This past year was extraordinarily difficult around the world, and Hunter College was no exception. We all felt the dread of the COVID-19 pandemic, and many of us lost family, friends and colleagues to this deadly plague. Despite all, we continued our lives and studies remotely. Classes were conducted and events were held online, and we managed to hold our community together. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and minorities was highlighted and discussed through various public programs organized by the Human Rights Program. We started a series of global human rights hangouts to enable students to connect around the world. And in the middle of the pandemic we witnessed a shameful expose of police violence disproportionately targeting people of color and an unprecedented violent attack on our Capitol, in an election that threatened our democracy.

We have survived all this and are no doubt stronger as a result. With the COVID vaccine came new hope and a return to in-person learning. As we look back in this report on the tumultuous year of COVID-19, it’s great to be back on campus! We thank Jennifer Raab, President of Hunter College and Harold Holzer, Director of Roosevelt House for their strong and steady leadership in this year of crisis and Roosevelt House Advisory Board Chair Rita Hauser for her generous support of the Human Rights Program.

Jessica Neuwirth
Rita E. Hauser Director
Human Rights Program | Fall 2020 - Spring 2021
Online Events

Roosevelt House Virtual Open House
September 16, 2020

The annual Open House offers students a chance to learn more about Roosevelt House’s academic programs, including the Human Rights Program’s and Public Policy Program’s Minor and Certificate tracks. Students had the opportunity to meet with Roosevelt House staff and faculty, network with one another, and hear from students already progressing in each program. The Human Rights Program’s guests speakers included Babatunde Olugboji, Deputy Program Director at Human Rights Watch, and Stephanie Farrior, Distinguished Lecturer, Human Rights Program.

Human Rights from a Bird's Eye View: Using Drones, Satellites, & Other Technology as an Investigative Tool
September 30, 2020

The rapid evolution of technology has transformed our day-to-day lives. While technologies have been used as tools to advance human rights—such as drones and satellites used to document human rights violations—they have also been utilized in ways that pose as a threat to human rights. In this virtual lunch hour event, Josh Lyons, Director of Geospatial Analysis at Human Rights Watch, led a discussion on the challenges, opportunities, and ethical dilemmas of technology in human rights work.
Climate Change and Cultural Extinction: A Human Rights Crisis
October 21, 2020

In collaboration with United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights Karima Bennoune, the Human Rights Program hosted a virtual side event to provide her with a public forum to share her new report to the United Nations. In her report, Bennoune details the negative impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of cultural rights along with the positive potential of cultures to serve as critical tools in responding to the climate emergency. The event was moderated by Stephanie Farrior, Distinguished Lecturer, Human Rights Program. Guest speakers included Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; David Boyd, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment; Joshua Castellino, Executive Director, Minority Rights Group International; Noa Petueli Tapumanaia, Chief Librarian & Archivist, Tuvalu National Library; and Mohamed Hizyam, youth activist from the Maldives.

Meet the Professors
December 2, 2020

At Meet the Professors, students had the opportunity to learn more about the course lineup for Spring 2021 and to engage with some of the Human Rights Program’s professors, who are human rights practitioners and experts in their respective fields. Featured professors included Stephanie Farrior (Intro to Human Rights), Ejim Dike (Anti-Black Racism and the UN), and Mark Shulman (Laws of War).
Virtual Meeting Platforms: Government Control and Corporate Compliance
December 3, 2020

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, social networking and virtual meeting platforms are used now more than ever, as millions of people around the world have had to quickly adjust and find new ways to connect and communicate. This discussion explored the roles and responsibilities of these corporations in ensuring open access to the communication channels they create and responding to government regulation of social networking platforms, as well as informal efforts to exert control over public speech. Tech correspondent Paul Mozur of The New York Times moderated this discussion, which featured Teng Biao, Grove Human Rights Scholar and President of China Against the Death Penalty, and Dr. Erica Basu, Researcher and Adjunct Lecturer at American University’s School of Communication.

