

# WRONGS & RIGHTS

## THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE APSA HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION

May 31, 2012

The Human Rights  
Section Newsletter is  
published three times a  
year: January, May and  
September.



### Editor's Note

#### Christian Davenport

Many things have happened since January in the world of human rights and American political science. Some bad, some good.

Please send any announcements, observations, books, articles, chapters or thoughts to me and I will try to find some way/place to put it. As you will see, I provide some structure for the discussion under the Table of Contents. The opening issue of this version of the newsletter has attempted to reach out to the different parts of our subfield. Hopefully, this will lead to even more contributions, communication and collaboration in the future. Send suggestions, thoughts and material.

I wish to put forward a suggestion regarding topics: how about dedicating the next year to ending political violence? With this in mind, send articles, books, research projects, research questions, questions and answers. I will compile and try to place this into the next issue.

There is already some attention to this topic planned for the next APSA meeting in September. There are about 6-7 panels on the topic (look for titles beginning with "Ending [insert type of violence]"). These papers which will be compiled into a book along with pre-existing scholarship as well as webpage to advance the effort as much as possible.

A list of panels is provided in the newsletter.

Be well; peace & struggle

Christian

**Christian Davenport**

Professor - Kroc Institute,  
University of Notre Dame (Current)

Professor - University of Michigan,  
Ann Arbor (Fall 2012)

# Table of Contents

**In the Profession:** General news/opinion about what is taking place in political science concerning human rights.

**Out in the World:** General news/opinion about what is taking place out in the world concerning human rights.

**Reflections:** Interesting research findings, controversies, questions and general thoughts.

**Releases & Discoveries:** Announcements regarding data/information that was recently created, collected or discovered.

**Recent Publications:** human rights related publications made in the last year.

**Outreach:** Identify organizations or provided a venue for organizations that are attempting to connect with other political scientists.

**Scholar of Note:** Highlight some researchers work that has made a difference to advancing knowledge, our academic community and/or actual human rights. We will also identify award winners.

## Wrongs & Rights

# In the Profession Got Blog?

Editorial Team

Have you noticed that academics are engaging in more and more blogging efforts? If you haven't, well... they are. Below is one link that might be relevant to human rights. Please send me your favorites so that I can compile a list and post in the next issue.

<http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/>

***Mobilizing Ideas*** publishes interdisciplinary perspectives on social movements, social change, and the public sphere. To enhance dialogue between scholars and activists, Mobilizing Ideas hosts exchanges between leading scholars from the social sciences and humanities and the activists they study, featuring original essays responding to a wide variety of problems related to social movements and social change.

Founded in August 2011 following the Young Scholars in Social Movements conference at the University of Notre Dame, an annual interdisciplinary gathering of select emerging social movement scholars, Mobilizing Ideas is hosted by the Center for the Study of Social Movements at Notre Dame.

Though contributions to Mobilizing Ideas are typically by invitation, inquiries and recommendations are welcome. Content published by *Mobilizing Ideas* may be redistributed as long as the use is not for commercial purposes, and that both the author and *Mobilizing Ideas* are properly attributed.

You can access a complete list of our essay contributors [here](#). Questions or comments should be directed to Grace Yukich ([Grace.Yukich@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Grace.Yukich@quinnipiac.edu)), David Ortiz ([dortiz@tulane.edu](mailto:dortiz@tulane.edu)) or Kevin Estep ([kestep@nd.edu](mailto:kestep@nd.edu)).

# In the Profession

## APSA Human Rights Panels

### 45 Panels (Hyperlinked with location)

[45-1 Human Rights Regimes](#)

[45-2 Election Violence and Democratization](#)

[45-3 Strategic Uses \(and Misuses\) of Transitional Justice](#)

[45-4 Ending Human Rights Violation](#)

[45-5 Ending Civil War](#)

[45-6 Ending Genocide and Mass Atrocity](#)

[45-7 Ending Urban Violence](#)

[45-8 Ending War](#)

[45-9 Should We Burn and/or Praise the International Criminal Court?](#)

[45-10 Ending Conflict and Violence: Reflections From Some Founders of Modern Conflict Studies](#)

[45-11 Measurement and Mass Killing](#)

[45-12 Protecting Civilians: What Works?](#)

[45-13 Activism and Advancing Human Rights](#)

[45-14 Women's Rights and Wrongs](#)

[45-15 Protecting Human Rights](#)

[45-16 New Advances in Human Rights and State Repression Research](#)

[45-17 Violence and Modernity: A Roundtable on Steven Pinker's "Better Angels of Our Nature"](#)

[45-18 The Domestic Politics of Human Rights Law](#)

[45-19 Pre & Transitional Justice?! Exploring Efforts to Deal with Political Violence both Before and After](#)

[45-20 Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: New Perspectives](#)

# In the Profession

## APSA Human Rights Panels

### Panels with Human Rights papers:

#### [3-18 International Political Legitimacy](#)

*Human Rights, Legitimacy, and the Right to Political Participation*

Friday, Aug 31, 2:00 PM

#### [3-24 Humanitarian Intervention: Problems of Theory and Practice](#)

*Human Rights, Collective Autonomy, and Foreign Intervention*

Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM

#### [12-28 Beyond High Courts: Institutions of Justice in Latin America](#)

*The Inter-American Court of Human Rights and Conventionality Control*

Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

#### [12-28 Beyond High Courts: Institutions of Justice in Latin America](#)

*Transnational Protection of Human Rights in Latin America*

Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

#### [12-28 Beyond High Courts: Institutions of Justice in Latin America](#)

*Transnational Protection of Human Rights in Latin America*

Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

#### [16-21 The Politics of Foreign Aid](#)

*The Effects of Foreign Aid on Human Rights and Governance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment*

Thursday, Aug 30, 8:00 AM

#### [17-12 International Organization: Representation and Design](#)

*Cosmopolitan Sovereignty: Representing Humanity and the Architecture of the Human Rights Regime*

Thursday, Aug 30, 4:15 PM

#### [17-13 International Institutions and Domestic Politics](#)

*Explaining Partial Compliance: Latin American States and their Human Rights Court*

