food action plans (Spring 2024/Fall 2024).
- Funding from the Sustainable Communities TAE funding for graduate research assistant
 Aidan Gajewski to work on a comparison of county-level food action plans (Summer
 2024).

Scholarship by FJWG Members

- Adams, Monica, & Anderson, Georgia (2024). How children influence weight-related behaviors of women with low incomes: A Qualitative study. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Social Services*. 1–19.
- Preety Gadhoke, Barrett P. Brenton, et al. (2024) The Intersectionality of Food Insecurity, Job Insecurity, Healthcare Insecurity, and Mental Health Challenges in NYC Households During COVID-19. Ecology of Food and Nutrition 63(2): 112-134.
- Preety Gadhoke, Barrett P. Brenton and Solomon H. Katz (Editors) (2024).
 Transformations of Global Food Systems for Climate Change Resilience: Addressing Food Security, Nutrition, and Health. Routledge/CRC Press: New York.
- Brenton, Barrett P. and Preety Gadhoke (2024). Addressing Food Security, Nutrition, and Health of Local Communities for Climate Change Resilience. In *Transformations of Global Food Systems for Climate Change Resilience: Addressing Food Security, Nutrition, and Health,* pp. 1-5, edited by Preety Gadhoke, Barrett P. Brenton and Solomon H. Katz. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

External Collaborative Partners

- Broome County Food Council
- Binghamton Food Pantry
- SUNY Food Pantry Network
- Food Bank of the Southern Tier Board
- · Kent County, MD Food Council

In addition to fostering research, working group facilitator Dr. Barry Brenton taught two community-engaged courses:

- Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health (ANTH572C/ANTH480R/GMAP483H/GMAP538H) (Brenton) (Fall 2024)
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the Environment (ENVI470/SUST570/ANTH482J/GMAP483C0 (Brenton) (Spring 2024)

Presentations and Activities by FJWG Members

- Food Insecurity, Policy and Advocacy. Presentations to the Binghamton University Food Pantry Career Development Centralized Internship Program (CDCI). Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY. Spring, Fall 2024. (Brenton)
- Examining Food Insecurity Among LGBTQ+. Poster presented at the 28th Annual Society for Social Work and Research Conference, Washington, D.C. January 2024 (Adams et al.)
- The Vital Role of Food Councils in Addressing Food Security for Rust Belt Communities.
 Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Santa Fe,
 NM. March 2024 (Gajewski, Imbruce, Brenton, Adams).
- Planting a Living Treaty with Indigenous Communities: Establishing a University-Placed Three Sisters Garden. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Santa Fe, NM. March 2024 (Brenton et al.).
- Transformations of Global Food Systems for Climate Change Resilience. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Santa Fe, NM. March (Brenton).
- Examining Food Insecurity in the Context of Intersecting Marginalized Social Identities: Race and Sexual/Gender Minority Identities. Presented at the 48th Annual National Council for Black Studies Conference, Santa Fe, CA. March 2024 (Adams et al.).
- Food Security and Agriculture. Working session convened at the Binghamton Climate Change Summit. April 2024. (Brenton).
- Produce Prescription Programs: A Right to Food Based Approach for Supporting Food Insecure Individuals Managing Chronic Disease within Regional Food Systems.
 Presented at the Joint Annual Conference of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS). Syracuse, NY. June (Brenton et al.)
- Developing a County-Wide Food Plan to Address Food Security in the Southern Tier of New York. Presented at the Joint Annual Conference of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS). Syracuse, NY. June (Gajewski, Imbruce, Brenton, Adams).
- Establishing a University-Placed Three Sisters Garden: Planting a Living Treaty with Indigenous Communities to Honor and Respect the Land upon which We Reside.
 Presented at the Joint Annual Conference of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS). Syracuse, NY. June (Brenton et al.)
- Promoting Food Justice: The Nexus of Food Security, Food Waste and Climate Change. Binghamton 2 Degrees: Live at Confluence Park. Binghamton, NY. August 2024 (Adams, Gajewski).

