

The Genocide Studies Program
MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies
at Yale University

2015-16 Annual Report

In 2015-16, the Genocide Studies Program maintained an active schedule of academic events. It also initiated an exciting new partnership with the Charles E. Scheidt Family Fund that will enable the Program to inspire more undergraduates to study and engage in the prevention of mass atrocities.

History

In 1994, the Cambodian Genocide Program (CGP) was established at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (which is now known as the MacMillan Center). In January 1998, the Genocide Studies Program (GSP) was created, expanding the CGP's work into general, comparative, interdisciplinary, and policy issues relating to genocide. The Program conducts research projects, holds regular faculty seminars, occasional conferences at Yale's Institution on Social and Policy Studies, and other programming. The GSP also maintains an award-winning multi-lingual website www.yale.edu/gsp, which is migrated to its new address at www.gsp.yale.edu in 2015.

Faculty

The GSP Steering Committee is comprised of faculty from Yale, Clark, Harvard, and Southern Connecticut State Universities, representing ten disciplines:

Dr. David Simon (Political Science, Yale), Director
Professor Ben Kiernan (A. Whitney Griswold Professor of History, Professor of International and Area Studies, Yale), Founding Director
Professor Ivo Banac (History, Yale)
Dr. Jasmina Besirevic-Regan (Sociology, Yale)
Professor Ned Blackhawk (History/American Studies, Yale)
Dr. Susan E. Cook (Executive Director, Committee on African Studies, Harvard University)
Professor Debórah Dwork (Director, Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University)
Professor Kai Erikson (Sociology, Yale)
Professor Harvey Feinberg (History, Southern Connecticut State University)
Professor Harvey Goldblatt (Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale)
Dr. Dori Laub (Psychiatry, Yale)
Professor Armen T. Marsoobian (Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University)
Professor David Pettigrew (Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University)

Professor Claude Rawson (English, Yale)
Professor James C. Scott (Political Science/Anthropology, Yale)
Professor Timothy Snyder (History, Yale)
Professor Jay Winter (History, Yale)

Staff, Consultants, and Sponsors

The Genocide Studies Program receives generous administrative support from the staff of the MacMillan Center. Hira Jafri provides direct and all-around support for the program, while Rahima Chaudhury, supported herself by Lina Chan and Deanna Lewis, has provided valuable guidance on financial matters. Two undergraduates from Yale College, Mary Jane Geffs and Dixie Schillaci, assisted in special events publicity and programming.

We wish to thank Frederick J. Iseman, Esq., Charles E. Scheidt, Marc Schlossman, Esq., and Prof. Ian Shapiro, the MacMillan Center's Henry Luce Director, for their support of the GSP's work; and the Bill and Dorothy Kempf Foundation, whose support enabled the continuation of the GSP's public activities.

GSP Website and Publications

The GSP website, which includes include homepages in 12 foreign languages, ranks among Yale's largest websites, and annually receive a total of over 1 million hits. All thirty-eight GSP *Working Papers* published since 1998 are accessible online at gsp.yale.edu/resources/publications. The GSP also launched a facebook page and a twitter account in 2016.

The Genocide Studies Activities, 2015-16

Over the course of the year, the GSP's annual seminar series, funded by a generous grant from the Edward J. and Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund, through the MacMillan Center, addressed the theme, "Politicide." The series featured the following talks:

Fall 2015

Oct. 8

Jessica Melvin, University of Melbourne,

"Mechanics of Mass Murder: Military Coordination of the Indonesian Genocide, 1965-66"

Oct. 15

Jeffrey Bachman, American University,

"Flipping the Script: Politicide's Communist Victims"

Oct. 29

Mary Fulbrook, University College, London,

"Doing Justice to the Nazi Past: Memorialisation and Disappearance of Perpetrators."

Spring 2016

Feb. 4

Eric Reeves, Smith College,

"Darfur: the Abandoned Genocide"

March 3

Mike McGovern, University of Michigan (anthropology)

"Does Mass Violence in Guinea Constitute 'Atrocities'?"

March 31

John Merriman, Yale University (History)

"Life and Death of the Paris Commune"

April 11

Igor Casu, State University of Moldova (History)

"The Mass Famine in Soviet Moldova, 1946-1947"

The Program also sponsored four additional lunchtime seminars, not part of the series on “Politicide”:

Nov. 12

Daniella Doron, Monash University,
“Rebuilding Jewish Identity in Post-War France”

Nov. 19

Noah Shenker, Monash University,
“From L.A. to Phnom Penh: The Transmission of Documentation Strategies in Post-Genocide Archives”

April 21

David Pettigrew, southern Connecticut State University (Philosophy) and GSP Steering Committee member
“The Karadžić Judgments”

April 28

Carlos Dada (journalist and Visiting Fellow, MacMillan Center)
“The Long Road to Transitional Justice in Central America”

On April 6, General Roméo Dallaire (ret.), the commander of the United Nations peacekeeping force (known as UNAMIR) during the Rwandan genocide in 1994, delivered the inaugural Charles E. Scheidt Family Fund Lecture on Atrocity Prevention. Over 120 students, faculty, and community members heard General Dallaire reflect on the 22nd anniversary of the onset of the Rwandan genocide, and call for a renewed commitment to prevent future mass atrocities.

