

Ethically Speaking

Spring 2004

Justice Across Cultures

Can justice be extended to the global sphere, and if so, where do we find universally applicable principles of justice? Is it possible to reconcile the support of internationally recognized standards of human rights and justice with respect for local cultures? What are the limitations of the secular state and human rights institutions in ensuring the rights of various communities? How have conceptions of citizenship and the rights and identities of migrants changed in the last century? Does the confession of violent acts necessarily contribute to reconciliation in post-conflict societies?

These are just a few of the questions explored in *Justice Across Cultures*, a one-day conference held at Brandeis on March 8, 2004 and sponsored by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life in collaboration with the Shazar Center of Jerusalem. As the Center prepares for its third annual Brandeis Institute for International Judges as well as its first cohort of students in the new Master's program in Coexistence and Conflict, we are

acutely aware of the need for increased discussion and scholarship about cultural differences and their impact on processes of justice and conflict resolution. *Justice Across Cultures* offered a forum where scholars and practitioners could address some of the challenges that cultural diversity poses in the domain of justice, broadly construed. Participants presented papers, many based on personal experience or fieldwork, on a broad gamut of provocative topics. These topics were explored through the cultural perceptions of justice and law found in an equally wide range of geographic sites, including Native America, Palestine/Israel, Western Europe, Fiji, Latin America, Nigeria, and South Africa. *Justice Across Cultures* was directed by Brandeis Professor Marion Smiley, of the philosophy and women's studies department, and Center Associate Director Leigh Swigart.

The conference was organized around three panels. The first, entitled "Justice Across Cultures: Historical, Theoretical, and Legal Perspectives," permitted panelists to address various broad issues that frame our understanding of justice and its various cultural manifestations in the world today. David Heyd (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) invoked Hobbes and Kant in his description of how theories of justice have been challenged as they find themselves applied not to local communities but rather to the world at large. Ayelet Shachar (University of Toronto) outlined what she calls "the paradox of multicultural vulnerability"—that states, in responding to indigenous groups' demands for cultural autonomy, may be failing to protect the human rights of the more vulnerable members of these same groups. An examination of the language of Federal Indian Law formed the basis of Eric Cheyfitz's (Cornell University) paper on how Western legal notions were used by U.S. authorities to undermine Native American claims to tribally held territories and thus justify their seizure.



Omar Dajani, McGeorge School of Law

The second panel, "Intersections of International and Domestic Justice," addressed more specific instances of encounters between conflicting systems of justice. Kamari Clarke (Yale University) discussed the varying views on human rights held in Nigeria, which are influenced by two contemporary transnational movements—the spread of "global

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Kamari Clarke, Yale University

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In February 2004, **Mari Fitzduff** was the keynote speaker at the seminar on Civil-Society-UN Interaction, organized by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, in New York, NY. She presented the findings from her latest book, *NGO's at the Table*, which was recently released by Rowan and Littlefield. ■ Chief Justice **Margaret Marshall** authored the majority opinion for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's landmark ruling on the protection of rights for same-sex unions. ■ In February 2004, The International Collaborations Network at Brandeis, chaired by **Marci McPhee**, sponsored "Eyes Wide Shut: Opening Our Eyes to Stereotypes." In response to the success

of the event and interest in the subject matter, informal conversations were held to further explore the negative impact of stereotypes in a variety of relationships and settings. ■ **Marina Pevzner '04**, former Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow (ECSF), presented the Peace Abbey's Courage of Conscience Award (in Sherborn, MA) to the Israeli organization, New Profile. ■ **Daniel Terris's** essay, "Waldo Frank, Jean Toomer and the Critique of Racial Voyeurism" was published in Hathaway, Jarab, and Melnick, eds., *Race and the Modern Artist* (Oxford University Press, 2003). ■ **Shiranee Tilakawardane**, former Brandeis International Fellow (BIF), was named Supreme Court Judge in Sri Lanka.

Marci McPhee Receives Lou Ennis Award

The Center would like to congratulate Marci McPhee, assistant director, on receiving Brandeis's Lou Ennis Award. Named for the former assistant vice president of employee relations, it is awarded annually to a full time staff member who demonstrates exceptional loyalty and dedication to the University and its mission. Nominated by students, faculty, or staff, the recipient willingly goes above and beyond the requirements of the job and consistently treats all members of the campus with dignity and respect. McPhee, who serves as an administrator, mentor, and friend to many Brandeis students, was appropriately nominated by an undergraduate.



Marci McPhee (right) posing with former Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellow (ECSF), Trang Nguyen '03 in South Africa

Mission

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life at Brandeis University exists to illuminate the ethical dilemmas and obligations inherent in global and professional leadership, with particular focus on the challenges of racial, ethnic, and religious pluralism. Examining responses to past conflicts, acts of intervention, and failures to intervene, the Center seeks to enable just and appropriate responses in the future. Engaging leaders and future leaders of government, business, and civil society, the Center crosses boundaries of geography and discipline to link scholarship and practice through publications, programs, and projects.