Cultural Representations of Human Rights

Alexandra Moore

This group's main activities in 2024 included a wide ranging publicity campaign and set of events around the publication of *The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi* (edited by Moore and Elizabeth Swanson and featuring contributions from HRI affiliates). It also fostered conversations about new directions in human rights and literary and cultural production. The conversation continued with an on-campus workshop in Spring 2025.

Human Trafficking Data Project

Suzy Lee

The HTDP brings together a coalition of researchers, trafficked persons, students, service providers, advocates and government representatives to understand the conditions that contribute to human trafficking and to address existing gaps in anti-trafficking policy. A primary focus of the group is on sex trafficking from a human rights-centered perspective and in relation to other forms of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Data Project is still waiting for the T-visa data from USCIS.



Landscapes of Injustice, Landscapes of Repair

This working group collaborated with the NORS-EH School in Environmental Storytelling across Media in Norway to co-sponsor a summer institute attended by several BU graduate students and a keynote address by Schuyler Esprit, "Reimagining the Heartland: Rhizomatic Engagements with Home, Futures and Decoloniality."

Schuyler Esprit is based at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. She is Founder and Director of Create Caribbean Research Institute, the first digital humanities center in the Caribbean. Dr. Esprit's research areas of interest include Caribbean literary and cultural studies, environmental and ecological humanities, and digital humanities. In addition to her writing for several magazines, journals and newspapers on topics related to Caribbean studies, Dr. Esprit writes and publishes on Caribbean literature, including on the impact of reading in communities in real and virtual spaces. Dr. Esprit is also a Lecturer of Literatures in English. Her book Imprinted: The Social History of Caribbean Reading is forthcoming with Papillote Press.



Upstate New York Policing Research Consortium (UNY-PRC)

Laura Warren Hill

In 2024, the Upstate New York Policing Research Consortium (UNY-PRC) welcomed its first interns. In the spring semester, we had one research intern through the Binghamton University Projects for New Undergraduate Researchers (BUPNUR) program at SUNY Binghamton. During the summer, we hosted 2 additional international interns from Sheffield Hallam University. By the conclusion of the summer, we had invited three additional SUNY Binghamton interns into UNY-PRC. We began the fall semester in receipt of an \$11,000 Seed Grant from the Digital and Data Studies program at Binghamton. The team, which consists of Laura Warren Hill and Andy Pragacz, includes 2 undergraduate students (Carissa Bayack and Delaney Painter), Jacopo Mazzoni, a digital studies professor, and Sasha Frizzel, a metadata librarian, has begun to build a digital archive that will house our research documents as well as records from community organizations. UNY-PRC is building a digital collection of documents that complement and sometimes challenge state narratives of policing to create a restorative justice archive.

In September, members of UNY-PRC, including Laura Warren Hill and Binghamton student Josh Fishkin traveled to Rochester, NY to meet with the Attorney General's office to share our research on Citizen Review Boards. A productive and ongoing relationship was established with them at that time. UNY-PRC members continue to meet with them monthly.

In October, we held our first annual retreat, where five faculty and five student interns from Alfred University, Syracuse University, Binghamton University, and St. John Fisher came together to craft our mission statement and outline our goals and projects for the next academic year. Following the retreat, we organized a 6-part training series for our new group of interns who are beginning to work with UNY-PRC in 2025. In addition to the previous institutions, we have added additional interns from SUNY Empire as well. We now have 6 senior interns and 13 interns working on UNY-PRC projects and gaining valuable research experience.

In addition, members of UNY-PRC (faculty and student interns) presented our research at two conferences - the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (RIAS) conference in the Netherlands in December and at the American Historical Association Conference in NYC in January. We are busy preparing conference proposals for the upcoming year and have a robust research agenda and community partnership calendar scheduled.

LAB PROJECTS

Lab Projects

The HRI's more public-facing and hybrid, academic and public-facing work, is organized as a Lab Projects.

