Ethical Inquiries, Not Answers
New website feature explores vexing questions

In 2009 the Center introduced “Ethical Inquiry,” a monthly website feature in which we call attention to the ethical dimensions of a wide range of issues with implications that may be personal, political, or even global.

Each installment points readers toward resources that reflect a range of thoughtful viewpoints from academia, advocacy organizations, and “popular” media.

The Center is dedicated to both examining the ethical practices of professionals in specific fields like coexistence and international justice, and to advancing dialogue on the ethical issues that shape society at large through initiatives such as these inquiries.

As we follow the latest developments in some of the most vexing questions of the day, we invite you to join us in “Ethical Inquiry.”

The Center has greatly expanded its online offerings. In addition to “Ethical Inquiry,” resources include publications and papers, a searchable database, videos and transcripts of lectures, and research guides. This issue of Ethics Central features a guide to some of the teaching and research resources available on our website.

Explore the full “Ethical Inquiry” series: brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry

See page 6 for more online resources from the Ethics Center

FROM THE DIRECTOR – DANIEL TERRIS

Brandeis at its Best

On November 5, 2009, the Center hosted advisory board chair Richard J. Goldstone at Brandeis to speak about his controversial report for the United Nations on the 2008-09 conflict in Gaza. Working with the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, we invited former Israeli UN Ambassador Dore Gold as a respondent.

The event showcased Brandeis at its best – the university community serving as a forum for frank, open, and direct discussion of a controversial issue. Emotions were high inside Levin Ballroom, in the overflow audience in Schwartz Hall, and probably among the thousands of people around the world who watched the event live via web streaming. Yet restraint prevailed, as students, faculty members, and members of the extended university community encountered strikingly divergent views on the moral and legal responsibility for the lives lost and disrupted in Gaza and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict more generally.

Both men agreed that the protection of civilian lives in times of war is an essential moral and legal responsibility. But they differed sharply on who was responsible for the civilian casualties in Gaza. The UN mission chaired by

Should Identity Affect Legal Decisions?

Does New Technology Require a New Ethics?

Is There a Responsibility to Protect?

Is It Ethical to Eat Animals?

Is Torture Ever Justifiable?

Follow @EthicsBrandeis on Twitter to be notified when new “Ethical Inquiries” are posted, to join the conversation, and to hear about Center events: twitter.com/EthicsBrandeis

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The International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life

Mission: To develop effective responses to conflict and injustice by offering innovative approaches to coexistence, strengthening the work of international courts, and encouraging ethical practice in civic and professional life.

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Marc McPhee, Associate Director (on leave)
Barbara Strauss ’02, Senior Department Coordinator
David J. Weinstein, Interim Program Specialist and Newsletter Editor

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IN THE NEWS

Staff Highlights
Associate Director Marci McPhee is on leave for the 2009-10 academic year, teaching English in the Marshall Islands with WorldTeach. To follow her adventures check out her blog: http://marciinthemarshalls.blogspot.com
David J. Weinstein is serving as Program Specialist for the Center during McPhee’s leave, overseeing the Sorensen Fellowship program and on-campus events, managing communications for the Center, and working with the Office of Global Affairs to support the Brandeis–Al-Quds University Partnership. In August, John Lewis Moore, Program Manager for Coexistence International, spoke to the North American Somali Student Union National Conference in Boston on the potential role in peacemaking of youth in the Somali diaspora.
Jessica Berns, Program Director for Coexistence International, served as Chair of the Program Committee for the Annual Conference of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, held in Newton, Mass. in September.
Cynthia Cohen, Executive Director of the Alan B. Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence, presented “Acting Together on the World Stage: Moral Imagination as Permeable Membrane between Art and Society” as part of a panel titled “International Models for Coalition Building: Arts as a Catalyst for Change” at the Grantmakers in the Arts conference in Brooklyn, New York, in October.
Daniel Terris, Director of the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, was named Brandeis University’s Vice President for Global Affairs. He has served as Associate Vice President for Global Affairs since the inception of that office in 2007.

