

SUMMER 2020



# THE MGRUBLIAN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

# ADVOCATING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: VIRTUALLY



The pandemic has changed many things at CMC. In July it was announced that classes would be taught online for the fall semester and traditional on-campus activities would be converted to a virtual setting. However, something that has not wavered is our students' commitment to human rights. This issue of our newsletter showcases workshops and lectures held in the spring (before the campus closure and during), awards given to outstanding members of the class of 2020, human rights summer internships, and new opportunities for passionate students to get involved in human rights.

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# 11th Annual Women and Leadership Workshop

Each year the Center partners with other members of the Women and Leadership Alliance (WLA) to host an annual workshop on a topic related to women and leadership. This year's workshop featured keynote speaker, Dr. Cindy Pace, Vice President and Global Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at MetLife. In her talk, titled *The Power of Purpose and Meaning*, Dr. Pace discussed the importance of purpose, meaning, and connections; introducing neuroscience and the power of connection in understanding one's purpose and meaning. In addition to the opening keynote, the workshop also included a networking break and an interactive activity led by Dr. Pace. The event is geared toward students from all 7 colleges and also welcomes numerous CMC alumna back to campus each year.

WOMEN & LEADERSHIP  
WORKSHOP 20/20:

***ENVISION  
YOUR  
FUTURE***

THE  
POWER OF  
PURPOSE  
AND  
MEANING



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**DR. CINDY PACE**  
FEBRUARY 7TH, 2020  
1PM | MCKENNA AUDITORIUM



CLAREMONT  
MCKENNA  
COLLEGE

KRAVIS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE,  
BERGER INSTITUTE, & MGRUBLIAN CENTER

In 2021, the Mgrublian Center will take the lead on selecting a theme for the 12th annual Women and Leadership Workshop. Stay tuned for more information about the event, coming in February 2021!

To learn more about the WLA and related programs visit <https://www.cmc.edu/women-and-leadership>

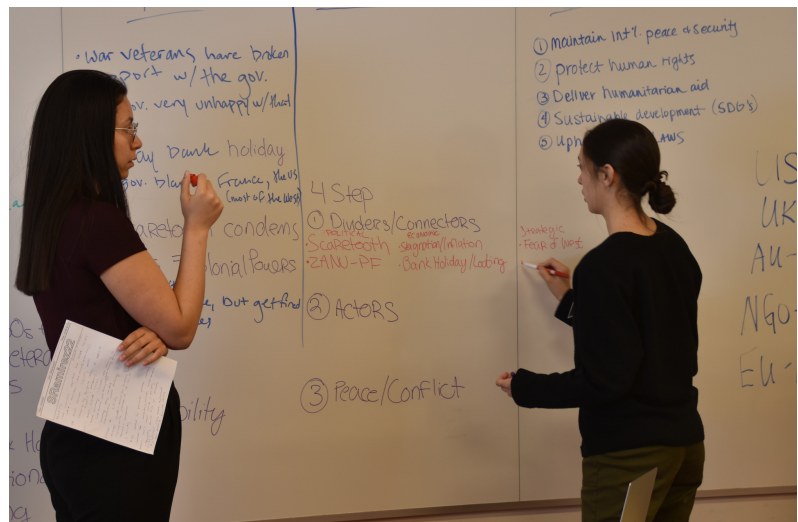


# Zimbabwe Atrocity Prevention Simulation

As part of the President's 20/20 challenge, and just days before Covid-19 forced the campus closure last spring, the Mgrublian Center hosted an Atrocity Prevention Simulation on March 6th, 2020, focused on Zimbabwe. The simulation was directed by a former CIA War Crimes Investigator and career intelligence officer. It was a full day campus event organized by the Center and in collaboration with the Keck and Salvatori Centers and their students. The simulation involved 45 CMC and consortium students, 7 students from nearby SOKA University, 5 CMC faculty and 3 Institute Directors, CMC alumnae, and leading practitioners from Mercy Corps, the CIA, the Pentagon, West Point, and African government and NGOs. Students took on various roles as they responded to an escalating atrocity, digested intelligence briefs, drafted policy recommendations, and grasped the nuances of crisis management from humanitarian, military, strategic, political, and economic angles.