Far Right Composite Project

Diren Valayden

This project, underwritten by a seed grant from the Citizenship, Rights, and Cultural Belonging Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence with co-sponsorship from the HRI, continued its work with its lecture in the Futures of Democracy series and a research project on the frameworks used to understand the January 6th, 2021 Capitol riots. Working with two graduate and four undergraduate research assistants, project participants coded the criminal complaints against the 7% of the rioters with connections to New York State for the ways in which their interviews, commentaries, and social media posts reveal certain rhetorical frameworks and common understandings of their social positionality. With Belinda Walzer, a scholar of social justice rhetorics at Appalachian State University, Binghamton professors Valayden and Moore submitted an essay on the project analysis to the *Journal of Right Wing Studies* (forthcoming). Valayden and Moore are currently at work on a public-facing report on how far right and extremist monitoring organizations define their tasks and the rhetorical frameworks in which they codify their key terms.



November 18
Book Talk
Brianna Nofil, *The Migrant's Jail:*An American History of Mass
Incarceration (PUP, 2024)

(Co-sponsored by the Department of History, Sociology, LACAS, and the HRI)

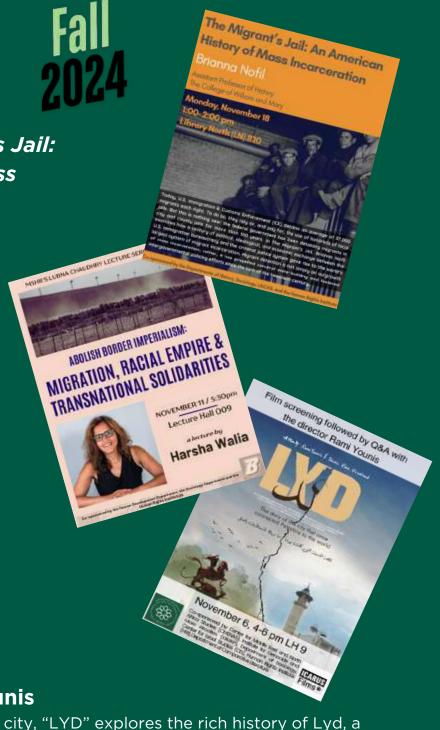
November 11
Harsha Walia, "Abolish
Border Imperialism:
Migration, Racial Empires,
and Transnational
Solidarities"

MSHR Lubna Chaudhry lecture series (Co-sponsored by Human Development, the HRI, and the Sociology Department)

November 6 Film screening of "LYD" followed by a Q&A session with the director, Rami Younis

Narrated from the perspective of the city, "LYD" explores the rich history of Lyd, a Palestinian city with roots dating back 5,000 years. The film examines Lyd's past as a vibrant Palestinian capital, the trauma of the 1948 occupation, and envisions alternative futures. Through archival footage and speculative animation, "LYD" challenges us to imagine a reality where the city and its people can live free from cycles of violence and division.

(Organized by CMENAS, co-sponsored by Center for Israel Studies, IGMAP, the HRI, Department of Sociology, and Comparative Literature)



October 22-25 Dr. Aaron Mair ('84, Honorary Doctorate '18), BU Visit

"Intersectionality and the Climate Crisis: A Post COP 28 Call to Action"

Dr. Aaron Mair joined us on campus to give an inspiring talk on "Intersectionality and the Climate Crisis: A Post COP 28 Call to Action." Aaron Mair, a distinguished environmentalist and activist, served as the 57th national president of the Sierra Club, making history as the organization's first African-American president. A graduate of Binghamton University, Aaron has been a leader in the environmental justice movement, founding the Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation and the W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center in Albany.

At the time, he served as the Adirondack Wilderness Campaign Director, focusing on connecting all New Yorkers to the nation's largest environmental treasures. His extensive career includes international climate work and advocacy for marginalized communities.



Dr. Aaron Mair, Dr. Ali Moore, and Dr. Anne Bailey standing outside the Stepen Hand Abolitionist historical marker



Dr. Aaron Mair presenting on "Intersectionality and the Climate Crisis" during his visit to Binghamton University

October 14-17 BU's 3rd International LOCO Festival

Binghamton University hosted the third LOCO festival as a way to celebrate our multiculturality, multiethnicity, and diverse thinking. As events in the world continued to infringe upon human rights, this event aimed to increase cultural competence as a way to promote solidarity and cooperation.

