FROM THE DIRECTOR – DANIEL TERRIS

Iraq Reconsidered

The United States declared the formal end of the Iraq War late last year. Americans now have the opportunity – and the obligation – to work with Iraqis and others around the globe to bind the wounds of the war and to apply its lessons.

Over the past 20 years, people around the world have developed innovative responses to help individuals and nations make the transition from war to stability, if not necessarily all the way to peace. As a global society, we have many more tools available to us than we had in the aftermath of the Vietnam War 35 years ago.

Justice, memory, reconciliation – these are the building blocks of post-conflict societies. Justice means not only punishing the cruel, but ensuring that we redress the harms done to the war’s victims. Through memory, we honor the testimony and the experiences of civilians and soldiers alike. Reconciliation begins – but does not end – with confronting sectarian, religious, and national differences honestly.

All three of these building blocks are missing in relation to the conflict in Iraq. What efforts have been made have tended to be partial and politicized – the intense scrutiny of the treatment of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, for example, divorced from the broader military, social, political and legal context.

JUST PERFORMANCE: ENACTING JUSTICE IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE

What do public ritual, theater, truth commissions, and criminal trials each offer as justice-seeking strategies? How does performance satisfy the human need to understand violence and reconstruct dignity in its wake?

Two Ethics Center programs – Peacebuilding and the Arts, and International Justice and Society – jointly organized an innovative two-day symposium in December that addressed these and related questions.

Just Performance was an opportunity for sustained reflection on the potential for greater cooperation between what are generally seen as distinct responses to conflict: the “legal” approach and the “arts-based” approach. The exploration focused on four different types of “performance” used by communities and societies to pursue justice and restore trust: public ritual, theater, truth commissions, and judicial proceedings.

Sessions focused on violence and the struggles to deal with its aftermath in Cambodia, Peru and the United States. The voices of scholars and lawyers mixed with those of poets and theater artists as panelists shared “justice-seeking” stories: personal accounts of how particular strategies were used after conflict and how each of them experienced, observed, and/or analyzed the impact of these approaches.

Whether recounting the dramatic elements of the trial of ex-President Alberto Fujimori in Peru, reciting a Khmer poem about disillusionment with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia that is tasked with trying crimes of the Khmer Rouge era, or describing a reenactment of a lynching in Georgia, panelists shared the power of theatrical and ritual performance and how it can sometimes succeed in addressing injustices in a manner not possible through purely legalistic, rational, or discursive means.

Ethical Inquiry: Seeking Justice After War Crimes, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity: Which Approach? Which approach is best when seeking justice for these offenses? A locally-driven approach? One led by the international community? A trial format? Truth and reconciliation commissions?

Read more: brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2011/November.html

Researched and written by Kate Alexander ’12.
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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IN THE NEWS

Staff Highlights

Cynthia Cohen, Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, presented the research methodology and the findings of the Acting Together project at an “evidence” summit convened by the Peacebuilding Evaluation Project of the United States Institute of Peace and the Alliance for Peacebuilding in Washington, D.C. in early December, accompanied by Dr. Mary Ann Hunter of the Acting Together project. The goal of the gathering was to strengthen the quality of evidence presented in evaluations of peacebuilding projects. Associate Director Marcia McPhee designed and taught a new course at Brandeis, “Immigrant Support Services Practicum,” in which students connected their introductory sociology coursework in David Cunningham’s “Order and Change in Society” (SOC 1a) with community work supporting Waltham immigrants. Naoe Suzuki, Senior Program Coordinator for the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and a visual artist, spent September working on her drawings during a residency at the Blue Mountain Center. She will be exhibiting her recent work in Blue, a solo exhibit at the Kniznick Gallery at the Brandeis University Women’s Studies Research Center, from January 12th to March 2nd. Details: brandeis.edu/wsrc/art.