In January 2016, the first speaker in the GSP’s Kempf Fund Seminar Series, Jess Melvin, came to Yale for the first term of a resident fellowship funded by the GSP. With the addition of a Rice Fellowship, Dr. Melvin will be able to spend four terms in all at Yale, which will allow her to follow up on her research on the documentation of the atrocities committed against perceived regime opponents in Indonesia in 1965, particularly in the province of Aceh.

Grants and Support

The Jocardo Fund renewed its longstanding generous support for the GSP, allowing the Program to sponsor many of its events on campus. With its help, the Jocardo Fund also helps the GSP website maintain translations of our webpages in Armenian, French, German, Bahasa Indonesia, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish, Tetum, Thai, Italian, and Japanese.

The Charles E. Scheidt Family Fund generously supported the Genocide Studies Program with a grant to encourage more student awareness of genocide. In addition to the Scheidt Family Fund Lecture, noted above, the grant will enable the GSP to sponsor up to four undergraduate students in atrocity prevention-related summer internships, and one recent graduate to pursue a year-long position with an atrocity prevention organization.

The program's proposal for a seminar series on "Ideology and Mobilization" received Kempf Grant funding from the MacMillan Center for the 2016-17 academic year.

GSP Director David Simon's Activities, 2015-16

- "Bounded Translations of Rwanda's Genocide Pain." Presented at the forum on "Translating Pain," Monash University (Melbourne Australia) August 11, 2015.
- "The Politics of 'Denial.'" Department of History seminar, Monash University (Melbourne Australia) August 14, 2015.
- "Burundi Must Learn the Lessons of Rwanda to Avoid Genocide" *Newsweek* (online), Nov. 12, 2015.
- "Transitional Justice, Nation-building, and Civil Society after Mass Atrocity." Presented at a United Nations panel on "Atrocity Crimes: Transitional Justice and the Healing of Memories" (UN Headquarters, New York), April 26, 2016.

GSP Founding Director Ben Keirnan's activities, 2015-16

Awards:

2015 Distinguished Alumni Award, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, Australia.

Publications:

- "Muro de silencio: El campo de los estudios sobre genocidio y el genocidio guatemalteco" (Wall of Silence: The Field of Genocide Studies and the Guatemalan Genocide), *Revista de Estudios sobre Genocidio* 10, Buenos Aires, noviembre 2015, 13-33.
- "Wall of Silence: The Field of Genocide Studies and the Guatemalan Genocide," in Nik Brandal and Dag Einar Thorsen (eds.), *Den dannede opprører. Bernt Hagtvet* (The Refined Rebel: Bernt Hagtvet), Oslo, Dreyer, 2016, 169-98.
- "The Tudor Conquest of Munster, 1565-1582," *The Kerry Magazine* (Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society), No. 26 (1916 Commemorative Edition), 2016, 22-24.
- "Israel and Palestine in the Shadow of Conflict: A Reflection," Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, fall 2016.

Presentations:

- “A World History of Genocide.” Invited lecture, Central Connecticut State University departments of History, Political Science, International Studies, and Peace Studies, November 16, 2015.
- “They Can Live in the Desert But Nowhere Else:” Explaining the Armenian Genocide One Hundred Years Later. Panel presentation (respondent), European Studies Council, Modern Europe Colloquia Series, Yale University, December 3, 2015.
- “A World History of Genocide from Ancient Times to the Present,” Keynote Address to the conference, “1936: Un Novo relato ? 80 anos entre historia e memoria,” Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Spain, July 20, 2016.

Other GSP affiliates

Timothy Snyder published *Black Earth: The Holocaust as History and Warning* (Tim Duggan Books) in September. It appeared on several lists of the Best Books of 2015, including the *Washington Post*'s, the *Economist*'s, and *Publishers Weekly*'s. It was also a finalist for the Samuel Johnson Prize and was shortlisted for the 2016 Mark Lynton History Prize and the Council on Foreign Relations' Arthur Ross Book Award. In October 2016 it was awarded the Yale MacMillan Center's book prize.

David Pettigrew delivered a presentation and led a discussion at Southern Connecticut State University, with GSP co-sponsorship, titled “Bosnia and Herzegovina 20 Years Hence: The Legacy of the Dayton Accords” (December 4, 2015).

Yale courses on the subject of Genocide taught by GSP-affiliated faculty, 2015-16

- Jasmina Besirevic, Sociology, “Genocide and Ethnic Conflict” (ER&M 362a/GLBL 384a/INTS 384a/SOCY 363), Fall 2015.
- Ben Kiernan, History, “Genocide in History and Theory” (GLBL 910/HIST 980), Fall 2015
- David Simon, Political Science, “The Rwandan Genocide in Comparative Context,” Political Science 447/African Studies 447, Spring 2016.
- David Simon, “Post-Conflict Politics,” Political Science 347/African Studies 347, Fall 2015.

In Memoriam

The Genocide Studies Program mourned the passing of Geoffrey Hartman, a founder of the Fortunoff Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University, and a member of the GSP Steering Committee. A noted literary critic, Hartman was a Sterling Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature. He died in Hamden, Connecticut, on March 14, 2016.