This year's goals were: to awaken awareness of local and global issues related to immigration and human rights; to inspire the community to actively participate in discussing and implementing advocacy solutions for vulnerable populations; and to develop a deeper understanding of conflicts and human rights in the MENA region.

(Organized by CMENAS, co-sponsored by LACAS, Department of Romance Languages, College-in-the-Woods, the HRI, IGMAP)



October 15

Todd Landman, "Ending Modern Slavery"

Landman discussed key discoveries in estimating slavery's prevalence, mapping its geographies, and examining the role of businesses in addressing slavery in supply chains. He specialized in the comparative analysis of development, democracy, and human rights. His research focuses on modern slavery, prevalence estimation, and impact assessment of anti-slavery advocacy. He has authored several influential books and articles on human rights and served in leadership roles within the UK Economic and Social Research Council and the American Political Science Association.

Human Rights and Data Analytics Workshop

This workshop, situated at the intersection of political science, sociology, economics, and data science, sought to distinguish and assess human rights practices, visualize networks, and apply advanced methodologies to model their cross-national and temporal variations. By systematically analyzing global patterns and drivers, we aimed to enhance scientific knowledge and release new human rights measures, global datasets, and network analyses to the public.



Members of campus participating in the Human Rights and Data Analytics workshop led by Todd Landman on October 15, 2024.



Landman presenting during the Human Rights and Data Analytics Workshop

September 10

Panel discussion on Christian Nationalism in the

United States

Speakers included Political Science professor and human rights scholar David Cingranelli; American historian Wendy Wall; and the Rev. Kimberly Chastain, a founding member of the BU Interfaith Council (BUIC) and senior minister at the United Presbyterian Church in downtown Binghamton.

(Co-sponsored by the BUIC, Religious Studies, the HRI, and IASH)

May 30 - June 2

"Camps, Carceral Imaginaries, and Critical Interventions"

The 2nd Graz/Puerto Rico International Conference on Human Rights from an Inter-American Perspective, University of Graz, Austria

- Alexandra S. Moore, keynote speaker, "Witnessing Public Secrets: Guantánamo in the Global War on Terror"
- Alexandra S. Moore and Don E. Walicek, moderators, "Writers in Dialogue" with Behrouz Boochani (Author of No Friend but the Mountains, 2019; Freedom, Only Freedom, 2023) and Mohamedou Ould Slahi-Houbeini (Author of Guantánamo Diary, 2015, 2017; The Actual True Story of Ahmed & Zarga, 2021)

(Organized by the University of Graz and the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus; co-sponsored by the HRI)



Professor Alexandra S. Moore presenting during conference, "Camps, Carceral Imaginaries and Critical Interventions"

April 19

"Racialized Policing: New Paradigms, Alternative Futures" conference, Binghamton University Art Museum, BU

Keynote speaker: Christina Heatherton, Trinity College Notable panelists: Jill Lepore, "The Invention of the Police" (2020); Saidiya Hartman, "The Anarchy of Colored Girls Assembled in a Riotous Manner" (2018); John O. Havard, *Late* Romanticism and the End of Politics: Byron, Mary Shelley and the Last Men (2023)

Where did police forces as we know them come from? What does policing police in the first place? How might the bodies targeted by policing escape, or elude, its nebulous powers?

Can policing escape its oppressive pasts—and racialized origins? The answers to these questions all depend on when and where we are looking from. They depend on tangled histories, figures, images, and words. This one-day conference explored new paradigms for the study of racialized policing, how they are challenged, and possibilities to supersede them. The conference emphasized the importance of locating the history of policing within a global frame, moving away from the nation state to address the legacies of colonialism and empire and processes of dispossession and capital formation. (Supported by a seed grant from the BU TAE in Citizenship, Rights, and Cultural Belonging, and co-sponsored by the HRI) (Organized and moderated by John O. Havard, English Department)





April 18

Fabian Krautwald, Charles E. Scheidt
Postdoctoral Fellow, "Empire of Memory:
German Colonialism, Decolonization, and the
Nature of Sovereignty in Africa"