Welcoming the Center’s Faculty Committee

The Ethics Center is pleased to announce the membership of its Faculty Committee, formed in the fall, featuring representatives from across the University: Rick Alterman (Computer Science), Gannit Ankori (Fine Arts, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies), Susan Dibble (Theater Arts), Irv Epstein (Chemistry), Gordie Fellman (Sociology; Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies), Richard Gaskins (American Studies, Legal Studies), Ted Johnson (Master of Arts in Coexistence and Conflict, Heller School), Kate Moran (Philosophy) and Fernando Rosenberg (Romance and Comparative Literature, Latin American and Latino Studies). The Center has already benefited from their guidance and support.

Voices in Solidarity: Six Friends Reaching for Healing Across the World

In narratives that are both intensely personal and deeply thoughtful, the 2011 Sorensen Fellows – Calliope Desenberg ’12, Jessye Kass ’13, Sarah Michael ’12, Shani Rosenbaum ’12, Piyawat “Paul” Sukijthamapan ’13 and Sarah Van Buren ’13 – write about their summer experiences in Voices in Solidarity: Six Friends Reaching for Healing Across the World. Their accounts of often-difficult journeys capture idealism, hope and determination – along with pragmatism and frustration. Ultimately, it is a moving and inspiring collection.

View or download it here:
Go to brandeis.edu/ethics, click “Publications,” and scroll to “Student Fellowship Publications.”
A Global Conversation: The Acting Together Project Launch

A film archive in Phnom Penh, an art education center in Johannesburg, a theater in Los Angeles: in these places and many others around the world artists and peacebuilders joined a global conversation in fall 2011 inspired by the Acting Together project.

The Center’s Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts joined with ReCAST, Inc. and New Village Press to launch its Acting Together project, which includes a documentary film, a two-part anthology and a DVD “toolkit.”

Partners screened the documentary “Acting Together on the World Stage” and hosted discussions. Practitioners reported that the film offered them encouragement to continue their efforts; students said it opened up new directions for their careers.

Community members, students, educators, peacebuilding practitioners, artists and policymakers gathered in eight countries and 10 U.S. cities – on one late October day alone Acting Together conversations took place at universities in Kenya and Vermont.

Audiences explored the possibilities and limitations of theater and ritual for revealing conflicts, healing traumas and helping communities navigate the ethical dilemmas that always accompany reconciliation.

Speakers included Cynthia P. Schneider, former U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands; Rossana Rodríguez Sánchez, Resident Director of Chicago’s Albany Park Theater Project; artist and author Zlata Filipović; and Colin Greer, playwright and President of the New World Foundation.

Launch Cities & Partners (partial list)
- **Boston:** Tufts University, ReCAST Inc., Medicine Wheel Productions
- **New York City:** The Harold Clurman Festival of the Arts at The Stella Adler Studio
- **Johannesburg:** Artist Proof Studio
- **Phnom Penh:** Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center

To arrange a screening or order Acting Together materials: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/actingtogether

A poster designed by artist Hoseob Yoon for a screening of Acting Together on the World Stage in South Korea.

A Focus on Community Cultural Development

A weekend “intensive” of workshops sponsored by the program in October focused on community cultural development. Brandeis undergraduates, Heller School graduate students, and guests from around the world attended. Among the highlights: singer-songwriter, storyteller and educator Jane Sapp brought participants on a journey through the American South focusing on the songs and stories of young people and community leaders, and led a songwriting workshop (pictured).

Publication of Acting Together Anthology Volume II

Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict, Volume II: Building Just and Inclusive Communities (New Village Press) is now in print. It features a set of practical resources and tools for artists and peacebuilders, an original theoretical framework, and case studies by noted theater practitioners that document and assess performances that seek to build peace in Afghanistan, Liberia, the Netherlands, the United States and elsewhere.

To order: brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/actingtogether

Join the conversation: visit brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts, call 781-736-5001, or email nsuzuki@brandeis.edu.
The symposium did not, however, determine which justice-seeking approach works best. Indeed, it was evident that the widely varying contours of each post-conflict situation means no uniform response to wrongdoing is possible. Employing a combination of approaches – e.g., criminal prosecutions along with truth commissions, reconciliation rituals, apologies, and/or various artistic responses – may best meet the needs of survivors and societies. Brandeis student Kate Alexander ’12 explored these issues in an “Ethical Inquiry” on the Center’s website: “Seeking Justice After War Crimes, Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity: Which Approach?” (See brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2011/November.html.)

