

Irish Centre for Human Rights

promoting human rights through teaching, research and advocacy

Degree Programmes

For a full list of degree programmes available at the Irish Centre for Human Rights visit:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
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Email:
humanrights@nuigalway.ie

Visitors:

For more information about visitors and events at the Irish Centre for Human Rights visit:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/past_events.html

BA with Human Rights at NUI Galway in 2008

From 2008, the Faculty of Arts will offer seven new Denominated BA Degree Programmes each offering students a different specialism: Human Rights, Film Studies, Childhood Studies, Irish Studies, Women's Studies, Theatre and Performance, Creative Writing.

These new programmes require four years of study and offer students, in addition to their core subject choices, carefully structured opportunities to engage with a specialism of their choice. The programmes respond to individual student interests and will see students engage in intensive writing exercises, active learning, and task-based projects. All examining will be by continuous assessment.

The BA with Human Rights will be open to a small number of students who will have dedicated contact

with an expert programme director who will mentor students' progress, organise on-campus seminars and facilitate off-campus learning opportunities. Students will have distinctive opportunities to engage with society and community; to work with others who share their particular commitments; and to achieve a high level of confidence in oral and written communication.

During their Third Year students will also combine periods within the university with learning opportunities outside the university. These opportunities may include: project-based work, educational placement in the community, portfolio preparation, a period of study abroad at an international university, service learning, or placement within Non-Governmental Organisations. Third Year students will also work closely with NUI Galway's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), International Affairs Office, and Careers Service.



Pictured above: Martin Sheen (centre 2nd row) with Professor William Schabas and students at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, January 2007

Martin Sheen at the Irish Centre for Human Rights

By Andrea Grabow, LLM class representative

In January 2007, former NUI Galway student Martin Sheen, better known for his role as President Bartlet in the American drama series *The West Wing*, visited the Irish Centre for Human Rights to present the Centre with a personal, annotated copy of the Ariel Dorfman dramatic adaptation of Kerry Kennedy's book *Speak Truth to Power*. Sheen had played the part of Muhammed Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, in this drama of human rights activists who have changed the world during its first run in New York in late 2006.

The script was purchased by LLM student Roger Durham at an auction to raise funds to send a group of Irish surgeons to Albania, and was subsequently donated to the Centre.

Also included in the presentation was a copy of the book *Speak Truth to Power*, which Martin Sheen autographed, along with his script.

To mark the occasion Martin Sheen made a short speech at the Centre before meeting with students and staff and, needless to say, posing for photographs.



Faculty

For further information about all members of the teaching faculty at the Irish Centre for Human Rights visit:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/staff.htm

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights

Email:
humanrights@nuigalway.ie

Publications

A full list of publications from faculty and students of the Irish Centre for Human Rights can be viewed at:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/publications.htm

Multiple Honours for ICHR Director

The director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Professor William Schabas, has been honoured with a number of prestigious awards in the first half of 2007. In April 2007, the American Society of International Law (ASIL), which provides a variety of awards that recognize excellence in the field of international law, bestowed an ASIL Certificate of Merit upon Professor Schabas for his book *The UN International Criminal Tribunals: the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2006).

On Friday May 18, Professor Schabas was inducted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy, at a ceremony in the Mansion House, Dublin. Membership of the Academy is granted to a limited number of candidates each year in recognition of their attainment of international distinction in the field of sciences or the humanities following a rigorous peer review.

The following Friday, on May 25, Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Canada, awarded an LLD *honoris causa* to Professor Schabas. Dalhousie is one of Canada's leading universities.

ICHR Welcomes New Faculty Member

The Irish Centre for human Rights is pleased to welcome Noam Lubell (*pictured right*) onto its permanent teaching staff. Mr. Lubell will be taking up his new position at the Centre in early June, and will begin teaching international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and a new course on states of emergency and counter-terrorism in the coming academic year.