Sunday, Sep 2, 10:15 AM

#### [18-17 Human Versus State Security](#)

*Risking Human Rights: United States Foreign Security Assistance and the Threat of Human Rights Abuse*

Friday, Aug 31, 8:00 AM

#### [26-10 International Law and Mega-Politics](#)

*The Court of Justice for the Economic Community of West African States: Building a Human Rights Rule of Law in Africa?*

Thursday, Aug 30, 10:15 AM

#### [27-4 Comparative Perspectives on Constitutional Law: From Europe to Africa](#)

*The Judiciary and Human Rights in Africa*

Thursday, Aug 30, 2:00 PM

#### [27-9 Global Constitutionalism in Islamic States and Beyond](#)

*The Rejection of Interstate Reciprocity Relationships in the Law of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the European Union (EU)*

Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

#### [33-5 Catholic Politics](#)

*The Institutional Roots of Catholic Responses to Human Rights Abuse in Latin America*

Thursday, Aug 30, 8:00 AM

#### [45-4 Ending Human Rights Violation](#)

*Ending Abuse: How Peacekeeping Prevents the Recurrence of Mass Human Rights Violations in Post-conflict States*

Friday, Aug 31, 8:00 AM

#### [45-4 Ending Human Rights Violation](#)

*Ending Human Rights Violations: The Role of INGOs*

Friday, Aug 31, 8:00 AM

#### [45-11 Measurement and Mass Killing](#)

*The Usual Suspects: Under-Reporting Human Rights and the Convention Against Torture*

Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM

#### [45-13 Activism and Advancing Human Rights](#)

*Shame on U.S.? Human Rights Shaming & U.S. Foreign Aid*

Sunday, Sep 2, 10:15 AM

#### [45-13 Activism and Advancing Human Rights](#)

*Real Human Rights Activism in Latin America: A Comparative Study*

Sunday, Sep 2, 10:15 AM

#### [45-14 Women's Rights and Wrongs](#)

*Women's Rights Movements in the Arab Spring: Major Victories for Human Rights, or Symbolic Accommodations to Strengthen Regime Change Movements?*

Friday, Aug 31, 2:00 PM

#### [45-14 Women's Rights and Wrongs](#)

*Women's Rights or Human Rights? Shifts in Framing in the European Parliament*

Friday, Aug 31, 2:00 PM

#### [45-15 Protecting Human Rights](#)

*Legalization and Leverage: How Foreign Aid Conditions the Effect of Human Rights Commitments*

Saturday, Sep 1, 4:15 PM

#### [45-16 New Advances in Human Rights and State Repression Research](#)

*Repression by Proxy: Military Leadership and State Human Rights Violations in Burma*

Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

#### [45-16 New Advances in Human Rights and State Repression Research](#)

*Economic Sanctions, Political Survival, and Human Rights: An Empirical Investigation.*

Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

#### [45-16 New Advances in Human Rights and State Repression Research](#)

*State Capacity and Human Rights: Explaining the Tools of Repression.*

Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

#### [45-16 New Advances in Human Rights and State Repression Research](#)

*Autocracies, Torture, and the Efficacy of Human Rights Treaties*

Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

#### [45-18 The Domestic Politics of Human Rights Law](#)

*Does Human Rights Treaty Accession Delay Democratization?*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

#### [45-18 The Domestic Politics of Human Rights Law](#)

*The Autocratic Politics of Human Rights Agreement Ratification*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

#### [45-18 The Domestic Politics of Human Rights Law](#)

*Stability or Fluidity? Veto Players and the Effects of International Human Rights Regimes*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

#### [45-18 The Domestic Politics of Human Rights Law](#)

*Explaining Within State Variation in Compliance with Human Rights Agreements*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

#### [45-19 Pre & Transitional Justice? Exploring Efforts to Deal with Political Violence both Before and After](#)

*How Socializing in International Organizations Affects States' Human Rights Practices*

Thursday, Aug 30, 8:00 AM

#### [Panel 1 Tocqueville, Catholicism and Limited Democratic Government](#)

*"Catholicism and 'The Great Political Problem of Our Time'": Tocqueville, the Catholic Human Rights Revolution, and the Problem of Limited Government in the Age of 'Democracy'"*

Saturday, Sep 1, 8:00 AM

#### [Panel 4 Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery: New Perspectives](#)

*Leadership and Gender in International Human Rights: The Role of Women in Anti-Trafficking Policy in the U.S. Congress*

Sunday, Sep 2, 8:00 AM

#### [Poster Session 1](#)

*The Bifurcation of Political Discourses on Rape in the United States: The Curious Absence of a Dialogue on Human Rights in the Domestic Setting*

Thursday, Aug 30, 10:15 AM

#### [Poster Session 3](#)

*Self-determination, legitimization and human rights: Revisiting the Asian Values debate*

Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM

#### [Poster Session 3](#)

*The Politics of the Hijab at the European Court of Human Rights*

Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM

#### [Poster Session 3](#)

*The Legitimacy of Human Rights Courts*

Friday, Aug 31, 10:15 AM

#### [Poster Session 6](#)

*Guantanamo and the Crystallization of Human Rights Consciousness in the Muslim World*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

#### [Poster Session 6](#)

*Domestic Criminal Prosecutions for Human Rights Violations in Latin America*

Saturday, Sep 1, 10:15 AM

# Out in the World

## KONY 2012 - boom or bust?

Editorial Team



This image provided by Invisible Children shows a scene from the film, "Kony 2012 Part II" under the Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

**[After Kony 2012:  
Three ways NGOs  
can work with  
Africans as equals](#)**

[Obama must learn from  
past mistakes in fight  
against Uganda's LRA](#)

[Liberia – a model for US  
development aid](#)

[Backlash against Kony  
2012: Where are the  
voices of Ugandans?](#)

[Think you know Africa?  
Take our geography  
quiz.](#)