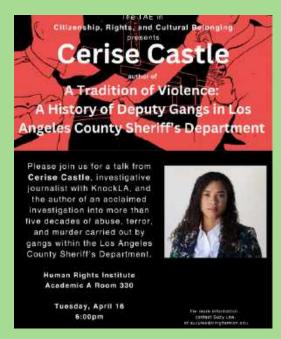
Co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging TAE, the HRI, and IGMAP

April 16

Cerise Castle, "A Tradition of Violence: A History of Deputy Gangs in Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department"

Castle is an investigative journalist with KnockLA, and the author of an acclaimed investigation into more than five decades of abuse, terror, and murder carried out by gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

(Co-sponsored by the Citizenship, Rights and Cultural Belonging TAE)



April 12

Opening Panel and Reception The Art of Guantánamo: "This Art Belongs to the Artists: Art as Human Rights Exhibit and Symposium"

Exhibition in Hanes Art Center Hallway Gallery, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (April 9-17, 2024)

(Co-sponsored by the HRI)

April 11

Farah Stockman, "The Politics of Social Justice and Solidarity amid Deindustrialization and Union Decline"



Farah Stockman is a member of the *New York Times* editorial board who covers politics, social movements and race. She previously spent sixteen years at the *Boston Globe*, where she served as an editorial board member and as the paper's foreign policy reporter in Washington. She has reported from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, South Sudan, Rwanda and Guantánamo Bay and won a Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2016. She is the author of *American Made: What Happens to People when Work Disappears* (2021). (Co-sponsored by the Sociology Department, the Human Rights Institute, United University Professions (Binghamton Chapter) and Human Development)

March 26
Gordie Felt, Families of Flight
93, Remembering and
Memorializing Those Lost on
9/11

March 22 Book Talk - Michael Zweig, Class, Race, and Gender: Challenging the Injuries and Divisions of Capitalism.



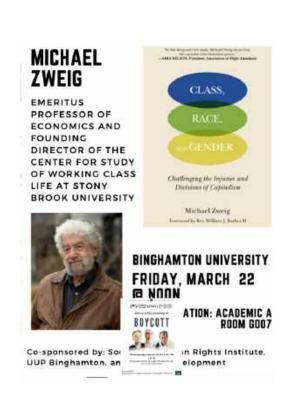
Gordie Felt speaking about United flight 93, that was hijacked on 9/11 and crashed in Pennsylvania. Mr. Felt helped organize the memorial to the victims.

The book, with a foreword by Rev. William Barber, cochair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, is a resource for activists and others interested in what is driving the many social justice movements bubbling up in the U.S. today, and how the operations of capitalism are at their root. Zweig is an emeritus professor of economics and founding director of the Center for Study of Working Class Life at Stony Brook University

(Co-sponsored by Sociology, the HRI, UUP Binghamton, and Human Development)

March 20 Film screening, Boycott (2022), followed by a Q & A with Bahia Amawi and Jordana Rubenstein

(Sponsored by Department of English, Sociology, Comparative Literature, CMENAS, the HRI, and LACAS)



March 3 Radical Books Collective book launch - The Guantánamo Artwork and Testimony of Moath al-Alwi

Featuring Alexandra S. Moore, Elizabeth Swanson, Mansoor Adayfi, and Safiyah Rochelle

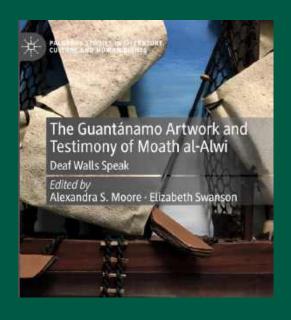


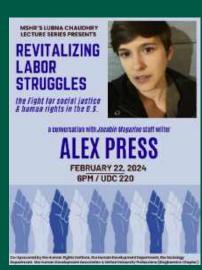
Alexandra S. Moore (Sponsored by the Graduate English Organization)

February 22 Revitalizing Labor Struggles: The Fights for Social Justice and Human Rights in the U.S. A Conversation with Alex Press, *Jacobin Magazine*