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From the Director

Legacies of Leadership

In the past several months, the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life has lost the services of two vital colleagues and friends. At the end of the last academic year, Professor Mary Davis, our longtime faculty associate, retired from Brandeis. Former Senator Paul Simon, one of the founding members of our international advisory board, passed away suddenly near the end of 2003.

For more than a decade, Mary Davis was the stalwart and inspirational leader of our Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions. Mary first worked with Saul Touster and Sandy Lottor, who had launched the program in the early 1980s, and then took it over on her own after Saul and Sandy retired. As both a lawyer and a literary scholar, Mary had the perfect background for a program that used classic and contemporary stories as the basis of conversations about values and ethics among judges and other professionals. She rapidly expanded the program's canon of texts, and brought her warm, perceptive teaching style to the program's seminar format. She was as consistently popular among her professional "students" as she was among the undergraduates she taught through her work in the Department of American Studies.

Our most sustained series of Brandeis Seminars during Mary's tenure was a set of programs offered over five years to judges and other court personnel in the Massachusetts justice system. One set of seminars focused on barriers to justice created by

issues of race, class and gender; the other focused on issues of juvenile justice, with particular attention to the specific problems faced by girls in the juvenile justice system. It was Mary's particular genius to recognize how important it was to bring together not only judges, but the whole array of personnel who work in and around the justice system, including clerks, probation officers, court attorneys, and social workers. The seminars that Mary organized and led forged new relationships and new approaches to the knotty issues that develop when young people are bounced around an impersonal system. Mary wrote and edited two excellent booklets that described her methods, the texts, and made suggestions for others who wished to undertake this kind of seminar. Those curricula are still "in print" on our website.

Mary Davis has now retired to Connecticut, but we will be building on the foundations that she helped create for the Center for many years to come. Her passion for literature as an insight into the dilemmas of professional life lives on among the thousands of judges, lawyers, physicians, teachers, social workers, and others who participated in her seminars. Fortunately, Mary is no more than a phone call and a short train trip away, and we will continue to call upon her wisdom and experience as we challenge those within our orbit to deepen their thinking through encounters with literature.

Former Senator Paul Simon joined the Center's board when it was first developed in 2000.

He brought to our discussions the combination of visionary idealism and practical political sense that characterized his work as a journalist, a publisher, a United States senator, and a candidate for president. In the summer of 2003, he joined us for a week at "Brandeis in the Berkshires" in Lenox, Massachusetts, where he spoke to a seminar on "politics and justice" about the work that he had done in Illinois as chairman of a committee that eventually recommended that the state suspend the death penalty. His untimely death in December denied both the Center and the country of one of its most eloquent advocates for truth and justice.

With the retirement of Mary Davis and the loss of Paul Simon, we at the Center are reminded that without the dedication of our advisory board, our affiliates, and the Center's extended community, we could not have enjoyed the success we have had over the years. As I look to the future, I am incredibly appreciative to those committed individuals who provide us with the support, guidance, and inspiration necessary to move ahead as we further the Center's mission—continuing to inform the work of professionals, scholars, and students both within and outside of the Brandeis community.

Looking Ahead

The Center Prepares to Welcome Class of 2006

The first students of the Master's Degree Program in Coexistence and Conflict will be arriving in fall 2004. Professionals from around the globe are preparing to come to Brandeis in the upcoming months for the intensive 16-month program. Related public events will be announced online. Email masterscoex@brandeis.edu for more details on the program.

Third Annual Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ)

The 2004 Brandeis Institute for International Judges (BIIJ), entitled "Complementarity and Cooperation: International Courts in a Diverse World," will be held from June 28 to July 3, 2004. The Center will host the institute at the Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, where a group of international judges meet to reflect upon and discuss their unique work. Reports of the 2002 and 2003 institutes are available online and in print.

"Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts" at Brandeis in Fall 2004

The 2003-04 Brandeis International Fellows Program, "Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts," will meet at Brandeis University on October 10 through 17, 2004 for a second institute. Related public events will be announced online.

November 12, 2003

Presentations by the 2003 Brandeis International Fellows (BIF)

Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts

Presented by the Center's Slifka Program in Intercommunal Coexistence. A summary of the 2003 institute is now available online.

Real Life Stories: An Introduction to Playback Theatre, a participatory workshop introducing Playback Theatre's approach to re-enacting the essence of stories led by **Bev Hosking** of New Zealand and **Jenny Hutt** of Australia. They described their work facilitating reconciliation in New Zealand, Fiji, and India. Cosponsored by Department of Theater Arts.