A highlight of Just Performance was the keynote address, delivered by Dr. Salomón Lerner Febres, President of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2001-03. (See facing page for an excerpt.) Lerner was an active participant throughout the symposium. Ugandan playwright and actor Charles Mulekwa closed the symposium with a powerful staged reading of Ntare Mwine’s Biro, a one-man play about the life of a Ugandan man jailed in the United States.

The Brandeis community came together to support Just Performance, including the Department of African and Afro-American Studies; Latin American and Latino Studies; Legal Studies; the Mandel Center for the Humanities; the Master’s Programs in Coexistence and Conflict and Sustainable International Development at the Heller School; the Office of the Arts; the Peace, Conflict and Coexistence Studies Program; and the Rose Art Museum.

The Ethics Center was pleased to forge new relationships with colleagues and institutions in the Boston area through the symposium. These include the Boston Busing/Desegregation Project, which aims to redress continued feelings of injustice 40 years after racial violence in Boston; and the Trotter Center for the Study of Black History and Culture at the University of Massachusetts.

Students from several Boston-area schools were key to the success of the symposium as well: a Tufts University student helped prepare the event; Northeastern University School of Law students recounted their internships carried out in post-conflict situations, including India and Liberia, and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The Center also appreciated the contributions of Brandeis students from Africa and Asia who served as translators for Cambodian and Peruvian presenters and shared their own stories about seeking justice and working on different local empowerment projects.

“In the West, we are most accustomed to courts: you get a proclamation of guilt or innocence. You may hear one person’s story or a dozen stories; you make out the elements of the crime, and you convict an individual. A court often has no room for the thousands of other stories, no room for poetry, no room for catharsis. Is that what people need?”
– panelist James Bair, Brandeis ’03, Northeastern University School of Law ’09; former legal intern with the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

“Justice, alive and ungainly, interminable, social, is enacted beyond the will of the State, beyond the will of the performer... and sometimes, uncomfortably, beyond the will of the survivors, some of whom don’t want memorialization.”
– panelist Erik Ehn, Director of Writing for Performance, Brown University; playwright
The precariousness of human beings, the fragility of our morals and of our feelings, is ... evident. How can we with our privileged glimpse into the enigmas of the universe, we the great dominators and transformers of nature, be at the same time the primary destroyers of dignity, and the greatest threat to the survival of our species?

The answer is that perhaps, despite the complexity of our knowledge of the world, despite the magnificence of our civilizations, we have yet to learn to act to secure our future and endow our existence with a higher meaning.

Since ancient times, art has emerged as a means of addressing these questions. The cultivation of art is not, as many still believe, a superfluous practice meant to decorate or cover up lesser ambitions. Art is divorced from both efficiency and efficacy; its inspiration is not the pursuit of profit nor can its worth be established by its value in the market. Rather, its aim is to dignify all human beings – its business to shake us out of passive conformity to what is, and provoke us to dare explore what we can and should be.

Of the various arts, the dramatic arts in particular possess this quality allowing for the purification of our lives, spurring us to rise above the everyday. True theater involves a questioning, an estrangement from our own lives that lets us examine them as something momentarily alien. It is artifice that does not hide but rather exposes its own artificiality, helping us to likewise see ourselves, to observe ourselves as a kind of other, and thus submit to judgment our existences and understand our reality with new clarity.

If theater becomes dangerous, provoking reproach and suspicion, that’s because it has awakened the ghosts of a community. That theater which deals authentically with what it is to be human, which refuses to be a frivolous spectacle, does not distort reality but rather expresses and renders it intelligible. It seeks therefore not to reproduce the facts but rather to stage the symbols that shape experience.
Iraq Reconsidered
continued from page 1

What we need going forward is a more comprehensive look back, encompassing the full range of questions and issues that the conflict has raised. These would include, among many others:

- A full accounting of the regime of Saddam Hussein – its political structure, its human costs, its international patrons.
- A better understanding of international sanctions – how well they work as an alternative to war, whom they hurt (and whom they may benefit).
- A re-examination of the principles of humanitarian intervention.
- An inquiry into the idea of command responsibility, not only regarding actions in the heat of battle, but regarding less time-sensitive matters such as the care of prisoners.
- A wide-ranging look at the global defense industry, including the role of private security contractors.
- A reconsideration of accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity, taking into account both the abuses of the Saddam Hussein regime and the actions of the occupying coalition.