MSHR Lubna Chaudhry Lecture Series

Alex Press is a staff writer at *Jacobin Magazine* who covers labor organizing. Her talk addresses the strategic considerations, organizing methods, and diverse challenges involved in recent rank-and-file union certification and contract campaigns. After years as a political organizer and a PhD student, Press has established herself among the sharpest and most tireless journalists reporting on and analyzing contemporary workers' campaigns to rebuild and mobilize insurgent labor institutions and capacity. Most recently, her writing has offered penetrating insights on unprecedented efforts to organize Amazon workers and the historic 2023 UPS contract negotiations and UAW strike. Her work has also appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Nation* and *Bookforum* among other outlets. (Co-sponsored by the Sociology Department, the Human Rights Institute, United University Professions (Binghamton Chapter) and the Human Development Department)

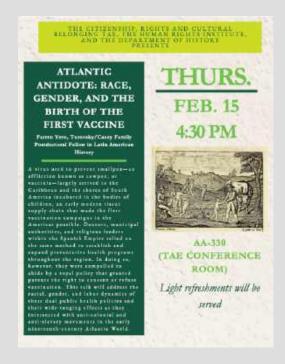




February 15 Farren Yero, "Atlantic Antidote: Race, Gender, and the Birth of the First Vaccine"

A virus used to prevent smallpox—an affliction known as cowpox, or vaccinia—largely arrived to the Caribbean and the shores of South America incubated in the bodies of children, an early modern tissue supply chain that made the first vaccination campaigns in the Americas possible. Doctors, municipal authorities, and religious leaders within the Spanish Empire relied on the same method to establish and expand preventative health programs throughout the region. In doing so, however, they were compelled to abide by a royal policy that granted parents the right to consent or refuse vaccination. This talk addressed the racial. gender, and labor dynamics of these dual public health policies and their wide-ranging effects as they intersected with anti-colonial and anti-slavery movements in the early nineteenth-century Atlantic World.

(Co-sponsored by the Department of History and the HRI)



January 25 Art as Survival and Resistance: Guantánamo and the Global War on Terror

Moderator: Kent Schull

Speakers: Alexandra Moore, Elizabeth Swanson, Olivia Vinson, Joshua Reno (Co-sponsored by the HRI and CMENAS)

HRI IN THE NEWS

Professor Cingranelli's research on the <u>lack of</u> <u>protection for worker rights</u> worldwide featured on Earth.com

New findings reveal that worker rights, such as the ability to form trade unions and to bargain collectively, are among the least protected <u>human rights</u> globally.

David Cingranelli, a distinguished professor at <u>Binghamton University</u>, <u>State University of New York</u>, who co-leads the project, emphasizes the significance of these findings.

According to Cingranelli, foundational labor rights - which include the right to unionize, bargain collectively, and strike - are essential for the protection of other worker rights. However, these "gateway rights" are seeing a global decline.

Cingranelli's research points out a direct correlation between the protection of labor rights and the overall socio-economic fabric of a country.

Coverage of our book launch: <u>Art as Survival and</u> <u>Resistance: Guantánamo in the Global War on Terror</u>

The Human Rights Institute (HRI) and the Center for Middle East and North African Studies (CMENAS) at Binghamton University hosted a Guantánamo Bay panel Thursday, highlighting artistic expression as a form of protest inside the notorious prison.

Entitled "Art as Survival and Resistance: Guantánamo in the Global War on Terror," the event was both a book launch and informational seminar, where speakers discussed the connections between art and power for detained prisoners at the Guantánamo Bay detention camp. The discussion focused on the experience of Moath al-Alwi, a detainee in the facility who uses art as a means of expression.



Jacob Gressin/Assistant Photo Editor. The panel was held in part to promote a book coedited by Alexandra Moore, the director of Binghamton University's Human Rights Institute and a professor of English, that detailed the experiences of Moath al-Alwi, a Guantánamo Bay detainee.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Professor David Cingranelli was promoted to Distinguished Professor in April 2024. This is the highest rank that the State University of New York awards

Cingranelli is a leading figure in the scientific study of human rights. He led the effort to create one of the first data sets on human rights: the CIRIGHTS Data Project, which changed the study of human rights in the social sciences.