Reconciliation in Sri Lanka: Our Personal Journeys, a talk by **Iffat Fatima** and **Lisa Kois** of Sri Lanka. They reflected on their

personal experiences leading to and creating "The Road to Peace," a film documenting how Tamil and Sinhalese communities are working through the legacy of the civil war through stories, visual art, and ritual. They screened an excerpt from the film. Cosponsored by the International Club.

Legacy of Absence: A Cambodian Story, a discussion with **Ingrid Muan** and **Ly Daravuth** of Cambodia on Reyum, the Institute of Arts and Culture in Phnom Penh. Reyum seeks to engage the community in addressing the legacy of the Khmer Rouge period, and create spaces for community reflection, conversation, and education. Cosponsored by the Southeast Asian Club.

Music Unites: Teaching about Culture and History through Music, a pilot partnership program between Brandeis University and the Waltham Public Schools. **Lena Slachmuislder**, **Nicholas Djanie**, and **Stompie Selibe** taught about their lives and work through a performance and discussion of their music with 100 fifth graders from Waltham elementary schools. Cosponsored by Music Unites.

Paradise on a River of Hell, a screening of the documentary film about violence in Kashmir during the 1990s. **Iffat Fatima** engaged the group in a dialogue on Kashmir and the film's treatment of the subject. Cosponsored by the Indian/Pakistani Dialogue Group.

Art, Social Development, and Reconciliation in Africa. **Kim Berman** and **Stompie Selibe** discussed their work in community outreach and development programs that use art processes as a medium for engaging social change in South Africa. **Lena Slachmuislder** and **Nicholas Djanie** spoke about how they have used African drumming, music, and song to promote reconciliation in divided communities in Rwanda and Burundi. Cosponsored by the Program in Sustainable International Development.

Music Unites: Teaching about Culture and History through Music. *Nicholas Djanie, Lena Slachmuislder, and Stompie Selibe share their music and experiences with fifth graders from Waltham Public Schools, MA.*



Presentations by the 2003 Ethics and Coexistence Fellows (ECSF)

Issues of Fear and Identity in Engaging with Your Community, a presentation by **Ayham Bahnassi '05**, who worked with Friends of the Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Parents Circle in Cambridge, MA and **Matthew Harris '04**, who worked at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. They questioned how one reconciles personal values and moral judgments with regard to issues of coexistence that often challenge the normative and comfortable ideologies of a society. Their presentation illustrated how conscientious objectors in South Africa under apartheid and members of the Muslim and Jewish communities have faced such challenges.

Between Hope and Struggle: Dialogue in Sri Lanka and Israel, talk by **Marina Pevzner '04**, who worked with AHIMSA in Sri Lanka. Building on her experiences in Israel, she discussed the successes and challenges of facilitating dialogue in Sri Lanka.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood? Community in a Post-Conflict Nation, a discussion by **Paul Adler '04**, and **Deirdre Mooney '05** who worked with Fundación Turcios Lima, Guatemala and Ikamva Labantu in Cape Town, South Africa, respectively. They addressed how

the citizens of post-apartheid South Africa and post-civil war Guatemala are adjusting to their changed societies.

Living on la Finca: Community Development from the Bottom Up, a presentation by **Xiomara Gonzalez '05**. She discussed her work with Fundación Turcios Lima, Guatemala and explored how a common philosophy, non-opportunist technical support, and a high level of organization from the bottom up contribute to the creation of an egalitarian structure.

Selected Highlights of Fall 2003 and Winter 2004 Events

MARCH

Recalling Brown/Reclaiming Brown: The Struggle for School E/quality, Then and Now, a program commemorating the landmark Supreme Court decision that outlawed school segregation. It considered the current struggles to ensure high-quality education for all Americans. A presentation by MacArthur Fellow and distinguished Brandeis feminist historian Jacqueline Jones focused on the historical contexts of efforts for equal education. Hosted by the Women's Studies Program.

Rethinking the Juvenile Death Penalty: The Case of "Kansas Charley," a talk by Joan Jacobs Brumberg, author and Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow and professor at Cornell University. Using the story of Charles Miller, Brumberg examines the contemporary predicament with "boy culture" and addresses what it means for the United States to continue to uphold the juvenile death penalty. Hosted by the Department of American Studies.

The Dr. Ralph Bunche Lecture: Black Americans and U.S. Foreign Affairs, a talk by Brenda Gayle Plummer, professor of history, University of Wisconsin, on the role of African Americans in international policy and Dr. Ralph Bunche's involvement in the formation of the state of Israel. Hosted by the Department of African and Afro-American Studies.

Reflections on Violence and Social Justice: *The Weather Underground*, a screening of the Oscar-nominated documentary that followed the rise and fall of the Weather Underground. The film was followed by discussions with Bernardine Dohrn, ex-Weather Underground leader, and Sam Green, documentarian and film director. Hosted by the Radical Student Alliance.

