



## Introducing our 2018 Human Rights Research Fellows!

Meet our wonderful cohort of student research fellows! Each fellow is supported by the Center and conducts their research with a member of the CMC faculty. See their proposed projects on **page 4** and follow their journeys on our website!

## Student OP-ED: Civil Rights are Human Rights

By **Mohamad Moslimani '21**

Human rights and civil rights are much more similar than we often understand. They encompass ethical principles of what should be guaranteed to members of society. Often times, we understand human rights as a broader declaration of the rights of life, liberty, and material security. Civil rights are instead those rights which we seek to secure from the institutions of our respective societies, namely the right to be treated homogeneously as a population in a way that does not infringe on our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - often with no substantial emphasis on material or social security.

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## The Refugee Predicament in Lebanon



*Eric Bordenkircher, Visiting Assistant Professor of Government, November 15, 2017*

Professor Bordenkircher's talk took a historical approach to the issue of refugees in Lebanon. He examined the Palestinian and Syrian refugee experience in Lebanon and answered several questions during the course of the presentation: How are the experiences of Palestinian and Syrian refugees similar? How are they different? What does the future hold for the refugees of Lebanon?

Eric J. Bordenkircher received his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies from the University of California Los Angeles. His research focuses on the politics of weak and/or failed states in the Middle East. He has spent roughly three years in the Middle

East as an affiliate at the American University of Beirut's Center for Arab and Middle East Studies and a Research Assistant at the Université Saint-Joseph's Centre d'études pour le monde arabe modern. He is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College.

Professor Bordenkircher's talk was sponsored by the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College.

# New Initiatives!

## Legal Clinic By: Will Carter '21

The November 10th Legal Clinic Lunch and Information Session was organized by the Mgrublian Center to introduce interested students to the practice of law, specifically human rights law. Two human rights lawyers were invited to talk about their life journeys and respective legal domains. Both lawyers were also interested in taking on student volunteers to assist them in case research.

The first lawyer to speak was Mark Palmer (1st picture), a CMC '88 graduate. Palmer has established a successful twenty-two year career in the fields of financial advising, wealth management and business consulting. In addition to his career, Mr. Palmer now also dedicates time to his pro bono work providing legal assistance and representation to refugees seeking asylum in the U.S., most of whom are fleeing dangerous or abusive situations in Latin America. Over the past two years, Mr. Palmer has included CMC students in his legal research efforts. This information thus helped Mr. Palmer to construct a convincing argument for why his clients sought refuge in the U.S.

The second lawyer to speak was Nazareth M. Haysbert (2nd picture). Haysbert is the Managing Partner of the Los Angeles, CA-based law firm, Haysbert Moultrie, LLP. A trial lawyer, Haysbert concentrates his legal practice on the areas of civil counter-terrorism litigation, class action/mass tort litigation and global human rights. During the info session, Mr. Haysbert detailed how he worked with the U.S. government on policy related to the war in Afghanistan while a student at Georgetown University. He also discussed how pursuing what you love will inevitably bring success. Haysbert's inspiring talk revealed his raw passions for justice and empathy and his story touched many of the students at the lunch.

The Legal Clinic Lunch and Information Session was a great success and in January 2018 interested students will form the Mgrublian Center Legal Clinic as they work to support both Mr. Palmer and Mr. Haysbert. This new endeavor is a great opportunity for undergraduate students to work with legal professionals and gain valuable experience and insight as they consider a future career in law.

## MCHR Film Series

The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights is pleased to announce a new 2017-18 human rights film series! Films have the power to change minds, foster conversation and dialogue, and encourage empathy and understanding. Movies like *Blood Diamond*, *Hotel Rwanda*, *The Promise*, and others have helped shape discourse around human rights violations and have been crucial in social justice movements. The film series is being organized by Student Assistant, Eli Zucker, a freshman from Los Angeles, California. His interests in human rights began at a young age after hearing the stories of his grandparents who are Holocaust survivors.

- November 19th, 7pm: *The Children Were Watching* by Drew Associates
- February 2nd, 7pm: *TAXI*, by Jafar Panahi
- Additional films/dates: TBD

Email Eli to suggest a film: [ezucker21@cmc.edu](mailto:ezucker21@cmc.edu)



## *Civil Rights are Human Rights*

by: Mohamad Moslimani

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The creation of the United Nations saw the establishment of the world's first set of international human rights. This guideline, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), advocated for more than the United States-understood elements of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The elements it presents consist of principles we've previously mentioned—the modernized and substantive ideals of a right to material security. In Article 22 of the document, it notes: *"Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for [their] dignity and the free development of [their] personality."*

When we realize how long ago these standards were set forth—as long ago as the 1940's—we may question how far we've come in meeting those standards. Until the 1960's there still existed "civil rights movements." These movements are considered their sums of the many underrepresented groups of American society rising up as one to challenge the status quo of the nation that they argue discriminates against them. These calls for "civil rights" are not to be confused calls for "civil liberties." Civil rights are focus on the rights to be free from unequitable treatment, while civil liberties focus more substantively on the core principles of individualism, such as those that early American founders established. The most prolific examples of individuals calling for action to rectify civil rights violations lie within our recent past, with such leaders as Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez. Martin Luther King Jr. is known for his work in leading activists to nonviolently disrupt the peace. His actions would often land him in jail and place him under the criticism of a majority of the population. His focus was to push policies regarding the desegregation of public spaces and the passage of voting rights reform for black people and other people of color. Cesar Chavez worked within the same time period as King, organizing farm workers to unionize and fight for livable wages and safer working conditions. Chavez understood the basic humanity of the laborers and the rights guaranteed to them under the UDHR, and committed his life to his idea that if the work of the laborer be utilized, then the laborer should be compensated with a more substantial level of material security.