# Releases & Discoveries

## New Takes on Human Rights Measurement

by Christopher J. Fariss and Keith E. Schnakenberg

Did repression decrease in Poland after the collapse of the Soviet Union? Is Uzbekistan more repressive today than when it first emerged as an internationally recognized state? In 2010, was Tajikistan more repressive than the Kyrgyz Republic? We have developed a new human rights dataset that allows researchers to systematically compare different country-year observations and answer these questions with probabilities. This was accomplished using data already available to researchers by applying a Bayesian statistical model that estimates the underlying repression level from indicators. This is the first dataset that allows for the direct, probabilistic comparison of the level of human rights abuse between cases. Until now, analysts that wished to know if two cases were different had to rely on case specific evidence or ordinal human rights variables. Case specific evidence limits the number of comparisons that can be made and does not provide an estimate that can be compared alongside other pair-wise comparisons. The ordinal data that predominates the quantitative human rights literature can provide yes/no answers but is unable to quantify the certainty of the given answer. For example, a country-year-pair that

receives the same score on either the CIRI or PTS scale are assumed to be the same. If another country-year-pair receives different scores than they are assumed to be different. This data, along with other data and the code used to produce it, is now available to researchers at the following website: <http://polisci2.ucsd.edu/cfariss/HumanRightsScores/About.html>. Please let us know if you have any questions about using it.

**Chris Fariss** is at the University of California, San Diego & **Keith Schnakenberg** is at Washington University

estimated level of respect for human rights by state over time created by Fariss and Schnakenberg. Very cool stuff! (comment from the editor not the creators)

# Releases & Discoveries

## New Takes on Human Rights Measurement

(Continued)

### Latent Human Rights Scores

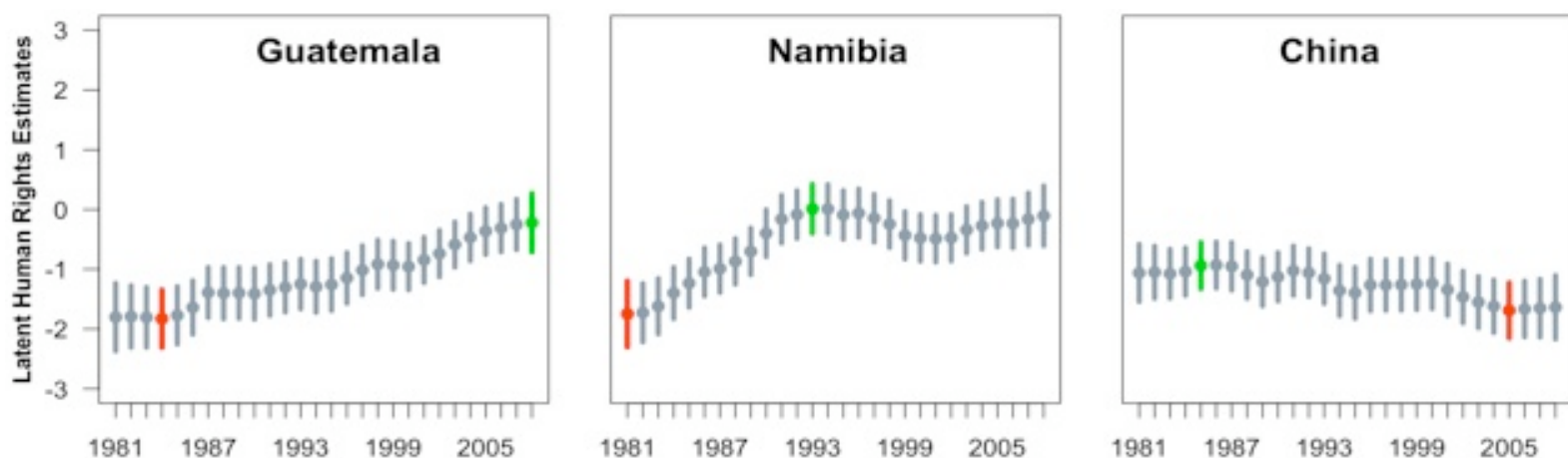
The Latent Human Rights Scores available from this page were generated using a dynamic ordinal item-response theory model discussed at length in the paper listed below. The datasets contain country-year estimates of the mean and standard deviation of the estimated level of respect for physical integrity rights and empowerment rights for each year in which the constituent CIRI human rights indicators were available. See the [CIRI Human Rights Data Project](#) for more information on these indicators. The latent estimates allow for measurement uncertainty to be included in models that use human rights as a predictor variable. Datasets that contain the last 1000 draws from the posterior distribution from both the dynamic ordinal item-response theory model and the ordinal item-response theory model are also available. Detailed information about these models and other scaling techniques are discussed in the paper. We will

also post full replication files once the paper has been accepted for publication. The [JAGS](#) code used to estimate the models are available in the Appendix section of the article.

### Data

Country-year datasets with posterior mean and standard deviation estimates for the latent physical integrity variable are available here: <http://hdl.handle.net/1902.1/17859>. We will add more datasets and replication files soon. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Examples below. Source: [http://polisci2.ucsd.edu/cfariss/HumanRightsScores/Latent\\_Scores.html](http://polisci2.ucsd.edu/cfariss/HumanRightsScores/Latent_Scores.html)



**Doron Shultziner** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) created a database on the appearances of dignity in the constitutions of 194 UN member states

From Shultziner: I analyze and map major legal functions of human dignity in the constitutions of the United Nations member states. The results are based on a combination of a quantitative and qualitative analysis that was applied to the national constitutions of those 194 countries and the equivalent basic laws and bill of rights in the very few countries that have no formal constitution. The data that was recorded for each constitutional document is: the total number of times dignity is mentioned in the document; the number of times dignity is mentioned in the preamble of

the constitution; the number of times dignity is mentioned in Fundamental Principles clauses; the number of times dignity is mentioned in other articles of the constitution; the article numbers in which the term appears; the enactment year of the constitution or the year in which dignity was introduced into the constitution through amendment; text quotes of the specific articles in which the term is mentioned.

**Doron Shulziner** is at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

# Security in Numbers Database (SiND)

By Larissa Fast (University of Notre Dame)

## Security in Numbers Database (SiND)

Violence against aid workers and agencies is a topic of growing scholarly inquiry. The Security in Numbers Database (SiND) is a comprehensive and global database of a range of threats, violence, and others measures taken against aid organizations, their staff members, programs, and physical infrastructure. SiND tracks the impact of these incidents on aid work, including how aid agencies respond to such events. The database therefore covers a broader range of incidents than most existing datasets, which tend to cover only fatalities and kidnappings. The SiND currently contains over 4,000 events from the mid-1990s to the present, using both media reports and partner agency incident reports.