***Jung Aur Aman/War and Peace*, a documentary about Kashmir**, a film screening. Dramatically framed by the murder of Mahatma Gandhi, the documentary represents a journey of peace activism in the face of global militarism and war. Hosted by Students for a Just Society.

FEBRUARY

Unmasking Esther: Purim Activist Workshop, an interactive performance narrating the Jewish holiday of Purim in an activist and feminist light. Hosted by Nashim.

My Years as a Civil Rights Activist in Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a lecture by Bob Smith, Boston activist and director of Residential Services at the Fuller Mental Health Center. He explored his involvement in the civil rights movement during his college education and his decision to interrupt his studies to pursue justice and interracial respect. Hosted by the Department of African and Afro-American Studies.

NOVEMBER

Escape From Slavery: A Proclamation for Emancipation, a talk by Francis Bok who at age seven was sold into slavery. He escaped 10 years later and is now an abolitionist. Hosted by *Concord Bridge* magazine.

After AIDS—Decision Making for National Survival: A Case Study from Lesotho, lecture and discussion with Dr. William Bicknell, professor of International Health at Boston University's School of Public Health. Bicknell explored the social, economic, ethical, and service delivery dilemmas related to the AIDS pandemic. Hosted by the International and Global Studies Program.

OCTOBER

Muslim, Black, and Engaged: A View of the Global Crisis, a lecture by Lansine Kaba, professor of history, University of Illinois at Chicago. Hosted by the Department of History.

Beehive Collective Tour, a presentation by The Beehive Arts and Design Collective on colonization, militarization, and resource extraction of Central and South America, with talks about the Free Trade Area of the Americas and Plan Colombia. Hosted by the Radical Student Alliance.

Local Artist Inspired by the Slifka Program

After reading about the Slifka Program in *Intercommunal Coexistence* in the Boston Globe, artist Ellie Garber felt inspired. A proponent of peace building through education, and a deeply political person, she had been looking for a way to connect her business to a larger human service. Garber's business, Ellie and Friends, represents 40 artists and small

manufacturers of jewelry, crafts, candles, and other fine goods, and now donates a portion of their profits to the Slifka program. Adding a greater social dimension to her business was always a priority for Ellie, and she hopes other small businesses will follow her example. This initiative has yielded significant success thus far, and Ellie and Friends is considering adding

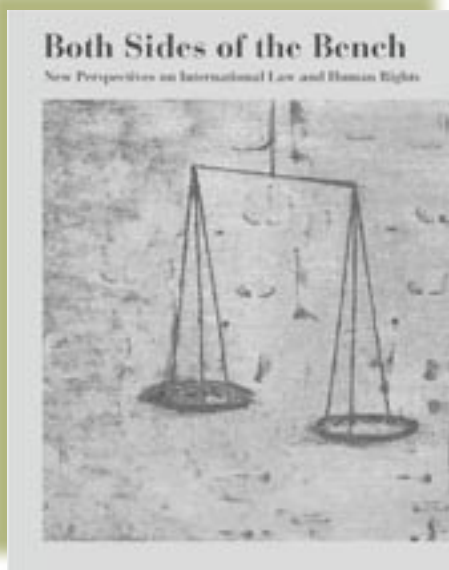
new products to this line for peace education. Candlemaker Catherine Banghart and Robert More of Red Horseshoe Papers are two of the primary artists of this line. The Slifka Program would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Ellie and Friends and looks forward to a long and fruitful relationship. For more information contact elliegoods@aol.com.

New Publications

Both Sides of the Bench: New Perspectives on International Law and Human Rights

“Both Sides of the Bench: New Perspectives on International Law and Human Rights” highlights the work of the 2001-03 Brandeis International Fellows in Human Rights, Intervention, and International Law. It also documents the themes raised in the related symposium, also entitled “Both Sides of the Bench,” held on April 1-3, 2003 at Brandeis University. The publication is intended to serve as a resource for individuals and institutions involved in the work of the international judiciary.

Hosted by the Center, the 2001-03 Brandeis International Fellowship (BIF) program was designed to provoke new kinds of thinking about, and innovative approaches to, the work of judges serving on international and regional courts. The program was built on the Center’s conviction that the successful administration of justice at any level depends on judges’ considering perspectives from “both sides of the bench.” In fall 2001, the Center convened 10 scholars, educators, activists, and judges from around the world for the first of a series of three institutes at Brandeis University, each combining collaborative sessions and individual reflection.



Informed both by the content of the institutes and personal experience, each fellow authored a project—ranging from scholarly articles to curriculum modules—over the course of the fellowship. These projects are diverse, in form and function as well as in geographical and ideological perspective. The common thread that binds them is the idea that social, political, and personal contexts matter in international law.

During the symposium, Fellows were joined by US-based judges, scholars, and other professionals with experience in law and international affairs. The symposium sessions asked the question of how to integrate non-judicial perspectives into the work of the international justice system. Fellows drew upon their projects to tackle this and related questions in their presentations. Respondents drew in turn upon their own experiences in suggesting fruitful interactions between the international legal system and the worlds of NGOs, scholars, diplomacy, and other fields.