Faculty and students at five universities in the U.S. and U.K. now help the project score human rights. Quantitative studies, rare before Cingranelli's efforts, now account for more than half of human rights studies published in the social sciences.



"We measure what we treasure. Our scoring project helps people learn about their rights and the obligations of national governments to respect them. Citizens are better able to hold their governments accountable for poor performance."

Distinguished Professor of Political Science, David Cingranelli

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Human Rights Institute continues to develop partnerships at all levels.

We signed a new memorandum of understanding with Toronto Metropolitan University to conduct joint research on structural violence and human rights violations in the areas of carceralization and migration and refugee studies.

We are also partnering with the Ghana Think Tank through the current academic year, 2024-2025, to address human rights problems on our campus and in the local community and recognize the expertise of thinkers from the Global South.



WPE Grant

Women Peacebuilders in Exile

This project, directed by HRI internal board member Dr. Suzy Lee and co-director Moore, addresses a gap in current literature and policymaking around the applicability of the UN's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda to the needs and expertise of women in exile (forced migrants, asylees, or refugees). Given that the WPS agenda is structured through nation-states, what happens to that agenda when women peacebuilders are forced to flee their home countries? How can WPS serve the basic needs and political work of exiled and refugee women? And how can we advance the work and networks of women peacebuilders in exile? This project addresses all three questions with academic, applied, and pedagogical outputs. With generous support from the Office of the Provost, we worked throughout the year with teams of students on different phases of the project. In Spring 2024, both undergraduate and graduate assistants contributed to a wide ranging review of the scholarly and legal literature related to the topic and, in collaboration with a class at Appalachian State University, we compiled a detailed report and annotated bibliography of over 120 sources. In Fall 2024, we conducted phase two of the project: the team received IRB certification and training to conduct interviews with women peacebuilders in exile from different parts of the world. Teams of students working in the Source Project as well as under the direction of Dr. Chris Davey conducted 14 interviews and then cleaned the transcriptions. The project continues in 2025 with careful coding of the interviews followed by an onsite workshop with the interviewees to identify their most pressing needs for their ongoing advocacy efforts.



Women Peacebuilders in Exile team members collaboating during a meeting held in 2024

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

Refugee Rights Hub, Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, Sheffield Hallam University

The Human Rights Institute once again partnered with the Refugee Rights Hub at the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice, Sheffield Hallam University. The Hub provides legal services for refugee communities and specializes in family reunification cases and policy recommendations. HRI is grateful for the support of the Harpur Dean's Office which provided funding for the internships.

Four Binghamton students spent 6 weeks interning at the Refugee Rights Hub in Sheffield, England, where they worked directly with clients, prepared family reunification applications to British Home Office, observed legal proceedings, conducted policy research, and interacted with the local refugee community.

Students reflected weekly on their experience, and noted how it challenged them personally and professionally while also opening up new areas of interest and understanding.

"My internship at the Refugee Rights Hub left an indelible mark on me. It was more than just a steppingstone in my legal career – it was a transformative experience that redefined how I approach the law and deepened my commitment to using my skills for the greater good. Working with refugee families brought me face to face with the human side of the law in a way that textbooks never could. It challenged me, stretched me, and ultimately made me a better advocate and mentor."

"This has been such a great experience. I never imagined traveling to Europe so soon after

college, though it's always been a dream. Now, I can even see myself living here. After exploring

our research topic on habitual residence and its controversies, I realized there are many challenges refugees face that I would like to help tackle."

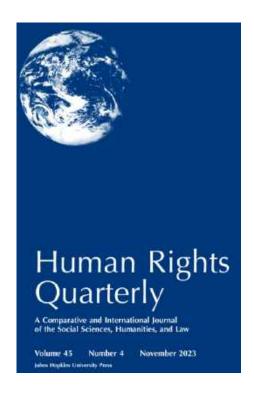
"[The internship] reinforced my belief that the law should be a tool...for helping those who need it most, and for making the world a little more just. And for that, I am deeply grateful."