For more information about SiND, contact Larissa Fast (Assistant Professor, Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, [lfast@nd.edu](mailto:lfast@nd.edu)) or visit the following website:

<http://www.insecurityinsight.org/projectshumanitarian.html>



## New Book

# Immigration, Islam, and the Politics of Belonging in France

### A Comparative Framework

Elaine R. Thomas (Reed College)

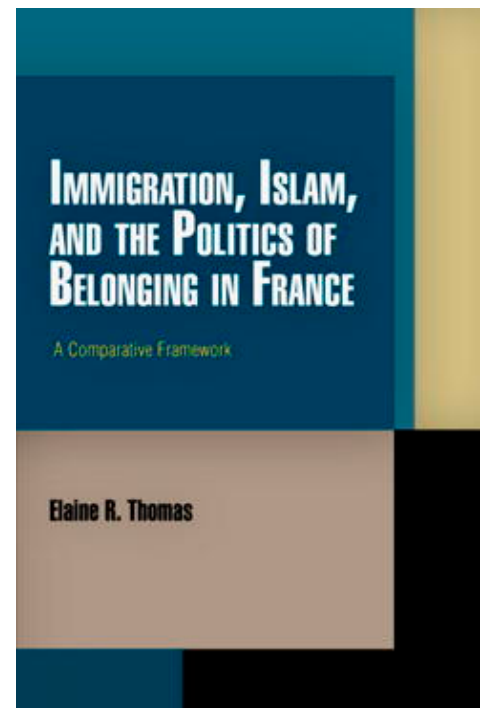
"Original, topical, and very provocative. Using methods originating in ordinary language theory, this innovative book offers an alternative theoretical framework for examining and comparing public debates concerning citizenship and nationality in the context of reactions to immigration. I have been waiting for a book like this for a long time."—Mahmood Monshipouri, San Francisco State University

Over the past three decades, neither France's treatment of Muslims nor changes in French, British, and German immigration laws have confirmed multiculturalist hopes or postnationalist expectations. Yet analyses positing unified national models also fall short in explaining contemporary issues of national and cultural identity. *Immigration, Islam, and the Politics of Belonging in France: A Comparative Framework* presents a more productive, multifaceted view of citizenship and nationality.

Political scientist Elaine R. Thomas casts new light on recent conflicts over citizenship and national identity in France, as well as such contentious policies as laws restricting Muslim head-scarves. Drawing on key methods and insights of ordinary language philosophers from Austin to Wittgenstein, Thomas looks at parliamentary debates, print journalism, radio and television transcripts, official government reports, legislation, and other primary sources related to the rights and status of immigrants and their descendants. Her analysis of French discourse shows how political strategies and varied ideas of membership have intertwined in France since the late 1970s. Thomas tracks the crystallization of a restrictive but apparently consensual interpretation of French republicanism, arguing that its ideals are increasingly strained, even as they remain politically powerful. Thomas also examines issues of Islam, immigration, and culture in other settings, including Britain and Germany.

*Immigration, Islam, and the Politics of Belonging in France* gives scholarly researchers, political observers, and human rights advocates tools for better characterizing and comparing the theoretical stakes of immigration and integration and advances our understanding of an increasingly significant aspect of ethnic and religious politics in France, Europe, and beyond.

Source: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14883.html>



# Second Edition

## Human Rights

### Politics and Practice

Edited by Michael Goodhart (University of Pittsburgh)

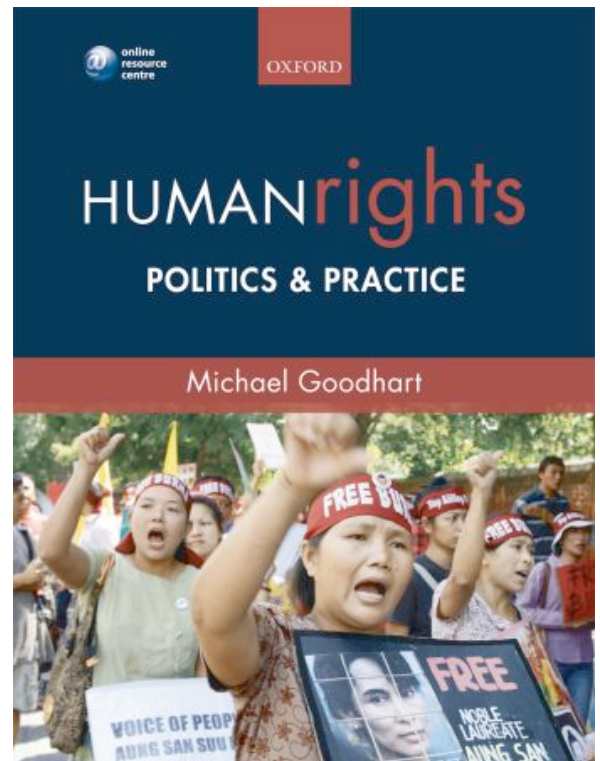
- The first comprehensive human rights textbook for politics students, combining coverage of core approaches with detailed studies of key issues.
- Extensive use of case studies to illustrate key points and emphasize the practical and political dynamics of human rights.
- Carefully edited contributions from international experts, providing students with authoritative and accessible content.
- The contributors include political and social scientists, philosophers, lawyers, and policy experts, reflecting the multi-disciplinary approach that the political study of human rights entails.

*Human Rights: Politics and Practice* is the first comprehensive textbook for politics students. It offers an unparalleled breadth and depth of coverage, with 20 chapters written by international experts.

Seven chapters introduce the main theoretical issues and challenges in the study of human rights as a political phenomenon, addressing normative foundations, international law, measurement, international relations, comparative politics, sociological and anthropological approaches, and the ideological (mis)use of human rights.

Thirteen thematic chapters then offer detailed analysis and case studies of key issues in the politics and practice of human rights, such as economic globalization, genocide, the environment, and humanitarian intervention. These chapters allow students to deepen their theoretical understanding while learning about important contemporary developments.

