

2017

PACS / PACSSA Student Colloquium and St. Paul's College University Affiliation Lecture

in collaboration with the Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice

All University Graduate Students are Invited to Attend!



PACS Graduate Student Colloquium

Monday, March 27 | 9 am to 1 pm | Hanley Hall, St. Paul's College

St. Paul's College University Affiliation Lecture

Monday, March 27 | 7 pm to 8:30 pm | Fr. Jensen Theatre, St. Paul's College

with special guest:

Dr. Janie Leatherman

Professor of Politics & International Studies, Fairfield University

9:00 am - 10:00 am | Student Presentations and Discussions

Community Activism in De-silencing the Voices of Young People Affected by Sexual Violence in Jamaica, Michele Lemonius

Understanding Violence against Indigenous Women, Juliana Coughlin

Modern Day Slavery and the Sex Industry: Raising the Voices of Survivors and Collaborators While Confronting Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in Manitoba, Canada, Robert Christmas

10:00 am - 11:00 am | Student Presentations and Discussions

"Putting People First": International Law and the Settlement of the Nigeria-Cameroon Territorial Conflict, Obasesam Okoi

International Aid Only Effective with True Local Collaboration, Katrina Leclerc

Arguments for closed or open borders: filling the gaps with the Indigenous Pedagogy on hospitality, Peter Genger

11:00 am - 12:30 pm | Dr. Janie Leatherman Response and Lunch

(lunch is FREE RSVP not required, but appreciated to mauro_centre@umanitoba.ca)

The Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice Presents / The St. Paul's College University Affiliation Lecture

MAKE _____ GREAT AGAIN.

(Nostalgic Attempts to Exercise Control)

**Monday
March 27, 7pm**

Rm 100—St. Paul's College
70 Dysart Road
University of Manitoba

Free Admission | Free Parking

Dr. Janie Leatherman / Professor of Politics and International Studies at Fairfield University

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Ph.D. and Joint M.A. Programs in Peace and Conflict Studies

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“Putting People First”: International Law and the Settlement of the Nigeria-Cameroon Territorial Conflict

Mr. Obasesam Okoi, Ph.D Candidate, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

How does the implementation of international law generate structural violence? My research examines the role that international law plays in the settlement of the Nigeria-Cameroon conflict, and how human rights problems emerged in Nigeria following the implementation of the International Court of Justice judgment that ceded the Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon. Drawing on empirical evidence, I show how the implementation of international law aggravated structural violence through the displacement of Bakassi people from their homeland and their exposure to vulnerability and poverty. Based on this evidence, I argue that international law is insufficiently developed and limited in its capacity to address the settlement of territorial conflicts beyond the cessation of armed conflict between rival states. I recommend that international law and its implementation by states should accord primacy to the wellbeing of people over territory by promoting a transparent, effective, and accountable system for ensuring full and proper implementation of the human rights and resettlement obligations of governments.

Community Activism in De-silencing the Voices of Young People Affected by Sexual Violence in Jamaica

Ms Michele Lemonius, Ph.D Student, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

Systems of patriarchy have imposed socio-cultural and structural constructs of gender and sexuality to maintain power and control in Third World countries, creating highly volatile States; where women and child rights need urgent attention. As such, there has been a call for immediate activism and research. Jamaica, among the Third World, reports increasing numbers of sexual violence against young people; an epidemic that is perpetuated by a culture of silence and the main cause of the high rate of sexual transmitted diseases among children as young as ten (10) years old. In response, my doctoral research study seeks to understand the experiences of people affected by sexual violence during their childhood and the community activism in Jamaica that promote awareness of the issue, encourage the importance of reporting incidents, and supports for survivors in the communities they service. Grounded in Peace and Conflict studies, this study will focus on gender violence and trauma, storytelling and healing, and human rights (women and child) and activism. Using participatory action research, narrative inquiry and semi structured interviewing, this study will be a collective and reflective exploration of the issue; allowing participants to challenge the culture of silence, recognize and celebrate their strengths, reclaim healthy communities through the cultivation of new knowledge that challenges the existing cultural understanding of gender and sexual violence.