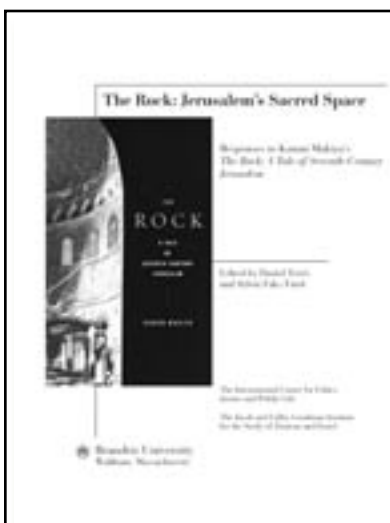
“The Rock: Jerusalem’s Sacred Space,” responses to Kanan Makiya’s novel, *The Rock*

On March 3, 2002, Brandeis University hosted a symposium to coincide with the publication of *The Rock: A Tale of Seventh-Century Jerusalem* (Pantheon Books, 2001), a novel by Brandeis professor and Iraqi-born writer, Kanan Makiya.

The Rock, a work of fiction based on meticulous research, depicts seventh-century Jerusalem, from the Muslim conquest to the building of the Dome of the Rock, through the eyes of the son of the most prominent early convert from Judaism to Islam. The novel asks us to re-think our ideas about this sacred space, tracing the origins of myths about the Rock to tangled roots in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic tradition. No plot of ground has inspired human passion for as long and as deeply as the raised platform in Jerusalem that Jews call the Temple Mount and Muslims call the Haram al-Sharif.

The symposium looked beyond the current political conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians to explore the ways in which men and women of three ancient faiths have invested

meanings in the city’s stones. Makiya led the event by reading a selection from his book and taking questions from the audience. His presentation was followed by a panel discussion, that examined questions raised in *The Rock* through the lenses of religion, history, architecture, and the literary imagination. Makiya’s presentation and the panelists responses are documented in the publication, “The Rock: Jerusalem’s Sacred Space.”



Copies of “Both Sides of the Bench” and “The Rock: Jerusalem’s Sacred Space” are available online at www.brandeis.edu/ethics or contact the Center for a hard copy. All Center publications are free of charge.

Literary Responses to Mass Violence

The symposium, “Literary Responses to Mass Violence,” was held in September 2003 at Brandeis University. In collaboration with the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis University and Ben Gurion University in Israel, the Center hosted this international gathering of writers and scholars to explore how literature responds to political violence or national catastrophes. Participants included renowned authors such as Taha Mubammad Ali, Rashel Talsbir, Boubacar Diop, Peter Dale Scott, and Antjie Krog. A publication of the participants’ remarks and commentary on the event is forthcoming. What follows is a selection from the forthcoming publication which will include participants’ written remarks. It will be available in print and online.

A Selection from “Nations, Populations, Language” by Antjie Krog

It is problematic to write in a language which has become the language of atrocities, when parts of it have died off, when the language has lost its humanity and become an armoured language. During the hearings of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) all the victims testified in their mother tongues, but whenever they conveyed orders that had been barked out to them, the phrasing was in Afrikaans. The words used to humiliate, all the orders given to kill, belonged to the language of my heart. At the hearings many of the victims faithfully reproduced these parts of their stories in Afrikaans as proof of the bloody fingerprints upon them. For four years, often the only Afrikaans heard in the halls of the Truth Commission hearings were words like *Hou jou bek*, *Jy gaan kak*, *Skiet hulle*, *meid*, *kaffer*, and so forth.

It made me ask questions about the literature in my language. Is the writer not attuned to the unheard? Shouldn't the writer pick up what is happening? Where are the poems that match the horror experienced by the victims? Where is the novel explaining how ordinary people turn into brutal killers? I learn to live by poetry. Literature teaches me how to live. Why was I, and many others, shocked by the testimonies of the victims? Has my literature failed me? I put my own volumes next to the TRC report and, although I have been regarded as being too political a poet, what I had written was pathetic in the face of history. For this I have no excuse or explanation.

Fortunately I also have another memory. During the mid-eighties, under quite dangerous circumstances, I was asked to take part in a Free Mandela rally. I agonised for days about what language to use. If I were to use Afrikaans I might find an audience of hundreds of youths turning their anger-against-the-oppressor towards me as the only visible Afrikaner target. On the other hand I wanted

to make the point that it is precisely as an Afrikaner that I was standing there.