Some of the experts who helped with the simulation: (from top to bottom) Jim Finkel - Former CIA Investigator; Tetsushi Ogata - Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Soka University, Cecil Blake, Professor Emeritus, Africana Studies, University of Pittsburgh.



Students were broken up into groups where they worked together to mitigate the atrocity (picture on top). Then they presented their results and made policy recommendations to other student participants and received feedback and advice from the expert practitioners in the room. Students participated in four rounds of "play" throughout the course of the day.



# Elbaz Post-Graduate Fellowship Program

The Elbaz post-graduate fellowship program is awarded to graduating CMC seniors who are interested in pursuing a career in human rights. Recipients receive funding for one year for a position within a major human rights organization (to be identified by the fellow or through partnerships maintained by the Mgrublian Center). From the class of 2020, the Center is proud to support two Elbaz Fellows: Jenny Gurev and Laleh Ahmad.

## **Jenny Gurev '20**

*Resident Junior Fellow*

*Alliance for Securing Democracy*

*The German Marshall Fund of the United States*

"It has been incredible starting my first job with the support of the Elbaz Fellowship. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to delve deeply into the issues I care about, like protecting the 2020 election from foreign interference."



## **Laleh Ahmad '20**

*Investigative Fellow*

*The Sentry*

*The Enough Project*

"I am an Investigative Fellow with the South Sudan team. The Sentry investigates corruption as they relate to human rights abuses in East Africa. I'm excited to be working in the human rights world and learning about the different ways that advocates approach issues."

# Update on 2019 Elbaz Fellowships

In 2019, the Center also selected two graduating seniors for the Elbaz Fellowship Program, Will Cullen and Rebecca Shane. Both Mr. Cullen and Ms. Shane successfully completed their fellowships during the summer of 2020 and continue to pursue their interests in a career in human rights.

## Rebecca Shane



"As an Elbaz Fellow, I had the unparalleled experience of working at Freedom House in Washington, D.C. I was involved in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of international development programs, as well as supporting the organization's Research, Advocacy, and Executive teams on other programs related to democracy and human rights. I am now beginning a new position as a Legislative Staff Assistant for Congresswoman Katie Porter on Capitol Hill. I am excited to use the skills I developed at CMC and at Freedom House in this role."

## Will Cullen

"As an Elbaz Fellow this past year, I worked in India at the World Resources Institute (WRI), a DC-based non-governmental organization that conducts research on environmental policy. My research focused on policies to accelerate renewable energy development while expanding energy access to rural areas in India, and the Indian government's climate change adaptation policies. Before starting this work, I studied Hindi as a US Department of State Critical Language Scholar (CLS) for 8 weeks in Jaipur, India. I am currently starting a (partially online) year-long Masters in Global Affairs program at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China as a Schwarzman Scholar. I plan to focus on climate change diplomacy and renewable energy development cooperation between India, China, and the United States."



# 2020 Senior Awards

Each spring the Center awards prizes for “Best Thesis in Human Rights” and “Best Overall” student in the Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide studies sequence. All senior theses, regardless of discipline, are eligible for the best thesis prize. Only those seniors who have completed the Human Rights sequence are eligible for the best overall student prize.



**Jenny Gurev:** *Best Overall Student in the Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Studies Sequence.*

Jenny spent the better part of her four years at CMC heavily engaged with the Center and many of our programs. As a student assistant, she supported and helped plan the Lessons & Legacies Conference, the annual Career Panel, visits with esteemed guests including Prince Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein of Jordan, and our first ever Atrocity Prevention Simulation in 2020. Jenny has left CMC and the Center a better place because of her involvement and we will miss her dearly but look forward to watching her thrive and begin her human rights career as a 2020 Elbaz Post-Graduate Fellow.