Coming in 2010

February: Special Performance & Discussion in New York City
After the February 7 matinee at 59E59 Theaters of Dog and Wolf, a psychological and political play of intrigue, identity, and pursuit, the playwright, Catherine Filloux; Cynthia Cohen, Coexistence Program Director; and Professor Richard H. Weisberg ’65 of the Cardozo School of Law will discuss how performance, and this play, advance understanding across differences while exploring dilemmas in building relationships of trust. For discount ticket pricing use the code “Brandeis” when purchasing. Go to: ticketcentral.com/showdetails2.asp?showid=2251

March: John O’Neal at Brandeis – Building Justice, Building Peace through Transformative Theater
Theater artist and civil rights activist John O’Neal visits the Brandeis community on March 25. In classes and meetings with students and faculty, he will reflect on the contributions of theater to social justice, the technique of story circles, the state of civil rights in America, and his work in environmental justice. For more information: brandeis.edu/slitka.

Sustaining Hope
The 2009 Sorensen Fellows and one Hiatt Career Center Universal World of Work Fellow write about their summer 2009 internship experiences in Sustaining Hope: Six Tales of Trauma and Transformation, available online as a PDF. Inspiring, thought provoking, and deeply moving.

Download it here:
Go to brandeis.edu/ethics and click “publications.”
New Initiative: Advocacy for Policy Change

The Center has launched Advocacy for Policy Change, a new initiative designed to encourage citizens to bring moral and ethical insights to the process of making and revising laws. The centerpiece of this new initiative focuses on Brandeis undergraduate students, through a new course in legal studies called “Advocacy for Policy Change,” which will be taught in spring 2010 by Professor Melissa Stimell (Legal Studies).

“Advocacy for Policy Change” (LGLS 161b) combines an investigation of the ethical dilemmas that arise in the process of lawmakering with hands-on advocacy work with entities seeking to reform laws perceived as unjust or to propose new ones that redress social wrongs. Students will engage with the complexities of shaping laws for constituents who hold diverse viewpoints, and they will explore the nuances of how bills progress through the legislative process.

Guest presenters will include leaders of advocacy and non-profit organizations along with elected officials, including Massachusetts State Representative Jay Kaufman ’68, MA ’73 of Lexington. Representative Kaufman will introduce students to how work gets done in the State House, provide insider insights into the legislative process, and confer with students on their group research projects.

Legislative advocacy projects are a key feature of the course. Prof. Stimell and her students will choose an existing law they feel could be credibly challenged on ethical or moral grounds, or a proposed law that is being promoted to redress a perceived wrong.

Working in small teams, students will research the issues and design and implement an advocacy project designed to address the range of issues surrounding the particular law. Students will work with a member of the legislature – a legislative mentor – and/or a member of an advocacy organization – an advocacy mentor – who will help them understand the lawmaking process, connect with colleagues, and set realistic goals.

The issues students explore will be different each year; this year, choices include foreclosure reform, legislation to reduce the stigma of criminal records (CORI), immigrants’ rights, and bills targeting the poor on issues of welfare and health care.

The course will conclude with a major event for the Brandeis community at which these issues will be presented and debated. Students will also have the opportunity to compete for funding to continue their projects beyond the scope of the course.

Advocacy for Policy Change is supported by generous multi-year commitments from Center board member Norbert Weissberg and his wife, former board member Judith Schneider.

New Summer Program on International Justice at The Hague in the Netherlands

In summer 2010, Brandeis will introduce the Brandeis in The Hague summer program. Building on the Center’s work in international justice and its contacts in the field, this Brandeis Summer Program combines coursework, field visits to international courts, and interactive workshops with court advocates and international lawyers.

Students will study in the historic Dutch city of The Hague, a modern symbol in the search for global justice, and will live in the university town of Leiden. They will have direct access to major tribunals sitting in The Hague, including the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, and special war-crimes tribunals.

Students will participate in workshops; attend seminars; and connect with research centers working on a variety of global issues including ethnic violence, national and regional reconciliation, economic development, environmental policy, social rights, and responsive governance.

Professor Richard Gaskins (Legal Studies), who will teach together with guest faculty from the University of Leiden, will supervise all academic work. Students completing this six-week program (June 1 - July 10, 2010) will receive academic credit for two courses: “The Spirit of International Law” (IGS/LGLS180a) and “Advocacy in the International Criminal Court” (IGS/LGLS185b).

The Brandeis in The Hague summer program is sponsored by the Office of Global Affairs and the Office for Study Abroad. Courses are offered jointly by the programs in International and Global Studies and Legal Studies.

Applications are due March 26. Earlier applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. There are no prerequisites for this program in international law or global governance.