Modern Day Slavery and the Sex Industry: Raising the Voices of Survivors and Collaborators While Confronting Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in Manitoba, Canada.

Robert Christmas, Ph.D Candidate, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

Sexual exploitation and human sex trafficking are a multi-billion dollar international industry in which many Canadian women and children are trafficked and exploited, hurt and sometimes murdered by predators. This research widens the net from previous research, including interviews with 61 experts across Manitoba, including police, First Nations and other political leaders, government and non-government service providers and sex trafficking survivors.

Semi-structured interviews elicited respondents' perspectives on aspects of sex trafficking and exploitation including (1) language around the issue, (2) approaches tried and what should be done going forward, (3) reducing youth vulnerability, (4) the effect of laws and justice system approaches, (5) and challenges and opportunities for improvement. This study utilized an inductive qualitative approach and open-end grounded analysis of the participants' observations and stories.

The findings demonstrate that: (1) early risk factors can be identified and addressed to reduce vulnerability to being exploited; (2) more flexible ongoing supports to escape the sex industry can empower survivors; (3) greater coordination and collaboration are needed between survivor-oriented programs; (4) new resources, such as more and better equipped safe houses and local and regional coordination hubs can provide a safety net for people who are being exploited in the sex industry; (5) increased counter exploitation education can potentially improve youth resilience and can affect the public discourse around the issue.

Arguments for closed or open borders: filling the gaps with the Indigenous Pedagogy on hospitality

Peter Genger, PhD student, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

Current debates on border regulation and de-regulation have not departed from the arguments represented in the works of Christopher H. Wellman (2008) and Joseph H. Carens (1987). Wellman argues for closed borders and the exportation of justice to the "unjust environment" of fleeing immigrants. In counteraction to Carens states that compelled by distributive and egalitarian justice, borders should not be regulated against immigrants from unfair situations. This paper is arguing that unless the unfair situations in immigrants' homelands are tackled and immigration policies are rejigged to groom immigrants with the nostalgia to be part of the transformation, the debate will be far from satisfying the conventional desire for just and safe environment everywhere. The indigenous theory of hospitality teaches that there is no disconnection between the reception of stranger and transformation of the stranger's home. This pedagogy is thus examined, as a way of filling the existing gap and arguing

that more emphases to be directed towards transforming immigrants' homelands than border regulation or deregulation and exportation of military or aid subsidies.

Key words: Closed, Open, Border, exportation, justice, indigenous, hospitality

International Aid Only Effective with True Local Collaboration

Katrina Leclerc, Joint Masters Program student, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

This research seeks to understand the impact of the Girl Ambassadors for Peace – a program for the empowerment of women and girls – on rural women and girls in conflict-affected areas, specifically in North and South Kivu, DRC. The thesis argues that some development programs, such as the Girl Ambassadors for Peace, can be beneficial to peacebuilding in conflict-affected zones, through the delicate and sincere collaboration with local grassroots organizations. Furthermore, in order for women and girls to fully live their human rights in such regions, they must first begin to understand the essence of women's rights and their place in the world. Through the Girl Ambassadors for Peace, these girls are enabled to take control of their education and empower other girls to do the same. Gender equality is at the forefront of the quest for world peace; without a focus on gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities for women and girls, world peace and security cannot be obtained.

Understanding Violence Against Indigenous Women

Juliana Coughlin, Joint Masters Program student, Peace and Conflict Studies

Abstract

The social conflict of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada needs urgent action and a deeper understanding of the ongoing violence and trauma endured by Indigenous women. This research will strive to gain a greater understanding of the perspectives Indigenous women have of the sex trade by working with women involved in this industry.

The overall objective will be to listen to how Indigenous women understand the social construction of the sex trade, what the roots causes of this industry are, the challenges faced on a daily basis and what the path forward should look like. Within this, I am hopeful that agency and choice will be highlighted in some form through dialogue with Indigenous women themselves.

Moreover, the research will engage with Indigenous women working in this area, to tell their stories in the hope of developing peaceful and sustainable solutions to ending the violence.