Fifth Annual Campus ERA Day
April 19, 2021

Human Rights Program Director Jessica Neuwirth and ERA Coalition President Carol Jenkins led a group of Eva Kastan Grove fellows to host the fifth annual Campus ERA Day, which aims to raise awareness and educate students about the Equal Rights Amendment, which would guarantee equal rights for all citizens regardless of sex. Participating campuses included 52 universities, colleges, and high schools in 26 states across the country. Guest speakers included author and activist Gloria Steinem, Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Dick Durbin, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Senator Susan Collins, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Pat Spearman, former Illinois State Representative Steve Andersson, actress and writer Heidi Schreck, writer and activist Kamilah Willingham, and survivor and activist Jessica Lenahan.
Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India
May 17, 2021

The Human Rights Program presented a live online discussion of Malevolent Republic: A Short History of the New India by K.S. Komireddi. In this penetrating and insightful history, Komireddi delivers a critical and urgent account of modern India from the time of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the 1960s up to the current administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Author K.S. Komireddi was joined in conversation with Human Rights Faculty member and Professor of History Manu Bhagavan.

New Discussion Series:
Global Human Rights Hangouts

In Spring 2021, the Human Rights Program introduced a new discussion series: Global Human Rights Hangouts. This event series gives human rights students the chance to learn new perspectives, exchange ideas, and connect with their global peers on those issues most important to them.

At the first ever Global Human Rights Hangout, Hunter College students met with students from SWPS University in Warsaw, Poland. Students discussed timely topics that included abortion rights, LGBTQ rights, and the state of democracy in both the U.S. and Poland.

The next Global Human Rights Hangout connected Hunter College students with Nepali law students and members of the non-profit organization Community for Legal Literacy, Advocacy, and Research (CLAR). During this event, students discussed the various human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nepal, the U.S., and on a global level.
Human Rights Program

Enrollment and Graduates

Academic Year 2020 - 2021

A total of 52 students were enrolled in the HRP.
- 19 students were enrolled in the Certificate track
- 33 students were enrolled in the Minor track

The Program had 18 graduates during Academic Year 2020-2021.
- 9 Minors
- 4 Certificates

Since the Spring 2011 launch of the Program, the HRP has graduated 216 students.
- 158 Minors
- 53 Certificates
- 5 CUNY BA Students

2,034 students have taken the HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights course.

MAJORS REPRESENTED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Anthropology; Biology; Chemistry; Classical and Oriental Studies (Chinese Lang & Lit, Russian); English; Film & Media; Geography; History; Human Biology; Political Science; Psychology; Romance Languages (French, Spanish); Sociology; Women and Gender Studies

HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM CORE COURSES

HR 200
Introduction to Human Rights
- Fall '20, 5 sections, 125 students
- Spring '21, 4 sections, 96 students
- Summer '21, 1 section, 25 students

Instr: Stephanie Farrior
- Fall '20 and Spring '21: Section 01, 03, 04
Instr: Babatunde Olugboji
- Fall '20 and Spring '21: Section 02
- Summer '21: Section 01
Instr: Aysen Candas
- Fall '20: Section 05

HR 250
Human Rights Internship
- Fall '20, 10 students
- Winter/Spring '21, 6 students
- Summer '21, 8 students
Supervised by Jessica Neuwirth

HR 260
Human Rights Internship Seminar
- Fall '20, 6 students
Instr: Jessica Neuwirth

HR 350
Human Rights Capstone Seminar
- Spring '21, 6 students
Instr: John Wallach
Fall 2020 | Total Student Registration: 234 students

For Fall 2020, the Program offered three of its core courses: HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, HR 250 Human Rights Internship, and HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar complemented by five special topic courses.

**FALL 2020 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Instr.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.17</td>
<td>International Human Rights at the UN</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Christen Broecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.18</td>
<td>Environmental Human Rights</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Catherine Tinker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.25</td>
<td>Human Rights in China</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mark Shulman, in collaboration with Teng Biao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.29</td>
<td>Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Joseph Chuman</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR 320.07</td>
<td>Human Rights Under Authoritarianisms-Totalitarianisms</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aysen Candas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 320.08</td>
<td>Internationalism in an Age of Nationalism</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Carol Gould</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring 2021 | Total Student Registration: 204 students

For Spring 2021, the Program offered three of its core courses: HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, HR 250 Human Rights Internship, and HR 350 Human Rights Capstone Seminar complemented by four special topic courses.