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

"One of the most significant impacts of the internship was how it sharpened my adaptability. Refugee cases are complex and often unpredictable. The legal frameworks we worked within were constantly shifting, which forced me to think on my feet and find creative solutions to unexpected challenges...My experience at the Hub taught me to stay flexible and calm, no matter how daunting the circumstances."

"Cultural competence was a crucial skill I developed during my time at the Hub. The clients we worked with came from diverse backgrounds, each bringing unique perspectives, histories, and needs to the table. Navigating these cultural nuances required sensitivity and respect, as well as a willingness to listen deeply and without judgment. This experience has been invaluable in my current work, helping me to connect more meaningfully with clients from all walks of life, many of whom are also navigating difficult, sometimes traumatic situations."

Human Rights Quarterly



Over the summer, students gained editing experience at *Human Rights Quarterly*, the world's pre-eminent human rights journal.

In other internships throughout the year, students worked with local partners on issues ranging from criminal justice and indigent defense to immigration law and services to fair housing.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Abigail Connors

Abigail Connors is a junior majoring in Philosophy, Politics, and Law with a concentration in Public Policy, while also pursuing a minor in Human Rights. She is also 4+1 student in the Master's of Science in Human Rights program. Her journey into the field of human rights began in a first-year Source Project research program with Professor Moore. In the Source Project, she channeled her deep passion for advocating for women's bodily autonomy to research women's reproductive rights as human rights and was awarded the 2022-23 First Year Excellence Award for Research in Human Rights.

In 2024, Abigail joined the Women Peacebuilders in Exile Project (see page 33), completing research training, interviewing women peacebuilders in exile from different parts of the world, and completing an extensive research project on the various forms of digital sexual violence faced by women human rights defenders. Her research case studies highlighted instances of digital sexual violence faced by women peacebuilders in Yemen and Thailand, as well as other forms of violence occurring on social media platforms. These forms of abuse jeopardize their personal well-being as well as their professional work. In the Master's program and beyond, she intends to delve further into the challenges faced by women activists, the tactics used to silence them, and the protective measures that can be implemented to ensure their safety and enhance their sense of security in activism. Abigail's research project, "Waging War on Peacebuilders: Digital Sexual Violence as a Barrier to Peace," was recently published in the Binghamton University Undergraduate Research Journal.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

FamilySearch International Research & Database Development Grant (2024-25) - \$430,000

Kent Schull, Director of the Center of Middle East and North Africa Studies and Associate Professor of History

This grant enables the founding of the Ottoman Demographic, Social, and Family History Research Group in Binghamton University's Center for Middle East and North Africa Studies (CMENAS) and funds a postdoctoral research position and 8 graduate research assistantships. This is both a digital and public humanities project wherein this research group indexes, catalogues, and translates Ottoman census records into English in order to make them accessible to the general public through Familysearch.org. Thus, making inaccessible documents of family and social historical significance related to the Ottoman Empire and its successor states accessible to a broad audience. The research group is also working on handwritten text recognition (HTR) software for Ottoman Turkish.



Additionally, this partnership with FamilySearch International facilitates the advancement of research on the Ottoman Empire and its populations for demographic, social, and family history of a region of the world and in languages hitherto inaccessible to the general public. Roughly 600 million of today's global population can trace its ancestry back to the Ottoman Empire. This grant and partnership also facilitates the acquisition, preservation, and processing of Ottoman language documents held in the National Archives of former Ottoman territories across the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus, and Southeastern Europe, most of which are poorly preserved and inaccessible to academics and the general public. This grant is renewable annually.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

- American Civic Association
- Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI)
- Broome County Assigned Counsel Program
- Broome County Office of Aging
- Broome County Public Defender's Office
- Center for Civic Engagement, Binghamton University
- Center for Middle East and North Africa Studies, Binghamton University
- Fleishman Center for Career Services, Binghamton University
- The Ghana Think Tank
- Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice,
 Sheffield Hallam University
- Journey's End Refugee Services
- JUST
- Legal Services of Central New York
- LifePatch
- Smashing Dandelions Production Co.
- Sustainable Communities Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence, Binghamton University
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- Undergraduate Research Program, Binghamton University
- University of Brescia, Italy