Prior to joining the Irish Centre for Human Rights, Mr. Lubell was Co-Director of the International Law Amicus Curiae Clinic at the Concord Research Center, in the Law School at the College of Management in Israel. Over the past two years he was also a Visiting Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

Mr. Lubell has also worked as a Senior Researcher at the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex in the UK and taught on the LLM programme there while pursuing a doctoral degree, which he is currently completing. He holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law and a BA in Philosophy.



Mr. Lubell joins a teaching staff of eight full-time and part-time lecturers currently delivering programmes at the Centre.

ICHR Celebrates Two Book Launches

In early 2007, the Irish Centre for Human Rights celebrated the launch of a book written by Dr. Jeremie Gilbert, a former PhD student at the Centre, entitled *Indigenous People's Land Rights under International Law: From Victims to Actors* (Transnational Publishers 2006). Dr. Gilbert was one of the first students to graduate from the Centre's PhD programme in October 2004. He now lectures at the Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster in Derry.

On May 17, Dr. Ray Murphy, Senior Lecturer in Law at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, launched his new book, *UN Peacekeeping in Lebanon, Somalia and Kosovo: Operational and Legal Issues in Practice*, at a reception in the Centre.

Michael D. Higgins, TD, Adjunct Professor at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, took time out from the pre-election campaign trail to introduce the book written by his friend and former student, which he described as an "important work" and one which he greatly enjoyed reading.

The book, published by Cambridge University Press, examines a number of issues associated with contemporary multinational peace operations, and seeks to provide insights into the problems that arise in establishing and deploying such forces to meet the challenges of current conflicts.



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Vinodh Jai-chand, Dr. Jeremie Gilbert, Prof. William Schabas, Dr. Nadia Bernaz, Dr. Ray Murphy and Michael D. Higgins, TD, January 2007

PhD Scholarship Awards

The Irish Centre for Human Rights wishes to congratulate PhD students Roja Fazaeli and Annabel Egan on their award of post graduate scholarships from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Ms. Fazaeli is conducting research into international human rights law and Islamic law governing women in the Shi'a sect. Ms. Egan is conducting research into the development of EU human rights policy on China.

Doctoral Programme:

For further information about the doctoral programme at the Irish Centre for Human Rights see:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/phd.html

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
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Conferences:

More information about all conferences hosted by the Irish Centre for Human Rights can be found at:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/conferences.html

Annual Doctoral Seminar at ICHR



Pictured: ICHR faculty and PhD students with visiting experts, Burren, Co. Clare, April 2007

The Irish Centre for Human Rights held its sixth annual doctoral seminar this year from 23-27 April 2007.

The doctoral seminar is an important week in the life of the Centre's PhD students. Students are provided with an opportunity to present their work and ideas to an informed and critical audience and to learn from the diverse range of subjects under discussion.

This year the experts invited to the seminar were Professor Kevin Boyle, Director of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex, who pre-

sented on Freedom of Expression; Ralph Steinhardt, Professor of Law and International Affairs at the George Washington University Law School, who lectured on Corporate Responsibility; and Francois Crepeau, Professor of International Affairs at the University of Montreal, who discussed International Migration; Security Concerns and Human Rights Standards. The seminar was chaired by the Centre's director, Professor William Schabas and by lecturer Dr. Nadia Bernaz.

In addition to presentations delivered by the invited experts, faculty and students, the seminar included useful workshops on job interviewing, academic writing, research methodology and academic funding.

The atmosphere throughout the week was amicable and stimulating. Presentations were of a high standard and discussion flourished. There were also plenty of opportunities to unwind with a guided walk in the Burren, an evening of theatre, and some very enjoyable wining and dining.

The faculty and doctoral students of the Irish Centre for Human Rights are very grateful to the invited experts for their contribution to what was a successful and motivating week.

Class Trip to The Hague

By Frank McBrearty, LLM Class Representative

The annual LLM class trip to The Hague was definitely one of the highlights of the academic year. Students on the trip were fortunate that senior members at each of the institutions on the itinerary were willing to take time to meet with the group including Second Vice-President of the International Criminal Court, Mr. Justice René Blattmann, as well as representatives from the office of the presidency, the registry and the office of the prosecutor. Students also had the privilege of being addressed by Justice Buergenthal at the International Court of Justice and were equally well received at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by Justices Agius and Schomburg, Mr. Ruxton and Ms. Brady from the Office of the Prosecutor and defence council Eugene O'Sullivan.