The book is accompanied by an extensive Online Resource Centre, enhancing student learning and providing valuable support for lecturers.



# Human Rights Politics and Practice

Edited by Michael Goodhart (University of Pittsburgh)

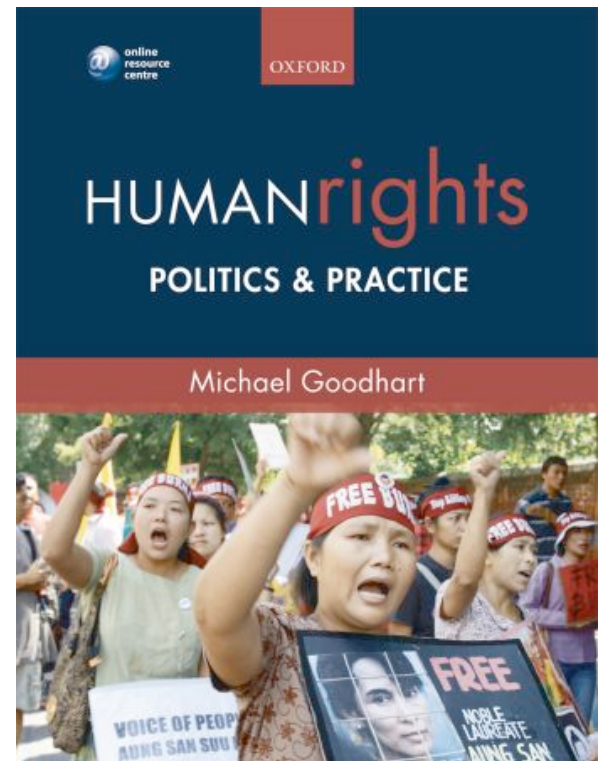
**(Continued)**

## **Part I: Human Rights and Politics**

- 1: Anthony Langlois: Normative and Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights
- 2: Rhona K.M. Smith: Human Rights in International Law
- 3: Todd Landman: Measuring Human Rights
- 4: Tim Dunne and Marianne Hanson: Human Rights in International Relations
- 5: Sonia Cardenas: Human Rights in Comparative Politics
- 6: Damien Short: Sociological and Anthropological Approaches
- 7: David Chandler: Ideological (Mis)use of Human Rights

## **Part II: Human Rights in Practice**

- 8: Christian Davenport: Political Democracy and State Repression
- 9: Marlies Glasius: Global Civil Society and Human Rights
- 10: Sakiko Fukuda-Parr: Human Rights and Politics in Development
- 11: David L. Richards and Ronald D. Gelleny: Economic Globalization and Human Rights
- 12: Andrea Bertone: Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation
- 13: Vanessa Pupavac: Children's Human Rights Advocacy
- 14: Gil Loescher: Human Rights and Forced Migration
- 15: Paul Havemann: Indigenous Peoples Human Rights
- 16: Scott Straus: Genocide and Human Rights
- 17: William F. Schulz: Torture
- 18: John Barry and Kerri Woods: The Environment
- 19: Alan J. Kuperman: Humanitarian Intervention
- 20: Joanna Quinn: Transitional Justice



# New Book

## Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order

Brad R. Roth (Wayne State University)

In *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement: Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order*, Professor Brad R. Roth provides readers with a working knowledge of the various applications of sovereign equality in international law, and defends the principle of sovereign equality as a morally sound response to disagreements in the international realm.

The United Nations system's foundational principle of sovereign equality reflects persistent disagreement within its membership as to what constitutes a legitimate and just internal public order. While the boundaries of the system's pluralism have narrowed progressively in the course of the United Nations era, accommodation of diversity in modes of internal political organization remains a durable theme of the international order. This accommodation of diversity underlies the international system's commitment to preserving a state's territorial integrity and political independence, sometimes at the expense of efforts to establish a universal justice that transcends territorial boundaries. Efforts to establish a universal justice, however, need to heed the dangers of allowing powerful states to invoke universal principles to rationalize unilateral (and often self-serving) impositions upon weak states. In *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement*, Brad R. Roth explains that though frequently counterintuitive, limitations on cross-border exercises of power are supported by substantial moral and political considerations, and are properly overridden only in a limited range of cases.

### Features

- Provides readers with a working knowledge of sovereignty in international law and a moral case for defending its application
- Written by an expert in international law who has authored many chapters, books, and articles on the topic
- Debates the question of whether the international legal order should apply its own moral yardstick to regimes it regards as atavistic, backward, undemocratic, or totalitarian

### Reviews

"This pioneering work in international legal theory offers a rare combination of sober lawyerly caution and high philosophical aspiration - leavened with plain common sense. *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement* gives good reason for pause, especially to those of us who have made a mission of pushing the boundaries of international criminal and humanitarian law. Roth's is a novel, inspired defense of traditional rules upholding the sovereignty of states against recent demands from a putative 'international community.' It's a welcome antidote to new orthodoxies and sure to receive much attention, not least because it issues from someone long-identified with the international human rights movement."

--Mark J. Osiel

Aliber Family Chair in Law, The University of Iowa  
College of Law

"In this tour de force, Brad R. Roth returns to the first principles of international order and produces a rigorous defense of sovereignty, applicable to 21st century debates. A brilliant piece of work that will be required reading for international lawyers."

--Tom Ginsburg

Leo Spitz Professor of International Law and Professor of Political Science,  
University of Chicago Law School

"In *Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement*, Brad R. Roth offers a unique and profound perspective on the place of the state in international law, politics and morality. His aim is to bring about a fundamental shift, to make clear that sovereignty is central to pluralism in the emerging global order. Not all will agree, but everyone's view will be richer afterward. The book is masterful, provocative, and important."