For more information, contact the Office of Study Abroad: abroad@brandeis.edu. For more on Brandeis Programs in International Justice and Society, visit brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice.
Inaugural Distinguished Lecture: International Criminal Justice

On November 30, the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life was honored to host a visit to Brandeis by Hassan Bubacar Jallow, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Justice Jallow served as Gambia’s Attorney General and Minister of Justice from 1984 to 1994 and subsequently as a Judge of Gambia’s Supreme Court from 1998 to 2002.

Justice Jallow delivered the inaugural Distinguished Lecture in International Justice and Human Rights, “International Criminal Justice: Developments and Reflections on the Future.” The inaugural Distinguished Lecture was funded by the Planethood Foundation.

In this excerpt from his lecture, Justice Jallow elaborates on the accomplishments of international criminal justice institutions, and emphasizes the critical complementary role of domestic legal systems in combating war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It would be fair to sum up the legacy of the ad hoc and hybrid tribunals [i.e. the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda established by the United Nations; and tribunals such as the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which have international and national components to their staffing and applicable law] in the following terms:

- They have created the primary major instruments to date for combating impunity by bringing to account before courts of law several high ranking personalities who in the past might have evaded the long arm of the law and justice through their power and influence;

- They have expanded the frontiers of international law through the progressive development of international criminal law in its substantive, procedural, evidentiary and practice aspects;

- They have developed experience and techniques in the various intricate aspects of the management of international tribunals as well as the investigation and prosecution of international crimes;

- They have influenced national legal systems to become partners in the fight against impunity through the domestic enforcement of international criminal law;

- They have contributed to reconciliation and restoration of the rule of law in the various communities where conflict had led to the intervention of international justice;

- And above all they have demonstrated that the enforcement of international criminal justice is feasible, desirable and necessary, thus encouraging the international community to adopt the Rome Statute for a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC)....

It has not, however, been the exclusive role of international tribunals to combat impunity. An effective partnership has been forged and is developing with national legal systems – courts, bar associations and law enforcement agencies – in this respect.

Courts in several countries now exercise jurisdiction over some international crimes. Canada, France, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Finland, Senegal, and the United Kingdom are among them. The list is likely to grow.

In October 2009, Canadian courts convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment Desiré Munyaneza for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to the events in Rwanda.

Safe havens for perpetrators of such crimes are becoming relatively few compared to a decade and a half ago. National law enforcement agencies are increasingly being supported by the ad hoc tribunals with information, evidence and expertise in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes.

In the past year alone, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICTR has received and serviced, for instance, requests for information from the law enforcement authorities of about 30 countries which are involved in domestic investigation and/or prosecution of international crimes committed outside their territorial limits..

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Judicial Colloquia and Meetings: Sierra Leone, Argentina and Israel

Since 2006 the Center has organized five judicial colloquia that bring together international judges with domestic judges in various regions – one of the only such initiatives in the world.

In recent months, the Center organized colloquia in South America and Israel, and played a key role in organizing a conference in West Africa seeking to establish a regional judicial training institute, led in this initiative by Director of Programs in International Justice and Society Leigh Swigart.

The Center played an important organizational role in an October meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, of major stakeholders who explored the transformation of the Special Court for Sierra Leone into a regional judicial training institute for West Africa. Following the meeting, organizers submitted a proposal to the government of Sierra Leone. The forum was funded by the West African Research Association, through its West African Peace Initiative.

In November, the Center hosted twenty judges from eight South American nations for The Value of International Law for National Legal Systems (El Valor del Derecho Internacional Respecto de los Sistemas Legales Nacionales), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, funded by a grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

International judges, along with leading international law experts from the Israeli government, military, academic community, and judiciary convened in January at the Center’s colloquium, Balancing Sovereignty, Security, and Regard for International Norms, in Jerusalem, hosted by the Mishkenot Sha’ananim conference center and funded by the David Berg Foundation.

Summaries and reports on these colloquia are available at brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/judicialcolloquia.

SEPTEMBER
The 2009-10 Social Justice Leadership Series launched with Dr. Kevin Bales, a leading expert on modern slavery and human trafficking. The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism and the Ethics Center are jointly hosting this speaker series.

The Center hosted the TMI: Social Justice in the Age of Facebook conference. See page 7.

The Master’s Program in Coexistence and Conflict presented Ambassador Alvaro de Soto, a Peruvian diplomat who held senior positions at the United Nations for 25 years under three secretaries-general. He discussed “The UN as Peacemaker—Post Cold-War Lessons.”

A screening of Sari Soldiers, cosponsored with The Girl Effect, was followed by a talk with director Julie Bridgham and a panel discussion on democracy, feminism, and non-violence in Nepal.