**Anita Sheno:** *Best Thesis in Human Rights: The Syrian Refugee Crisis Within Europe: A Matter of Politics, not Capacity.* Anita's thesis showcases her intellectual understanding of the Syrian refugee crisis and culminates years of dedication to supporting refugees in our communities. Anita started her involvement with the Center as an intern for a local refugee settlement agency, Claremont Canopy. She has been a tireless supporter of refugee children and families in person and via her Center sponsored research fellowship and award-winning senior thesis. We wish her the best of luck as she begins graduate studies this fall in Public Policy and Human Development at the United Nations University/Maastricht, the Netherlands.





# 2020 SUMMER INTERNS

Each summer the Center funds students to intern with human rights organizations. Despite the ongoing pandemic, CMC sponsored a record number of students in 2020, including seventeen who were supported by the Center to conduct human rights work.

Student interns work for organizations that promote human rights or raise awareness about related issues; undertaking research for a scholarly project (including senior theses); or developing an independent program in a field related to human rights studies. Students gain practical experience of the ways in which knowledge, political and economic policies, and leadership must be combined to understand and overcome human rights abuses and genocide in today's world. These experiences are invaluable to the overall education our students receive and also often lead to future employment or research opportunities.

*The Abaunza Group (Los Angeles, CA):*

**Calder Altman '22**  
**Sophia Ramirez-Brown '22**

*Claremont Canopy (Claremont, CA):*

**Luke Webb '22**

*Connecticut Against Gun Violence (Greenwich, CT):*

**Kelsey Clarke '22**  
**Sydney Heath '22**  
**Brooklyn Montgomery '22**  
**Sobechukwu Uwajeh '22**

*The Enough Project (Washington, D.C.):*

**David Gushue '22**  
**Hailey Wilson '22**

*Freedom House (Washington, D.C.):*

**Tallan Donine '21**

*Haysbert Moultrie, LLP (Los Angeles, CA):*

**Shreya Chatterjee '22**  
**Torben Deese '22**  
**Miriam Farah '23**

*Independent Research with Professor Ferguson:*

**Hailey Wilson '22**

*Independent Research with Professor Lower:*

**Lucie Kapner '22**

*International Bridges to Justice (San Francisco, CA):*

**Carley Barnhart '22**

*International Rescue Committee (San Francisco, CA):*

**Simran Arora '21**

This summer has given me real experience on the organizational and functional aspects of a successful non-profit.

-Sobe Uwajeh '22



Using my passion for education to help people rebuild their lives has been extremely rewarding and I've learned a lot in the process.

-Simron Arora '21



This internship has given me the opportunity to learn about civil cases and how attorneys pursue justice through lawsuits.

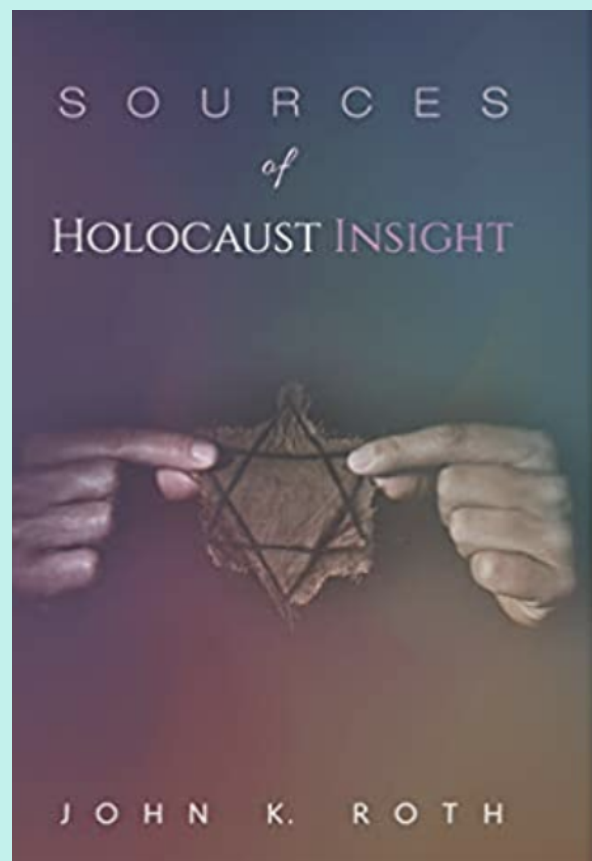
-Miriam Farah '23



# Insights from a Human Rights Expert: New Book from Professor Emeritus John K. Roth

John Roth, the Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and the founding director of the Mgrublian Center has recently released a book entitled *Sources of Holocaust Insight: Learning and Teaching about the Genocide*. Through documenting his own intellectual journey in Holocaust studies, Professor Roth, provides a great place for scholars to begin their journey in studying genocides and human rights.