This multi-faceted global project will require many players: commissions of inquiry, historians, artists, philosophers and lawyers, among others. We need courts of law and feature films and scholarly books. We also need community-based approaches that bring justice, memory and reconciliation to local communities, where the impact of the war is most keenly felt. Our Just Performance symposium (see pages 1 and 5) offers many options along these lines.

Re-visiting the Iraq War is not an academic exercise – though perhaps I should say that it is not only academic. It is very much in the practical service of justice, healing and education going forward. For a tiny fraction of the cost of waging the war, we can begin to repair its harm, and apply its lessons to the future.

Coordination and Collaboration in Global Justice

Seventeen judges from 12 courts and tribunals, including those that address criminal, human rights and inter-state dispute matters, were hosted by the Center at the historic Alcázar del Rey Don Pedro in Carmona, Spain for the eighth Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ). The theme of the 2012 Institute was “The International Rule of Law: Coordination and Collaboration in Global Justice.”

The BIIJ is the only such regular gathering of judges from international courts and tribunals across the globe. Participants in the eighth Institute included members of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, the European Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and many others.

A hallmark of the BIIJ is its exploration of ethical issues in the international judicial domain. In 2012, the focus was on pre- and post-judicial service considerations for international judges. In another session, Prof. Richard Gaskins, Director of Brandeis University’s Legal Studies Program, focused on the legal thinking of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, the University’s namesake.

The Brandeis Institute for International Judges is supported by a generous grant from the Rice Family Foundation.

Judges Address Gender-Based Violence in South Asia

The Ethics Center’s Judges Colloquium on Women and Justice, held in October 2011 in New Delhi, India, brought together judges from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the U.S. to address issues related to gender-based violence and its impact on the work of judges.

Judges discussed strategies to overcome unconscious gender bias, best judicial practices vis-à-vis gender equality in the courtroom, and the development of ongoing judicial education programs that can help judges make decisions recognizing the special challenges faced by South Asian women who come before their courts.

Ethics Center International Advisory Board member Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Justice Desirée Bernard of the Caribbean Court of Justice, an alum of the Brandeis Institute for International Judges (pictured, l-r, with Leigh Swigart of the Ethics Center) were featured speakers.

The colloquium was part of a larger conference on “Gender-Based Violence and Justice in South Asia” organized by the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell University Law School and the Jindal Global Law School.

The Ethics Center has organized similar colloquia in four other regions: West Africa, North America, South America, and Israel. See: brandeis.edu/ethics/internationaljustice/judicialcolloquia
Doctor/activist fights sex trafficking

“R”ebel activist and doctor Dr. Rosa Elena Bello was invited to Brandeis in September to talk and teach about her work battling social ills in her hometown of San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. The weeklong residency included class visits and public events – all held in Spanish with English translation.

Dr. Bello has a long history of making a difference in her region. In 1990 she founded Community Medical Services of San Juan del Sur, and she continues to serve as its director. She later founded an adult literacy program from which hundreds have graduated.

Now she is taking on commercial sexual exploitation, on the rise in San Juan del Sur as it becomes a destination for tourists and retirees. To combat the phenomenon, Dr. Bello recently opened Casa Solidaridad (Solidarity House), a shelter for abused and abandoned women.

“Hearing about her personal experiences in the Nicaraguan Revolution was fascinating,” said Calliope Desenberg ’12, an organizer of Dr. Bello’s visit. “The whole event made her more of a real person for me, instead of an intimidating superhuman world-changer.”

The Center’s Distinguished Visiting Practitioner series brings respected practitioners to campus to examine ethical challenges and dilemmas in their fields. Dr. Bello’s visit was hosted by Kelley Ready (Heller School) and Margaret Morganroth Gullette (Women’s Studies Research Center), and cosponsored by several clubs, departments, centers and institutes.