When I took the megaphone that day it was in a kind of disbelief. I stammered the first line. The main poet came and stood next to me, he shouted the first verse loudly and repeated it. I got the idea and yelled the first verse into the megaphone, my voice from another planet. There was loud cheering. The main poet repeated the first line and I repeated it and the cheering doubled. By the third verse the crowd joined me rhythmically in Afrikaans: *Die vuur is Mandela! Mandela in Máokeng* (This fist is Mandela!) From there the poem took on a life of its own. Mandela was among us. Mandela in a coat—we saw him, we heard him stirring in the sirens, we sat with him behind the school desks, we saw his tracks in the dusty streets of the township, Mandela breathed among us, he ate in the outbuildings, he raised his fist in the prisons. From the dusty winds blowing across the plains, he would come to us and set us free. People jumped: Thaaa! Tha-thaa! *Die vuur is Mandela!* a mixture of Afrikaans and Sesotho. People furiously toyi-toyied, which then turned into an angry thumping dance in which everyone aimed imaginary AK-47's at the faces of the policemen, who, not to be outdone, were brandishing their own weapons across the fence.

Therefore, my own response to being a poet in a language linked to oppression and violence is to deliberately *stay* in that language, to open up spaces there, to expand the vocabulary, to undermine the official tone and grammar and syntax, to bring into that language the unheard. So I deliberately set out to find words for that silence, to pitch my white voice among black and coloured accents, sentiments, perspectives, to force the language of power to hear the unheard—not as my own inventions, but as things against which I myself as a writer have to answer for and position myself about.



Antjie Krog

“Mandela breathed among us, he ate in the outbuildings, he raised his fist in the prisons. From the dusty winds blowing across the plains, he would come to us and set us free.”

JUSTICE—continued from page 1

justice” as seen in the creation of the International Criminal Court on the one hand, and “global Islamic awakenings” as seen in the establishment of Sharia law on the other. The ambivalent position occupied by migrants and guestworkers living in European countries was described by Yasemin Soysal (University of Essex). While individual identity and rights have historically derived from citizenship, the past decades have increasingly seen non-citizen residents making claims to host country authorities by appealing instead to a universalized discourse on rights. Sally Merry (Wellesley College) spoke of the universal protection of women as outlined in the Convention for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) and the complex reactions of both locals and international human rights proponents to the prosecution of rape in Fiji using *mbulubulu*, a traditional system for resolving conflicts through ritual apology and forgiveness.

The third panel, “Restorative Justice: Reconciliation, Reparations, and Forgiveness,” focused on attempts to end and recover from conflict and violence outside of conventional judicial settings. Omar Dajani (McGeorge School of Law) spoke of his experiences as a United Nations advisor on the Palestinian/Israeli conflict from 2001-2003. He suggested various reasons for the failure of negotiations between Israel

and the Palestinian Authority, including the inability of Palestinians to control not only their present circumstances but also interpretations of their past. The role of remorse in the process of reconciliation in post-conflict societies was addressed by Leigh Payne (University of Wisconsin). Through examining the confessions of perpetrators of state crimes in Latin America and Africa, Payne suggests that true remorse—and its consequent healing effects for victims—is rare, and that confessions can themselves become a kind of performance instead of a heart-felt apology for past actions. Dumisa Ntsebeza, a former commissioner of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), contributed his own experiences of transitional justice in his native country, concluding that the TRC did not ultimately promote reconciliation between victim and perpetrator and, furthermore, benefited the latter more than the former.

The enthusiastic response to the *Justice Across Cultures* conference, by both participants and audience, illustrates the importance of such discussions in understanding the complex landscape of justice systems and processes found in the world today. The Center plans to organize further events that will allow for more in-depth examination of these and related topics. The papers presented in *Justice Across Cultures* will be made available in both print and web format in the near future.



Yasemin Soysal, University of Essex



(left to right) Omar Dajani, Dumisa Ntsebeza, Leigh Payne and moderator Cynthia Cohen discuss “Restorative Justice: Reconciliation, Reparations, and Forgiveness.”

The Newcomers Among Us: A New Series of Seminars in the Humanities and the Professions

When Brandeis University was founded in 1948, its new faculty included many Jewish refugees from war-torn Europe who had come to the United States in search of peace and a safe place to resume their religious and intellectual lives. The Center has instituted a new program that honors the early Brandeis connection to refugees as well as its institutional commitment to diversity.

The Center, in collaboration with the Network for Expanding Newcomer Advocacy (NENA) and the Framingham State College Center for Global Education, has recently initiated a series of daylong seminars on issues associated with contemporary immigration in Massachusetts. This series, entitled *The Newcomers Among Us: Sharing Experiences and Learning Lessons*, has as its audience a wide range of people whose work directly or indirectly brings them into contact with immigrants and refugees in the Boston area and beyond. Each seminar is made up of approximately 20 participants, representing a spectrum of domains, including city government, education, health, public safety, public libraries, local judicial systems, the clergy, small enterprise, and immigration/refugee services.