Pictured: LLM students with Professor William Schabas in The Hague, 2007

Peacekeeping Conference marks Africa Day

A conference to celebrate Africa Day and International Peace-Keepers day, entitled "Africa and Peacekeepers: Positive Impact?" took place at the National University of Ireland, Galway on Saturday, 26 May, 2007.

Organised by the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University in conjunction with Amnesty International, and supported by Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, the free and public conference addressed the impact of peace-keepers in general and Irish peace-keepers in particular in Africa.

A wide range of international experts addressed the event including Dr. Noel Kinsella, Speaker of the Canadian Senate, international human rights advocate and academic. Other key speakers included representatives from Trocaire, the Irish Defence Forces, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Irish Aid and the Liberian Refugee Community. peace.

With support from Irish Aid it is hope that Africa Day can be marked in a similar way next year.

Projects:

Further information about all projects run by the Irish Centre for Human Rights can be found at:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/projects.html

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
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Irish Centre for Human Rights Annual Summer

Schools:

International Criminal Court
2007
11-16 June

Minority Rights, Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Law 2007
17-22 June

Lunchtime Seminar Series at ICHR

The Lunchtime Seminar series at the Irish Centre for Human Rights showcased discussions on a wide variety of issues presented by a large number of visiting guests during the second semester 2007.

The Centre was pleased to be joined in early spring by visiting academic and scholar, Frederick (Rick) Lorenz who gave a series of stimulating lunchtime lectures on peacekeeping operations. Professor Lorenz served in the US Marine Corps for twenty-seven years as a judge advocate, including a tour as an infantry company commander.

The hectic schedule of guest speakers began in January with Dr. Laurent Pech, *Jean Monnet* Lecturer in EU Law at NUI Galway. This was closely followed by a visit from Ms. Eleanor Acer, Director of the Refugee Protection Programme at Human Rights First in New York. In early February, the Irish Centre for Human Rights was granted the honour and privilege of hosting Mr. Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama and renowned advocate for prisoners facing the death penalty, on an nationwide speaking tour in conjunction with Amnesty International Ireland.

At the beginning of March, Professor Oscar Vieira Vilhena, Co-Director of Conectas Human Rights, and Professor Howard Stein, lecturer at the University of Michigan, both delivered seminars at the Centre as did Dr. Chris Waters, lecturer at the



Pictured from left to right: Professor Howard Stein, Professor William Schabas and Dr. Vinodh Jaichand, March 2007

University of Reading. Trocaire brought two guest speakers, Dr. Mona ElFarra from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Scholastique Harushiyakira from Burundi, to the Centre as part of their *lenten* campaign in early March. These presentations were complimented by a seminar given by Judith Keshet, founder of Checkpoint Watch, an organisation of Israeli women who monitor and report the daily human rights abuses faced by Palestinians crossing army and border police checkpoints in the West Bank.

The spring session concluded with presentations from John Jones, counsel to Nasir Oric, an accused at the ICTY; Professor David Kretzmer; and Ms. Rosemary Craig, a part-time Magistrate in the Youth and Family Courts of



Professor William Schabas and Peter Fitzmaurice with Monica McWilliams, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commissioner and members of Border Action, Combat Poverty Agency, Ex-Pac and Border Minority Group, March 2007

Report on Human Rights and Peacebuilding

Professor Schabas and Peter Fitzmaurice launched a new report entitled 'Respect, Protect & Fulfil... A Human Rights-Based Approach to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation' on March 26. Professor Monica McWilliams, the Chief Commissioner of the NI Human Rights Commission chaired the launch which took place in the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. The report was commissioned by Border Action and is intended to raise awareness and promote discussion among policy and decision-makers as well as peace-building projects throughout Ireland and further afield.