*Sources of Holocaust Insight* maps the odyssey of an American Christian philosopher who has studied, written, and taught about the Holocaust for more than fifty years. What findings result from John Roth's journey; what moods pervade it? How have events and experiences, scholars and students, texts and testimonies—especially the questions they raise—affected Roth's Holocaust studies and guided his efforts to heed the biblical proverb: "Whatever else you get, get insight"? More sources than Roth can acknowledge have informed his encounters with the Holocaust. But particular persons—among them Elie Wiesel, Raul Hilberg, Primo Levi, and Albert Camus—loom especially large. Revisiting Roth's sources of Holocaust insight, this book does so not only to pay tribute to them but also to show how the ethical, philosophical, and religious reverberations of the Holocaust confer and encourage responsibility for human well-being in the twenty-first century. Seeing differently, seeing better—sound learning and teaching about the Holocaust aim for what may be the most important Holocaust insight of all: Take nothing good for granted.



# Now Hiring! Join the Mgrublian Center!

The Mgrublian Center for Human Rights is hiring for the 2020-2021 school year. We are looking for students who are passionate about human rights to join our staff. We are currently hiring for two positions: Student Assistant and Human Rights Legal Research Assistant. Both jobs can be found in the Handshake job portal. Descriptions of each job are shown below, as well as links where applications should be submitted.

## **Student Assistant**

We are looking for creative students with strong research, writing and communication skills, and a commitment to the values of the Center to serve as Student Assistants for 2020-21. The Center will be hiring students to assist with the following range of activities:

- Act as a liaison with the Center's volunteer human rights task force groups
- Promote Center events through creation of flyers and via social media
- Assist faculty with human rights research
- Update the Center's library and maintain inventory
- Edit and create the Center's quarterly Newsletter

All work will be done remotely during the fall of 2020. A link to the application can be found under Handshake Job#3934248.

## **Human Rights Legal Research Assistant**

Human Rights Legal Research Assistants will:

- Conduct background research on a range of human rights topics relevant to the attorney's current case load, for a local (LA area) human rights lawyer,
- Attend bi-monthly progress meetings with Center staff and sponsoring attorney(s), during the fall of 2020 these meetings will be held virtually,
- Create spreadsheets of data and written reports as deemed relevant by the project,
- Work as a team member with fellow students, paralegals, Center staff and the attorney(s)

All work will be done remotely during the fall of 2020. A link to the application can be found under Handshake Job#3934213.



# New Research Opportunities Available!

Through the research fellowship program, students have the opportunity to conduct research of their own choosing and design under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Research fellows spend the academic year diving deep into a human rights, Holocaust, or genocide studies project while benefiting from the resources and office space the Center has to offer. Fellowships are open to CMC freshmen, sophomores, and juniors as well as seniors writing relevant senior theses. Fellows also receive a modest stipend to offset their research expenses.

Visit our website to view past research topics, <https://human-rights.cmc.edu/2019-20-research-fellows/>

**Application Deadline:**

**Friday, September 25, 2020**



Pictured above: Simon Gilbert '22 (*Jews in Communist Romania*), Renee Pepper '21 (*A Pre-Cursor to Genocide: The Inevitability of Sexual Violence during the Mt. Sinjar Massacre*), Laleh Ahmad '20 (*Killing Within Communities: What Causes Collective Violence, How We Remember It And Why It Matters*), and Anita Shenoi '20 (*The Humanitarian Crisis in Europe: The Promise of Human Rights Undelivered*)



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For more information, please visit <https://human-rights.cmc.edu/>

Claremont McKenna College  
The Kraus Center, 3rd Floor  
850 Columbia Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711  
909-607-0788



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