--David D. Caron, President, American Society of International Law; C. William Maxeiner Distinguished Professor of Law, Berkeley Law, University of California

Source: <http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Law/PublicInternationalLaw/GeneralPublicInternationalLaw/?view=usa&ci=9780195342666#>

Click here for podcast of presentation relevant to book:

<http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/sovereign-equality-and-moral-disagreement-premises-pluralist-international-legal-order-audio>

## New Book

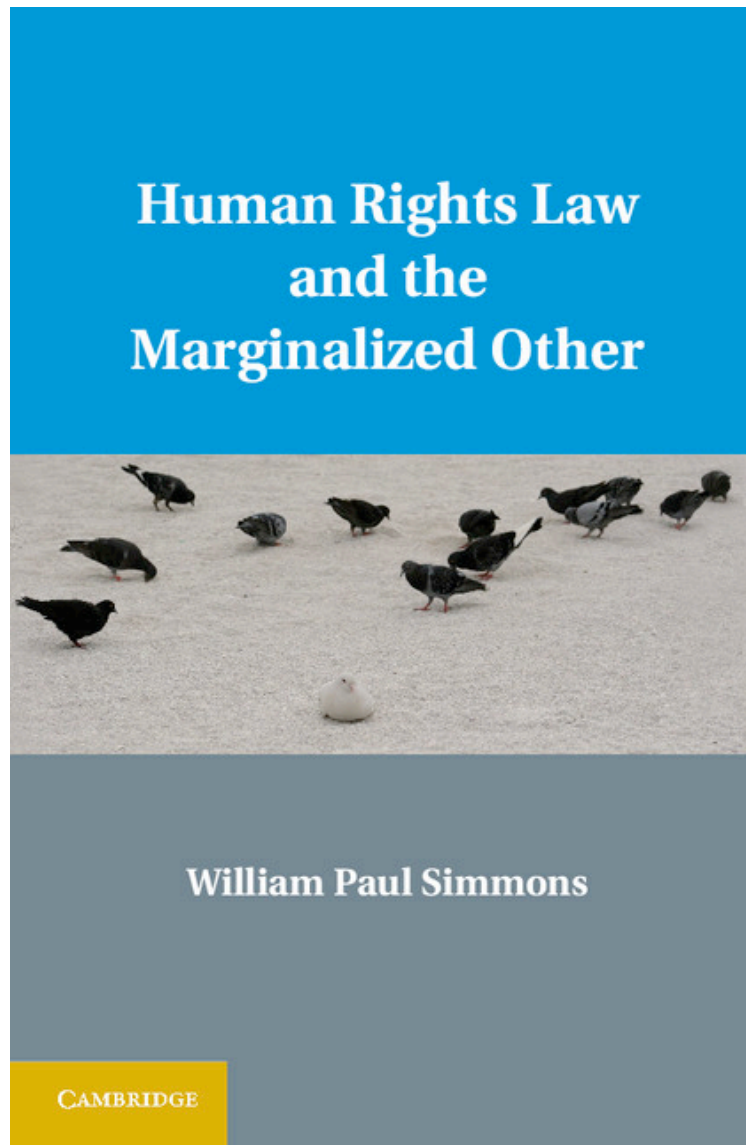
### Human Rights Law and the Marginalized Other

William Paul Simmons (Arizona State University)

This is a groundbreaking application of contemporary philosophy to human rights law that proposes significant innovations for the progressive development of human rights. Drawing on the works of prominent 'philosophers of the Other' including Emmanuel Levinas, Gayatri Chakravorti Spivak, Judith Butler and, most centrally, the Argentine philosopher of liberation Enrique Dussel, this book develops an ethics based on concrete face-to-face relationships with the Marginalized Other. It proposes that this should inspire a human rights law that is grounded in transcendental justice and framed from the perspective of marginalized groups. This would continuously deconstruct the original violence found in all human rights treaties and tribunals and promote preferential treatment for the marginalized. It would be especially attentive to such issues as access to justice, voice, representation, agency and responsibility. This differs markedly from more conventional theories that prioritize

the autonomy of the ego, state sovereignty, democracy and/or equality.

Source: [http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item6481700/Human%20Rights%20Law%20and%20the%20Marginalized%20Other/?site\\_locale=en\\_GB](http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item6481700/Human%20Rights%20Law%20and%20the%20Marginalized%20Other/?site_locale=en_GB)



# New Book

## From Human Trafficking to Human Rights: Rethinking Contemporary Slavery

Professor Alison Brysk and Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick

Over the last decade, public, political, and scholarly attention has focused on human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery. Yet as human rights scholars Alison Brysk and Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick argue, most current work tends to be more descriptive and focused on trafficking for sexual exploitation.

In *From Human Trafficking to Human Rights*, Brysk, Choi-Fitzpatrick, and a cast of experts demonstrate that it is time to recognize human trafficking as more a matter of human rights and social justice, rooted in larger structural issues relating to the global economy, human security, U.S. foreign policy, and labor and gender relations. Such reframing involves overcoming several of the most difficult barriers to the development of human rights discourse: women's rights as human rights, labor rights as a confluence of structure and agency, the interdependence of migration and discrimination, the ideological and policy hegemony of the United States in setting the terms of debate, and a politics of global justice and governance.

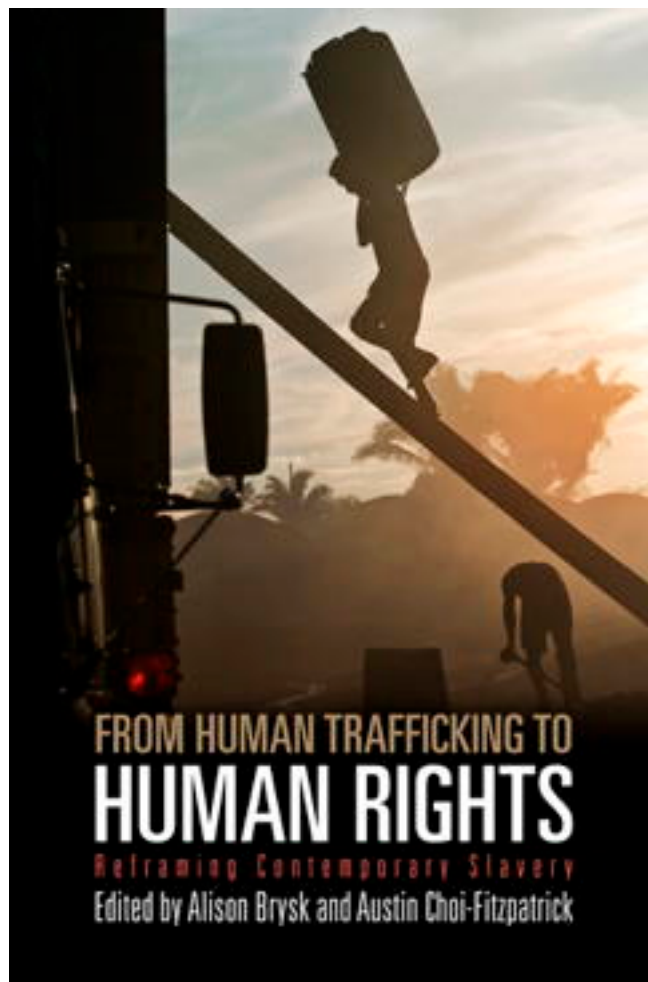
analysis and response by recovering human rights principles that match protection with empowerment and recognize the interdependence of social rights and personal freedoms. Together, contributors to the volume conclude that rethinking trafficking requires moving our orientation from sex to slavery, from prostitution to power relations, and from rescue to rights. On the basis of this argument, *From Human Trafficking to Human Rights* offers concrete policy approaches to improve the global response necessary to end slavery responsibly.