**SPRING 2021 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Instr.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.30</td>
<td>Anti-Black Racism and the UN</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ejim Dike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.31</td>
<td>Laws of War</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Mark Shulman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 220.32</td>
<td>Equality and Human Rights</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Choralyne Dumesnil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 320.08</td>
<td>Internationalism in an Age of Nationalism</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Carol Gould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR 320.07</td>
<td>Human Rights Under Authoritarianisms-Totalitarianisms</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Aysen Candas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summer 2021 | Total Student Registration: 37 students

For Summer 2021, the Program offered HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, HR 250 Human Rights Internship, and one special topic course.

SUMMER 2021 SPECIAL TOPIC COURSE

HR 220.22
Contemporary Global LGBTQ Human Rights
9 students
Instr: Tanya Domi

HR 250 Internship Placements

During the Fall 2020 and Winter/Spring 2021 semesters, a total of 19 students undertook human rights internships.

FALL 2020 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Fall 2020 semester, 10 students undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- American Medical Student Association
- Bright Minds Enrichment
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Donor Direct Action
- Office of Senator Andrew Gounardes
- Prospect Hills Foundation
- Sanctuary for Families
- South Bronx Unite
- Urban Justice Center

WINTER/Spring 2021 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Spring 2021 semester, 6 students undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- CANY (Correctional Association of New York)
- Donor Direct Action
- Hunter College New York City Food Center
- Maysles Cinema
- PEN America/Arts at Risk Connection (ARC)
- Regions Refocus

SUMMER 2021 INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
In the Summer 2021 semester, 3 students undertook human rights internships at the following organizations:

- International Rescue Committee
- National Equality Action Team (NEAT)
- Office of Senator Andrew Gounardes
Fall 2020 | HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar
Guest Speakers and Site Visits

Each fall semester the Human Rights Program invites leading human rights practitioners, policy makers, and activists to engage with students in the HR 260 Human Rights Internship class and arranges site visits to a wide range of non-profits and NGOs working on human rights issues. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students met virtually with guest speakers during the Fall 2020 semester.

Following is a list of the guest speakers who met with students in the Fall 2020 HR 260 Human Rights Internship Seminar:

- Jack Healey, Founder of the Human Rights Action Center and former Director of Amnesty International USA
- Sharon Riggle, Chief of Staff to the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict
- David Giffen, Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
- Felice Gaer, Former Vice-Chair of the UN Committee Against Torture
- Teng Biao, human rights lawyer and Chinese dissident, President of China Against the Death Penalty
- Ken Franzblau, former Researcher, Equality Now
- Taina Bien-Aimé, Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
- Diala Shamas, Staff Attorney, Center for Constitutional Rights
- Jane Manning, Director, Women’s Equal Justice Project
- Pamela Shifman, Senior Fellow, Feminist Imagination
- Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Executive Director, Embrace Dignity
- Surita Sandosham, Executive Director, Heartland Alliance
- Babatunde Olugboji, Deputy Program Director, Human Rights Watch
- Susannah Sirkin, Director of Policy/Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights
- Michael Neuwirth, Senior Director of External Communications, Danone North America