For more: brandeis.edu/ethics/events/Bello.html

What are the Ethics of Tourism? Explore an “Ethical Inquiry” inspired by Dr. Bello’s visit: brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry

Research and written by Rachel Gillette ’11.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Alums spoke at the SoJust Leadership Forum “Journeys in Social Justice, Beyond Brandeis.” (Sponsored by the Hiatt Career Center.)

Rabbi Levi Lauer discussed “When Hope Ends in Slavery: Human Trafficking in Israel.” (Sponsored by the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism.)

Author Jan Feldman spoke at the launch of her book “Citizenship, Faith, & Feminism: Jewish and Muslim Women Reclaim Their Rights.” (Sponsored by the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute.)

Dr. Rosa Elena Bello was the Distinguished Visiting Practitioner. (See above.)

Queer-identified students gave advice about how to navigate the complex queer landscape internationally in “Year Abroad, Queer Abroad.” (Sponsored by Triskelion.)

Dr. Bello delivers her keynote address, “Village by Village, Barrio por Barrio: Integrated Development in Nicaragua,” for a packed crowd in Rapaporte Treasure Hall.

Dr. Bello’s visit was hosted by Kelley Ready (Heller School) and Margaret Morganroth Gullette (Women’s Studies Research Center), and cosponsored by several clubs, departments, centers and institutes.

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Research and written by Rachel Gillette ’11.

Tibetan monk Palden Gyatso spoke of imprisonment, abuse, exile and compassion at “Against All Odds.” (Sponsored by Students for Tibet and the Ethics Center Leadership Council.)

NOVEMBER

Q&A with producers Douglas Newman ’94 and Laura Browder Ph.D. ’94 followed a screening of The Reconstruction of Asa Carter. (A Social Justice Leadership Series event in cooperation with the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism.)

Professors, staff and students reflected on and analyzed the contentious themes surrounding a prominent work in “Staging Race in the 21st Century: The Case of Porgy and Bess.” (Sponsored by American Studies.)

DECEMBER

Peacebuilders and artists from around the world joined students and scholars at the Just Performance: Enacting Justice in the Wake of Violence symposium. (See page 1.)

The 2011 Sorenson Fellows presented their experiences at “Voices in Solidarity.”
UPCOMING EVENT

'DEIS IMPACT!
Exploring Social Justice on Campus and Around the World

- **February 5 – 10, 2012**
  Brandeis campus, various venues

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life and the Brandeis Student Union present the first weeklong “festival of social justice” at Brandeis. Clubs and academic departments have planned dozens of events throughout the week, featuring speakers, performances, exhibits, discussions – even a Tae Kwon Do workshop that will include a talk on gender violence.

Keynote Address

“Local is Global: Bridging Domestic Action and Global Impact”
Ruth Messinger, President, American Jewish World Service
- **February 8, 2012, 7 pm**
  Sherman Function Hall, Hassenfeld Conference Center

All events are free and open to the public. For the full schedule: [go.brandeis.edu/DEISimpact](http://go.brandeis.edu/DEISimpact)

NEW CENTER RESOURCES

In the monthly online “Ethical Inquiry” series, we call attention to a wide range of issues with implications that may be personal, political, or even global. We highlight a broad array of opinion from journalism, academia, and advocacy organizations. Our intent is to illuminate and explore the complexity of some of the most vexing ethical questions of our time.

Recent topics include:

- What are the Ethics of Tourism?
- Should Every Worker Have Paid Sick Leave? The Ethics of Employee Benefits and Rights
- Exploring the Ethics of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing
- Is There a “Right to Die?” Philosophical, Religious, Legal and Medical Viewpoints

You can write one too...if you are a Brandeis University student (undergrad or grad) or alum. Contact David Weinstein at djw@brandeis.edu.

To be notified of new “Ethical Inquiries” follow us on Facebook or Twitter:
- [facebook.com/EthicsBrandeis](http://facebook.com/EthicsBrandeis)
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Page 3: Now in print – Acting Together: Performance and the Creative Transformation of Conflict, Volumes I and II