**Alison Brysk** is Mellichamp Professor of Global Governance in the Global and International Studies Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick** is Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of Social Movements and Social Change at the University of Notre Dame.

Source: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/14907.html>

Throughout this volume, the argument is clear: a deep human rights approach can improve



# New Book

## Insincere Commitments: Human Rights Treaties, Abuse States and Citizen Activism

Heather Smith-Cannoy (Lewis & Clark College)

Paradoxically, many governments that persistently violate human rights have also ratified international human rights treaties that empower their citizens to file grievances against them at the United Nations.

Therefore, citizens in rights-repressing regimes find themselves with the potentially invaluable opportunity to challenge their government's abuses. Why would rights-violating governments ratify these treaties and thus afford their citizens this right? Can the mechanisms provided in these treaties actually help promote positive changes in human rights?

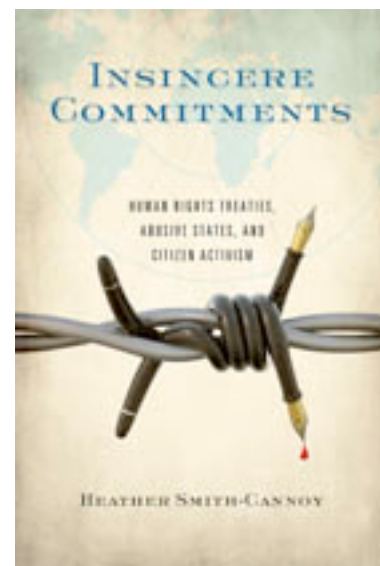
*Insincere Commitments* uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis to examine the factors contributing to commitment and compliance among post-Soviet states such as Slovakia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Heather Smith-Cannoy argues that governments ratify these treaties insincerely in response to domestic economic pressures. Signing the treaties is a way to at least temporarily keep critics of their human rights record at bay while they secure

international economic assistance or more favorable trade terms. However, she finds that through the specific protocols in the treaties that grant individuals the right to petition the UN, even the most insincere state commitments to human rights can give previously powerless individuals—and the nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations that partner with them—an important opportunity that they would otherwise not have to challenge patterns of government repression on the global stage.

This insightful book will be of interest to human rights scholars, students, and practitioners, as well as anyone interested in the UN, international relations, treaties, and governance.

Source: <http://press.georgetown.edu/book/georgetown/insincere-commitments>

**Heather Smith-Cannoy** is an assistant professor of international affairs at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon



## New Articles

Shultziner, Doron, and Itai Rabinovici. 2012. Human Dignity, Self-Worth, and Humiliation: A Comparative Legal-Psychological Approach. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law* 18(1): 105-143.

by Andreas von Staden (University of St. Gallen)

For some time now I have been engaged in studying patterns of compliance and non-compliance with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, first as part of dissertation work at Princeton and now in preparation of a book that will be forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press. As part of this research, I assembled a comprehensive database that covers the present compliance status of all relevant judgments rendered up until 2010 (more than 12'300) and allows to sort by year, respondent state, type of judgment, importance level, substantive violations, and compliance status. This database will be updated periodically and made available publicly upon publication of the book; country variables, e.g., to conduct regression analyses, could be easily added as well. Based on the database and by way of country case studies I have been exploring causal hypotheses explaining the observable patterns of compliance especially as regards liberal democracies. The basic theoretical expectation is that compliance in the context of the European Court of Human Rights is best understood as a result of the interplay of normative and rationalist motives of action, with the former explaining the general pull towards compliance as such and the latter the specific legal and policy choices through which respondent states give effect to adverse judgments domestically.

The existence of several regional human rights regimes naturally invites comparative analysis, especially in relation to the experience of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) which has already generated a sufficiently large number of judgments. (The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, at some point to be merged with the Court of Justice of the African Union to become the African Court of Justice and Human Rights, by contrast has so far only been dealing with a handful of cases and has not issued any adverse judgments yet). The European and American human rights regimes are similar in some respects and different in others which are relevant for generating compliance, most obviously of course in terms of the identity of the countries subject to the respective courts' jurisdiction. Taking into account these similarities and differences an in-depth examination of their consequences for the operation and effectiveness of the two systems promises useful insights into the relevance for compliance and non-compliance of the interaction of specific institutional features with regional/country characteristics.

Against this brief background, I would be very interested to learn whether other scholars are currently working on any comprehensive compliance database concerning the IACtHR and whether they might be interested in undertaking a joint comparative study, using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, to explore the quality of compliance across the two regimes as well as investigating the causal determinants of compliance and non-compliance in each of them. I am aware of the IACtHR's own materials on compliance with its judgments as well as of some published work in English on

compliance in the Inter-American system, but would like to take the opportunity afforded by this newsletter to reach out more broadly to researchers whose work may still be in pre-publication stage and thus less known or less easily accessible. If you are doing compliance-related work on the IACtHR and are interested in exploring possibilities for joint comparative research, please contact me at [andreas.vonstaden@unisg.ch](mailto:andreas.vonstaden@unisg.ch).