OCTOBER
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hank Klibanoff spoke about “The Race Beat—Then and Now.” Organized by the Brandeis Journalism Program.

At “Talk to an Iraqi,” journalist Haider Hamza discussed his journey talking about the war in Iraq with Americans and shared his thoughts about and pictures of the conflict. (Social Justice Leadership Series.)

The Center helped organize a meeting in Sierra Leone regarding establishing a judicial training institute for West Africa. See above.

Coexistence International screened Pray the Devil Back to Hell, about an interfaith women’s movement in Liberia that was instrumental in bringing peace after decades of civil war. A Q&A followed with one of the documentary’s protagonists, Liberian journalist Janet Johnson Bryant. (Social Justice Leadership Series.)

NOVEMBER
Justice Richard J. Goldstone and former Israeli Ambassador Dore Gold discussed “The Challenge of the UN Gaza Report” at a Brandeis forum. See page 7 and “From the Director” on page 1.


The Center, in collaboration with the International Judicial Academy, held a judicial colloquium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. See above.


DECEMBER
Peter Maphatsoe, a nationally renowned creator and children’s book author from Lesotho, led interactive art activities, including finger painting and exhibitions, that conveyed a taste of southern African arts and culture. Cosponsored by Comparative Literature 165 EL2.

Wilfred Gray Johnson, Executive Director of the Liberia Peacebuilding Office, a joint collaboration between the UN and the Government of the Republic of Liberia, spoke to Brandeis students, faculty, and staff about some of the challenges and opportunities of the work of that office.
Teaching & Research Resources @ brandeis.edu/ethics

Creative Approaches to Coexistence and Reconciliation: A Virtual Resource Center
brandeis.edu/slifka/vrc

Creative Approaches to Coexistence and Reconciliation hosts a virtual resource center for artists, cultural workers, coexistence practitioners, peacebuilding scholars, students, and all who are interested in how the arts and cultural traditions can be crafted to bridge differences, mediate conflicts and contribute to peace. It is designed to share learning generated through our study of the contributions of cultural work and the arts to social justice.

This site features an extensive library of materials organized to facilitate searching by artist, discipline, region, topic, and other relevant categories. A newly-redesigned version of the site (pictured) will launch in the spring.

Preview of New Documentary from Creative Approaches to Coexistence and Reconciliation
brandeis.edu/slifka/trailer.html

View a trailer for Acting Together on the World Stage: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict, a documentary being produced by the Creative Approaches to Coexistence and Reconciliation initiative of the Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence under the direction of Cynthia Cohen, Executive Director of the Coexistence Program, with filmmaker Allison Lund.

The trailer features performances from Peru, Serbia, the Netherlands, and Cambodia, and interviews with contributors to an anthology that illustrates how theater and ritual contribute to social justice, coexistence, and reconciliation in conflict regions throughout the world.

International Justice in the News
brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/internationaljusticeinthenews

Every month the Center highlights people and developments in international justice and articles and publications of interest. This emailed update, archived on the website, reaches a network of leaders and practitioners in the justice community around the globe, as well as scholars and interested citizens.

To sign up: email Leigh Swigart at swigart@brandeis.edu or click “send us a message” at the bottom of the International Justice in the News page.

Ethical Inquiry
brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/index.html

In June, the Center introduced “Ethical Inquiry,” a monthly examination of ethical questions. See page 1.

International Justice Resources
brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/judicialcolloquia

This page features summaries and reports of judicial colloquia and related material.

Work in West Africa
brandeis.edu/ethics/about/workinwestafrica.html

Over the past several years, two program areas of the Ethics Center – Programs in International Justice and Society, and Coexistence International – have carried out work in the West African region. This page features resources related to the Center’s work in this region.

Lib Guides

Brandeis online library research guides (“Lib Guides”) are comprehensive resources on key topics intended for use by undergraduates at Brandeis and beyond. Two Lib Guides relating to the Center’s work were recently posted:

• International Justice: brandeis.libguides.com/justice
  • Liberia: brandeis.libguides.com/Liberia

Complementary Approaches to Coexistence Work - Focus Paper Series
brandeis.edu/coexistence/pubs/publications.html

In this series, Coexistence International examines where and how certain fields intersect with coexistence work. What challenges and opportunities exist when disciplines work together toward the common goal of a more peaceful, just world?