Program and Curricular Developments

- The Program continued to publish its bi-weekly newsletter, Your Day, named for Eleanor Roosevelt’s nationally syndicated daily column, My Day, published from 1935 to 1962. The newsletter shares human rights news, upcoming events and other available resources and opportunities, and includes a guest column in each issue written by students and faculty on various topics of interest. At the time of this report, 47 issues of Your Day have been published. They can be accessed at http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu/hrp/hrp-newsletter/.
- For the Fall ’20 semester, the Program was pleased to once again host Chinese human rights scholar and dissident, Teng Biao. Through Hunter’s membership with Scholars At Risk (SAR), an organization that works to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom throughout the world, Teng Biao first joined the HRP in Fall ’19 as a Grove Human Rights Scholar and collaborated with HRP Adjunct Professor Mark Shulman on the special topic course HR 220.25 Human Rights in China. In Fall ‘20, Professors Teng and Shulman were able to offer this well received and timely course to more Hunter students. Teng Biao was also a panelist in the Program’s December 3rd panel discussion, Virtual Meeting Platforms: Government Control and Corporate Compliance. The discussion explored the roles and responsibilities of social networking and virtual meeting platforms in ensuring open access to the communication channels they create, responding to government regulations, as well as informal efforts to exert control over public speech.
- A search for a permanent full-time instructor in the Human Rights Program to develop a cohesive set of syllabi to strengthen the foundational course, HR 200 Introduction to Human Rights, was begun in the latter part of the Fall ’19 semester, but had to be paused due to the pandemic. In the interim, Aysen Candas was hired as a Roosevelt House Human Rights Scholar to teach three sections of HR 200 in the Fall ’21 semester.
- On March 17th, 2020, at the invitation of the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) Peer Mentoring Program, Human Rights Program Manager JoAnne Vellardita met with a group of BMCC students planning to graduate in Spring ’21 and considering attending another CUNY college. Organized and facilitated by BMCC peer mentors Altrim Manuti and Michelle Black, the meeting was well attended and provided an opportunity to present information on the Human Rights Program and the value of human rights studies as a complement to any major.
Spring 2021 | HR 350 Human Rights Capstone Seminar Capstone Presentations

On May 19, 2021, the Human Rights Program capstone students, guided by Human Rights Faculty member and Professor of Political Science John Wallach, presented their papers:

- **Ashley Fontanilla**
  Environmental Pollution as a Human Rights Issue

- **Thania Manueles**
  MPP: A New Form of Human Rights Non-Enforcement in the United States

- **Chantal Polinsky**
  The Impacts of Mass Incarceration on Black Communities

- **Joselin Serrano**
  From School to Incarceration: Human Rights Abuses of Females of Color

- **Andrew Shkreli**
  In Pursuit of Equality: Advancing LGBTI+ Human Rights in Albania and Kosovo

- **Anna Shvetsova**
  Please Don't Forget Me: Collective Memory and the Right to Remember in Post-Soviet States

Policy and Curriculum Committee

Carol Gould, Philosophy, Chair
Marc Edelman, Anthropology
Deborah Tolman, Women and Gender Studies
John Wallach, Political Science
Jessica Neuwirth, Human Rights Program, *ex officio*

Human Rights Faculty

- **Temisan Agbeyegbe**, Economics
- **Karna Basu**, Economics
- **Manu Bhagavan**, History
- **Martha Bragin**, Silberman School of Social Work
- **Jonathan Conning**, Economics
- **Omar Dahbour**, Philosophy
- **Thomas DeGloma**, Sociology
- **Marc Edelman**, Anthropology
- **Ken Erickson**, Political Science
- **Leonard Feldman**, Political Science
- **Maria Fischer**, Spanish
- **Roseanne Flores**, Psychology
- **Nancy Foner**, Sociology
- **Jennifer Gaboury**, Women and Gender Studies/Political Science
- **Carol Gould**, Philosophy
- **Jack Hammond**, Sociology
- **David Hodges**, Anthropology
- **D’Weston Haywood**, History
- **Nico Israel**, English
- **Rob Jenkins**, Political Science
- **Marnia Lazreg**, Sociology
- **Lazaro Lima**, Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies
- **Vivian Louie**, Asian American Studies
- **Erin Mayo-Adam**, Political Science
- **Jessica Neuwirth**, Human Rights
- **Rupal Oza**, Women and Gender Studies
- **Sonali Perera**, English
- **Mary Roldan**, History
- **Jill Rosenthal**, History
- **Laura Schor**, History
- **Jillian Schwedler**, Political Science
- **Larry Shore**, Film & Media
- **Ida Susser**, Anthropology
- **Deborah Tolman**, Women & Gender Studies
- **John Wallach**, Political Science
Human Rights Program

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