The series' first seminar was held in Framingham, Massachusetts in November 2003. Entitled "From Minas to Massachusetts," it focused on recent Brazilian immigration that has changed the character of many suburbs to the west of Boston. The second in the series took place in April 2004 in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston where immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cape Verde, and many other countries have settled in the last two decades. Over the next 16 months, the Center plans to hold five more seminars around the Boston area.

The Newcomers Among Us series provides a forum for exploring many pressing issues surrounding contemporary immigration in the Boston region. Topics of discussion include:

- coordinating efforts to serve newcomers across boundaries of profession, country of origin, and neighborhood of settlement;
- gaining a perspective on the historical and economic events surrounding the current influx of immigrants and refugees to Massachusetts;

- creating connections—social, economic, and educational—between newcomer and host communities;
- managing the administrative and economic challenges that immigration brings to a community; and
- understanding the hesitancy of host communities to increased immigration and exploring productive responses to this hesitancy.

The principal outcome of this series will be the creation of a collaborative network of professionals in the Boston area who can consult and advise each other about the challenges that arise in the course of their work with immigrants and refugees. The cooperation and knowledge-sharing that results from such a network will fill a gap felt keenly by people working in this field, many of whom are isolated from peers, overwhelmed by caseloads, and have few opportunities to engage in professional development activities. Important benefits to members of the diverse immigrant and refugee communities in the Boston area will follow from this increased sense of professional community. As human service providers, educators, community

association leaders, public safety officials, and others become more connected with their peers and counterparts, the assistance they are able to provide to newcomers, and their level of responsiveness to a vast array of newcomer issues, will be significantly enhanced.

This seminar series follows the successful Brandeis Seminars in Humanities and the Professions technique of using literature as a point of departure for reflection and discussion, with participants contributing the experiences of their professional lives as a "second text." Seminar materials include short stories, poetry, and plays. Using such materials encourages participants to step back from their immediate concerns and view the immigration experience from new and multiple angles. The resulting seminar discussions create a powerful sense of shared experiences and common goals among participants, as well as an esprit de corps that is less likely to emerge from an event focused on problem-solving and the strictly pragmatic aspects of their day-to-day work.

For more information, contact Leigh Swigart, associate director at swigart@brandeis.edu.



A sample of the selected readings for "The Newcomers Among Us" seminar series which includes poetry, plays, and essays

Center “Fellows” Collaborate for a New Undergraduate Experience

Over the past six years, Brandeis undergraduates in the Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows (ECSF) program have interned in coexistence organizations from Argentina to Tanzania. This year the selection process for intern sites is different. In a new collaboration between the current Brandeis International Fellows (BIF) program, *Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts*, and the 2004 ECSF program, Brandeis International Fellows will mentor undergraduates who serve as interns in their organizations.

In preparation for this collaboration, both groups of Fellows met during the BIF program's first institute in November 2003. This provided

an opportunity to share their work and discuss mutual interests during informal discussions and public presentations (see page 4.) This is the first time that participants in the ECSF program have had the opportunity to begin to shape a relationship with their mentors before their arrival at the internship site in the summer. In addition, all Fellows will reunite during the culminating institute for the 2003 BIF program in October 2004. This new approach to the ECSF and BIF programs provides a unique opportunity for participants in both programs. Each will inform the other's work, together addressing the use of culture and the arts for reconciliation in divided societies.



Kim Berman and Stompie Selibe at Artist Proof/Phumani paper in South Africa will serve as mentors for Darnisa Amante '06 and Amy Schiller '06.



As part of the ECSF program, Fellows are joined by other undergraduates in Cynthia Cohen's spring course, Introduction to Intercommunal Coexistence.



Ly Daravuth and Ingrid Muan at Reyum in Cambodia will serve as mentors for Joshua Russell '06 and Daniel Ludevig '06.

Introducing the 2004 Ethics & Coexistence Student Fellows

Darnisa Amante '06, from Brooklyn, NY, studies anthropology, history, French, and international and global studies. She is the director of political affairs for the BBSO (Brandeis Black Student Organization,) works for *The Justice*, and is involved in improvisational comedy on campus. In the summer of 2003, Darnisa served as the Mosaic ambassador for diversity at Brandeis, facilitating discussions on race, class, and gender. She also worked as a middle school teacher for the Breakthrough Collaborative/Summerbridge Internship program in San Francisco, CA, teaching history, cartooning, and planning activities for low-income students. Darnisa will work with 2003 Brandeis International Fellows Kim Berman and Stompie Selibe at Artist Proof Studio/Phumani Paper in Johannesburg, South Africa this summer.