For copies of the report please contact Peter Fitzmaurice at:

peter.fitzmaurice@nuigalway.ie

ICHR Summer schools for June 2007

The Irish Centre for Human Rights will run its annual summer schools on the International Criminal Court and on Minority Rights, Indigenous People and Human Rights Law this year from 11 – 22 June. This year the summer schools are being run back-to-back in order to provide participants with the opportunity to attend both schools.

The summer schools each offer five days of intensive lectures delivered by leading specialists in the respective fields combined with a series of social

events, providing a friendly environment for learning, debate and social interaction.

The International Criminal Court Summer School and the Minority Rights Summer School offered by the Centre are widely acknowledged to be the premier programmes of their kind.

For more information, please contact Michelle Farrell at m.farrell2@nuigalway.ie.

*China Death
Penalty Project:*

For more
information about
this project visit:

[http://
www.gbcc.org.uk/
project.htm](http://www.gbcc.org.uk/project.htm)

**Irish Centre for
Human Rights:**
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HRBA training:

For further
information about
the Human Rights
Based Approaches
training
programme email
hrba@amnesty.ie

You can also
phone the
Amnesty
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Training and
Support Officer
on 01-677 6361.

Inaugural Meeting of China Death Penalty Project

The Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted the inaugural meeting of a new three year research project into the abolition of the death penalty in China. The project will involve research into death penalty cases as well as survey work on public opinion and the death penalty. The academic element will be complemented by a series of seminars culminating in a recommendation to the National People's Congress and public forums for discussion of the issues surrounding the death penalty. Partners and consultants including Professors Zhao Bingzhi (Beijing Nor-

mal University), Mo Hongxian (Wuhan University), Hans-Joerg Albrecht (Max Planck Institute) and Roger Hood (Oxford University), were joined in Galway by Saul Lehrfreund from the Death Penalty Project and staff from the Great Britain China Centre. It is planned to officially launch the project in China this summer. Professor Schabas, Dr. Nadia Bernaz and Peter Fitzmaurice from the Irish Centre for Human Rights will be working on the project which is being coordinated through the Great Britain-China Centre.

Lively Discussion on Integration Issues

In his capacity as Chair of the Board of Integrating Ireland, Dr. Vinodh Jaichand, Deputy Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, presided over a meeting of civil society and political party representatives on April 27 at the Central Hotel, Dublin. The meeting was jointly organised by the Immigrant Council of Ireland, the Irish Refugee Council, the Refugee Information Service, the Vincentian Refugee Centre, the Galway Refugee Support Group, Akidwa (The African Sisterhood) and Nasc (Irish Immigrant Support Centre).



Pictured from left to right: Ciaran Cuffe (Greens), Leo Varadkar (Fine Gael), Daithi Doolan (Sinn Fein), Vinodh Jaichand (Irish centre for Human Rights), Alex White (Labour) and Maria Corrigan

Representatives from civil society presented a ten-point plan for integration in Ireland, to which the political party representatives were invited to reply by setting out the position of their own party on immigration in Ireland. There were animated exchanges in the question and answer session between the audience and politicians on the subject of a non-racial

election campaign. This was the third such event organised by Integrating Ireland.

Farewell Lecture at NUI Galway

On March 2, Professor Joshua Castellino (*pictured right*) gave a farewell lecture on: The Challenges for the Protection of Minority Rights, to staff and students of the Irish Centre for Human Rights as well as interested members of the public. The lecture in the Siobhan McKenna Theatre was followed by a reception in the Arts Millennium Building in honor of Professor Castellino, who has taken up a new position in the Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster.

Professor Castellino was with the Irish Centre for Human Rights from its inception in January 2000 and has made an enormous contribution to its development over the past 7 years.



Amnesty International Training Programme

The Irish Centre for Human Rights is involved with a number of Irish and international non-governmental organisations engaged in the promotion of human rights. First and foremost among them is Amnesty International.

Since 2004, faculty and PhD students from the Centre together with Amnesty International (Irish Section) have been delivering a joint training programme on international human rights law at various locations around Ireland every year. The programme is open to practitioners, NGO staff, activists and interested others who

have identified a need to have an overview of human rights law. Over the course the four-day programme, faculty and PhD students present sessions, which range from basic overviews of treaty based and non-treaty based human rights mechanisms to subject specific issues including states of emergency, refugees, human rights education and international criminal law

So far this year the course has taken place in Galway (February 2007) and Dublin (May 28 - May 31).