Titles include: What is Coexistence and Why a Complementary Approach?; Coexistence and the Arts; Coexistence and Democracy-building in West Africa; Coexistence and Human Rights; Coexistence and Natural Resources; and Key Issues in Coexistence and Education. Several papers are available in French or Portuguese translation.
Online video and related materials from Center-cosponsored events
Videos of Center events are linked from the website for viewing any time.
Recent additions to the site include:

Every session of the “TMI: Social Justice in the Age of Facebook” conference (see below)
brandeis.edu/ethics/events/TMI.html

“The Challenge of the UN Gaza Report” forum (see “From the Director” on page 1)

“The UN as Peacemaker—Post Cold-War Lessons.” A lecture by Ambassador Alvaro de Soto (see page 5)
brandeis.edu/slifka/masters/Videos

New Media Coverage by Brandeis Students of “TMI: Social Justice in the Age of Facebook” Conference

On September 10 and 11, 2009, the Center hosted TMI: Social Justice in the Age of Facebook, featuring leading new technology and media thinkers. The event was cosponsored by Brandeis Library and Technology Services, the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism, and the Brandeis Student Union. Students reported on the conference using new media, including live-streaming video of conference sessions, extensively tweeting, and live blogging. The pros and cons of this type of reportage were discussed in the concluding session of the conference.

For student new media coverage of the conference, visit tmibrandeis.wordpress.com

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Brandeis at its Best

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Justice Goldstone concluded that there was strong evidence that both Israel and Hamas had committed war crimes under international law. Ambassador Gold took strong exception to the charges against Israel, arguing that Hamas itself cynically and deliberately placed its own civilian population at risk.

Heartened though I was by this opportunity for political and intellectual engagement, I also was distressed by the ways in which the debates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have increasingly crowded out complexity and nuance. A polarized discourse has created an atmosphere where matters of peace and justice are shunted aside by political grandstanding.

Many passionate supporters of the Palestinian cause have seized on the Gaza report to question the fundamental nature of the state of Israel. Passionate supporters of Israel, on the other hand, dismiss the Gaza report’s conclusions about Israel out-of-hand, simply asserting that it is unthinkable that Israel’s army and political leaders could commit such travesties.

The rhetoric on both sides leaves little room for those of us working actively for a secure and prosperous future for both the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples, and who believe that a commitment to law and justice means little if it is applied selectively. We need less rhetoric and more careful attention to deeds and actions: careful investigations, preferably carried out according to international standards by Israelis and Palestinians themselves, that hold people and institutions accountable for any deviations from the high moral and legal standards on which they pride themselves. Indeed, a call for these kinds of credible internal investigations is the central recommendation of the UN Gaza report itself.

An account and a link to the full video of the Brandeis event can be found at brandeis.edu/ethics/news/2009/2009.November.5.html.
The Green Canvas: The Artist as Environmental Activist: a Distinguished Visiting Practitioner Residency
February 8-11, 2010
Professor Hoseob Yoon of Kookmin University in Seoul, a South Korean graphic artist who has devoted his life and his work to environmental sustainability, will share his message about the risk of climate change and the threats it poses to agriculture, water supplies, health, and biodiversity. (On this page: Yoon’s artwork.) His residency will include class visits, art demonstrations, T-shirt making, exhibits, and one-on-one visits with students and community members. This residency is hosted by Eric Olson, Senior Lecturer in Ecology in the Programs in Sustainable International Development.

Changing People in a Changing Climate? The Ethical Implications of Climate Disruption
March 23, 2010, Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library
Is it enough to recycle? Is it enough to drive a Prius? Who bears responsibility for climate change? What would motivate and inspire people to make actual changes in their lives?
Engage with a variety of disciplinary perspectives on climate change, its ethical and educational challenges, and strategies for reducing its causes and ameliorating its consequences.

Featuring Dr. Saleem Ali, professor of environmental studies at the University of Vermont, and author of Treasures of the Earth: Need, Greed and a Sustainable Future; a short film of interviews with the Brandeis community; and responses to the film by a panel of four Brandeis professors: Michael Appel (IBS), Bernadette Brooten (NEJS), Cristina Espinosa (Heller), and Tory Fair (Fine Arts).

Brief essays by this panel sharing their perspectives on climate change will be available beginning March 15th on Brandeis’ Campus Sustainability Initiative website.
This event is hosted by the Ethics Center with organizers Charles Chester (Environmental Studies) and Irving Epstein (Chemistry).

Find links to Professor Yoon’s website, the Brandeis Campus Sustainability Initiative website, and a schedule of events here: brandeis.edu/ethics/events.