Lisa Kim '06, from Roosevelt Island, NY, is majoring in politics and international and global studies. At Brandeis, she serves as vice president of the Korean Student Association, senior editor of *Monsoon* (Brandeis Asian Affairs Journal), and a mentor for the Student Support Services Program. Lisa is a tutor with the Brandeis ESL Initiative (an English language instruction program for kitchen and custodial staff,) and received a 2003 Brandeis Hewlett Pluralism grant to produce a short film on Korean-American identity. Since age 12, Lisa has been a member of Prep For Prep, a New York City-based organization that seeks to create a diverse pool of national leaders through education. Lisa will work with AHIMSA, a grassroots organization in Sri Lanka concerned with developing a non-violent culture in a war-torn society.

Daniel Ludevig '06, from Mohegan Lake, NY, studies psychology, philosophy, economics, and Spanish. He is the founder of STAR (Students Talking about Relationships) a Brandeis peer counseling and education program; recipient of 2002 Hewlett Alliance Pluralism grant to host a leadership/diversity conference for orientation leaders; and president of the Brandeis Ballroom Dance Team. In addition to his studies, campus activities, and playing piano, Daniel has worked with the Northern Westchester Battered Women's Shelter; New York City's Fresh Air fund; and Camp Hidden Valley, a program for young people with emotional and



2004 Ethics and Coexistence Student Fellows (back row) Darnisa Amante '06, Daniel Ludevig '06, Patrick Raymond '05 (front row) Lisa Kim '06, Joshua Russel '06, Amy Schiller '06

physical disabilities. Daniel will join 2003 Brandeis International Fellows Ly Daravuth and Ingrid Muan at Reyum in Cambodia for his internship.

Patrick Raymond '05 is a Posse scholar from Brooklyn, NY. A sociology and politics major, he is a member of the Brandeis dialogue between African Americans and orthodox Jews, the BBSO, and AHORA (a Hispanic/Latino awareness group.) He is also captain of the men's lacrosse team. Patrick hosted Hispanic Heritage Month's 2003 main event, "Celebranda Nuestra Mezcla" a celebration of Hispanics throughout the world. In the summer of 2003, he interned with the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition and was responsible for a variety of activities including organizing a summer film series. Patrick will work as an intern in Northern Ireland with Nerve Centre, an organization dedicated to nurturing creative technologies in the region.

Joshua Russell '06 is from Wilton, CT and studies sociology, fine arts, history of ideas, and politics. He is an active member of numerous Brandeis student groups, including the Radical Student Alliance, Brandeis Labor, and ArtAttack. Currently, Joshua is helping to restart the Activist Resource Center. He is committed to independent

media and publication, and is active in publishing do-it-yourself political "zines." He started his first in 1995 and it eventually gained worldwide distribution. Last summer he went on a nationwide speaking tour, reading and performing from zines. Off campus, he is involved with a variety of organizations—performing, writing, and teaching. Joshua will join 2003 Brandeis International Fellows Ly Daravuth and Ingrid Muan at Reyum in Cambodia for his internship.

Amy Schiller '06 is a politics and women's studies major from Shaker Heights, OH. Involved in many activities, she is the equality and recruitment chair of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, an executive board member of SOAR (Society Organized Against Racism,) a steering committee member for the Hewlett Pluralism Alliance, and a member of both the Intercultural Center Programming Board and MOSAIC. Amy is also a student-scholar partner with the Women's Studies Research Center. In the summer of 2003, she worked as a research assistant at John Carroll University and as an intern with the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland, OH. Amy will work with 2003 Brandeis International Fellows Kim Berman and Stompie Selibe at Artist Proof Studio/Phumani Paper in Johannesburg, South Africa this summer.

Center Board Members Meet with Brandeis Students

On March 15, 2004, the Center's International Advisory Board convened at Brandeis University for their annual meeting. During a luncheon at the Brandeis Faculty club dining room, Board members were joined by a selected group of undergraduates for a series of intimate and lively conversations on issues ranging from campus life to international law.

Sitting in small groups, board members and students had the unique opportunity to learn from one another. Diego Arria, former Ambassador to the United Nations for Venezuela, chatted in Spanish with an undergraduate studying South American

politics. Students from sociology and politics met with Chief Justice Margaret Marshall of the Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts. Board members gained insight into how the work of the Center impacts the campus community and were enthused by the passion and spirit of these future leaders.

Students commented that it was a very memorable moment for them. They had an opportunity to meet with individuals they had learned about in class. One student said, "It was amazing, talking with them about making a difference in the world! I was inspired by their optimism about us [the students] and the future."



Jason Brodsky '07 poses for a photo with Center board chair, Theodore Sorensen

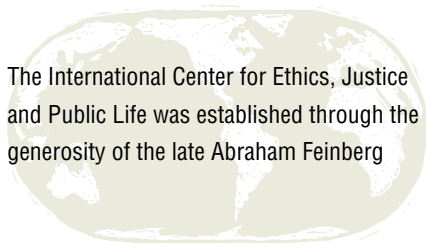


Board members Diego Arria and Margaret Marshall speak with Justinian Doreste Guzman '06

The International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life

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