To view earlier issues of the **Bulletin** or the Centre's **Annual Activity Report** visit:

http://www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights/bulletins.html

Irish Centre for Human Rights:
www.nuigalway.ie/human_rights

Email:
humanrights@nuigalway.ie

The **Bulletin** of the Irish Centre for Human Rights is compiled and edited by *Annabel Egan*.

Jean Pictet Law Competition

By *Jaye Alderson, LLM student*

How would you like to be Russian ambassadors for one morning, turn into a rebel group in the afternoon and then end the week as Red Cross field delegates? This is exactly what LLM students Sophie Link, Gabrielle Chaizy and Jaye Alderson experimented with when they represented the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the 19th edition of the Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition, which took place between the 16th and 23rd April, in El Escorial Spain.

Not exactly a moot, the Jean Pictet competition is more of a simulation exercise where students play different actors typically involved in an international armed conflict. This year, 59 teams from 37 countries came together to apply inter-

national humanitarian law concepts to a fictitious conflict between Ysarkus and X.

During the drafting process in plenary sessions, the team got a taste of how difficult it is to reach agreement over the provisions of an international instrument and had to overcome the problems posed by the participation of representatives from many different cultures with often conflicting interests. Students also learned first-hand how hard it is to apply theoretical concepts to an ongoing conflict and to reconcile the laws of war with human rights.

The experience was a challenging one, but it was also enriching and revealing.

The Extraordinary Chambers of Cambodia

During February 2007, Dr. Ray Murphy, Senior Lecturer at the Irish Centre for Human Rights, travelled to Cambodia to conduct training sessions in international criminal law for personnel from the Extraordinary Chambers of Cambodia. Dr. Murphy provides here a flavour of what he experienced.



Dr. Ray Murphy with a group of Buddhist monks in Cambodia, February 2007

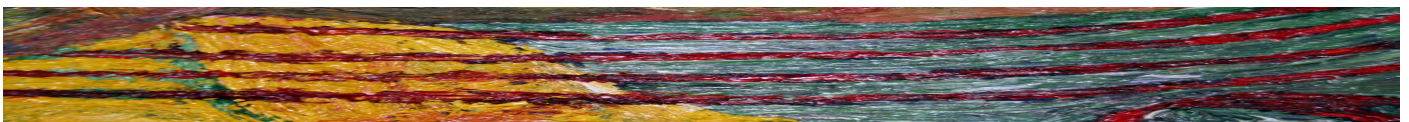
One of the first impressions of Cambodia is the gentle and courteous nature of the Khmer people. It seems at odds with its recent history under the regime of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge.

Over a quarter of a century ago Brother Number One, as Pol Pot became known, imposed a tyrannical rule, that was unsurpassed in its cruelty to the inhabitants of Cambodia. Estimates put the casualties at anywhere between one and three millions. Yet the ordinary people remain remarkably compliant and accepting of the current situation which had up to now permitted the perpetrators of mass murder to remain unaccountable.

The Extraordinary Chambers were set up to investigate and try the most senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge deemed most responsible for the atrocities committed in Cambodia from 1975 to 1979. Although part of the Cambodian court system, the Extraordinary Chambers are in effect specially created courts established on the basis of an agreement between the UN and the Cambodian government. This hybrid court with national and

international judges and prosecutors is intended to provide fair public trials in accordance with international standards. The Chambers have jurisdiction in respect of certain international and domestic crimes including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

There are few in Cambodia who have not been touched in one way or another by the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge. The Extraordinary Chambers provide the ideal forum to establish a record of what happened and make those most responsible publicly accountable. It remains imperative that the trials proceed. A culture of impunity must not be allowed to continue and a clear message should go out to other rulers in Burma and elsewhere that they too will be held accountable.



*To sign up for activities or receive information regarding the work carried out by the
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