How far did efforts like these go in shaping the world today? That depends on whom we ask. Leveling the playing field and rectifying issues of inequity takes more than just one decade of major civil rights protests, especially when we understand the pushback the movement experienced at the time. Today, we have movements like Black Lives Matter (BLM) calling for common sense policing practices and an end to harmful policies like the war on drugs. These protestors exhibit many of the same techniques as MLK, such as peaceful disruptions of the status quo through blocking traffic, hosting mass protests, rallying around instances of police overuse of deadly force to call for justice. Similar to the movements of the past, BLM as a civil rights movement is not seen favorably. Nor were calls for marriage equality, along with the continuing efforts following that landmark to pass necessary anti-discrimination legislation to protect sexual orientation and gender identity in more than 25 states.

Our final thoughts should be of those which seek to address civil rights for what they are—human rights. This is an important distinction to make not only for the gravity of the words we use to describe our rights, but also how this distinction connects us to the broader globe. In reality, there's nothing fallacious or misleading about it either. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the standard for Human Rights, maintains not only that all are to be seen as equal before the law, but that everyone may utilize freedom of expression, assembly, and their preordained political will in any way necessary to maintain their rights, if they are ever in question. By these ideas, how could we ever come to say that civil rights are anything but human rights?



# 2017-18 Research Fellows

Fellows conduct independent human rights research with the Center and a CMC faculty advisor



**Pallavi Deshpande '19 - *Is Education the Path to Peace in Kashmir?***

Pallavi is a junior at CMC majoring in Economics. On campus, she is involved with student government, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Claremont Women in Business. Her experiences working for organizations and projects that work to improve literacy rates amongst underprivileged students in India piqued her interest in the importance of educational institutions in combating radicalization and promoting economic and social independence.



**Medina Latic '20 - *Analysis of International Intervention and its Impact on the Bosnian War, 1992-1995:***

Medina is a sophomore from Chicago who has a strong passion for international relations, government, and human rights. Her work with the Mgrublian Center began because both of her parents are war refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her family's history and that of her native country inspired her 2017 summer internship in Sarajevo with the Association of Transitional Justice, Accountability, and Remembrance on the documentation of concentration camps and places of detention in Bosnia.



**Ravi Sadhu '19 - *Sociocultural Determinants of Child Mortality in India:***

Ravi is a junior pursuing a dual major in Biology and Religious Studies. He is an aspiring physician who plans to pursue Medicine with an interest in global health and development. Ravi grew up in Bangalore, India, and the medical experience he has gained in rural areas in India and Nepal has shaped his interest in the link between the humanities and healthcare. While his past research was in the field of genetics and microbiology, he is also involved with research in the field of behavioral ecology of black phoebe birds.

**Asher Greenberg '18 - *A Case Study on Conspiracy Theories of Nazi Assets Going to Latin America***

Asher is a senior at CMC majoring in International Relations and History with a Human Rights, Genocide, and Holocaust Studies Sequence

Growing up in a largely Jewish community with a number of survivors, he has always had an interest in Holocaust studies. This has sparked his interest in the continuation of injustices suffered by the victims, particularly with regards to the displacement of monetary and cultural property.



**Malea Martin '19 - *Educational Methods in Jewish and Holocaust Museums***

Malea is a Junior at CMC dual-majoring in Government and Literature with a Sequence in Human Rights, Genocide and Holocaust Studies. Malea worked with the Center last year as a Student Assistant,

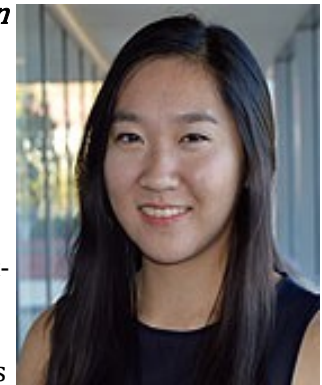
and this year she is a Research Fellow completing a project about educational methods in European Jewish museums. In her non-academic time, Malea enjoys running on the CMS cross country team.



**Marcia Yang '18 - *Tiananmen Square, and the Falun Gong: A Study Tracking Changing Attitudes of Chinese Baby Boomers:***

Marcia is a Senior majoring in Philosophy and Public Affairs with an interest in international relations, political economy, and human rights. Marcia grew up in Southern California and stories

from her parents about living under Chinese Communist rule, has led to her interest in human rights. She works as a Research Assistant on nuclear weapons and is also an International Journalism Fellow at the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies, and an Arthur R. Adams Fellow in International Political Economy.



## Task Force Updates:

**Benefit Concert:** The Center's student task forces hosted a concert November 3rd which raised funds for victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria. The concert brought together student performers, artists, and activists for a night of fun, music, and human rights! Check out the photos and videos of the performances on our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/MgrublianCenterforHumanRights>

**Amnesty International:** The AI group hosted a Boba Fundraiser to raise proceeds for Hurricane Maria which devastated the island of Puerto Rico. Students raised over \$400 which went to the Unidos por Puerto Rico fund, created by the First Lady of Puerto Rico to provide basic necessities to affected citizens.

### Calling Content Writers for MCHR Newsletter!

Are you a human rights activist? Do you have opinions on pressing civil and human rights issues? Are you a budding journalist looking for a place to publish your work?

Submit ideas to the MCHR Newsletter!

We are currently looking for submissions for articles, event suggestions, and content to be featured in our monthly newsletter. For more information, contact Larissa Peltola (email below).

*To submit event/speaker suggestions, please contact Larissa Peltola, [lpeltola18@cmc.edu](mailto:lpeltola18@cmc.edu)*



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With special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. David and Margaret Mgrublian,  
Professor Hilary Appel, and Kirsti Zitar

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