Prof. von Staden is an Assistant Professor of International Organization at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland)

# Outreach

## The Illustrative Information Interface (III): Trying to Bring Together “Qualitative” and “Quantitative” Scholarship

by Christian Davenport (University of Michigan)

Several years ago I realized that much of the information that I have about human rights and state repression comes from fabulous historical monographs as well as legal accounts. It occurred to me that I did not tend to rely upon this work when I was content analyzing newspapers and NGO or government records. In an effort to obtain as much information as possible, I created the Illustrative Information Interface (III). This is meant to be a program where anyone (qualitative or quantitative in orientation, professional observer or ordinary citizen) can provide information about what they have seen/heard/read about in a relatively easy manner. The effort has thus far been mixed. I thus appeal to the human rights community to send anyone and everyone they know to [iii.nd.edu](http://iii.nd.edu) to provide whatever information they have about human rights - currently with regard to north, central and south america but soon the globe. One can find a broader discussion of the project in the following locale: [III homepage](#). The more impressions/perceptions received the better. In fact, this is the best aspect of the program. Once information has been obtained from as wide a variety as possible, individuals can select their own “experts” (i.e., who they are interested in listening to/seeing the output from). This actually becomes something that one can compare against in the program.

### Basic Background

Historically, information compiled by governments, newspapers and select US human rights organizations has been used to understand diverse forms of political behavior throughout the world (e.g., human rights violation/state repression, dissent, insurgency and democracy). Unfortunately, each of these sources has their own limitations and it is frequently the case that certain groups are not given an opportunity to provide information about what they have heard, seen, experienced or read about. The Illustrative Information Interface (III) is designed to change this.

Specifically, III provides a secure, easy and user-friendly environment for ordinary citizens, experts, NGOs and victims of political behavior as well as governments, journalists and human rights activists to provide information about events and/or conditions in a systematic and comparable way across time and space. This is principally achieved through drawing and answering a few questions, taking only a few minutes.

Based on what is provided, aggregated information will facilitate an overall view of the magnitude and scope of relevant behavior beyond individual and isolated reports. Using all information given to III or only selected source categories, the compiled data can be used by those who are interested in the relevant topic - for example, downloading or viewing compiled information in a variety of formats. With this in mind, III will help individuals throughout the world better understand what has happened, where, when, who was involved as well as why things took place. Such information can be also used to improve conditions in the future.

### A Classroom task

In an effort to increase participation as well as provide students with an interesting educational effort, I teamed up with Phil Howard from the University of Washington to use III in class. Each student was assigned a country and year to read about, later using this information to provide some entries into III. This worked out rather well: the students learned something new and the program gained entries. Below you will see what Prof. Howard used in his course:

Historically, information about diverse forms of socio-political behavior such as violence, conflict and crime have been collected and distributed by governments, journalists and more recently human rights organizations. This information has provided a large number of keen insights but these sources also involve a large number of limitations as well. Despite the reliance upon these sources, almost all information about social, political and economic life relies upon information provided by witnesses, victims and perpetrators of relevant phenomenon but these are frequently not collected in a rigorous manner nor is it always easy for these individuals to provide the information that they have.

The assignment is to use information from a human rights source to develop a general understanding of what human rights violations and state repression in either of [your assigned countries](#). First, you will investigate the scope of repression/human rights violation within the country and year you selected. This concerns the percentage of the population targeted (this goes from 0 - no one was targeted, to 100 - everyone was targeted). Second, you will investigate the general violence found within a specific country-year. Here, you are interested in whether or not people are generally killed (which would be the highest score of 100 on this dimension) or treated non-violently like with a banning or instance of censorship (which would be the lowest score of 0 on this dimension). You are to try to figure out what is the average or typical type of behavior during the year not just the worst. You could think of a middle range value as something that has a certain degree of violence but not an excessive amount like beatings or forceful arrest (something like a 50 on the scale). Slightly higher violence would be torture (75 on the scale) and slightly less would involve restrictive legislation like a curfew (10-20). The project has a [homepage](#) and there is an [instructional video](#) on how to turn State Department reports on human rights violations into standardized measures of state abuse.

When you are generally clear on what you are coding for then you are ready to read some raw information. The US State Department maintains two databases of country reports about human right violations, one covering the period [1993-1999](#) and another covering [1999-2009](#), and you may use either. Open the report open and give it a quick scan to look for the kinds of information you will be asked to code for.

# Outreach

A call for collaboration

(Continued)

**Assignment Goals.** First, this assignment will provide an opportunity to contribute to a collective research endeavor on human rights violations in the Americas. Second, this assignment will help you practice searching for information from a variety of sources and keep on top of current events in other parts of the world.

**Assignment Grading.** This assignment is worth 10 points and is due 5:00pm Friday May 13th [on this dedicated website](#). You must submit details on two country-years, completing all the relevant coding fields, and will receive 5 points for doing each country-year.



## Illustrative Information Interface

# Scholar of Note

CONWAY, Ark. (April 27, 2012) - Hendrix College politics and international relations professor Dr. Daniel J. Whelan was recently awarded a Visiting Fellowship in Human Rights from the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study (SAS) at the University of London. The Fellowship will occur in the fall 2012 semester during Dr. Whelan's sabbatical.

"While in residence at SAS, I will explore a number of interrelated research questions that sit at the intersections of human rights, international development, and political economy," said Whelan. "In particular, I will facilitate a term-long seminar series on human rights and development, and deliver a lecture for MA students pursuing degrees in human rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies."

"This work will allow me to embark on the next steps in my own research program, as well as develop new coursework for the politics and international relations department and other interdisciplinary initiatives at the College," Whelan added.

Founded in 1876, Hendrix College is a national leader in engaged liberal arts and sciences education. Hendrix was named the country's #1 "Up and Coming" liberal arts college for the third consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report*. Hendrix is featured in the 2011 edition of the Princeton Review as one of the country's best 376 colleges and is listed in the 2012 edition of the Fiske Guide to Colleges as one of 25 "Best Buy" private colleges included. Hendrix has been affiliated with the United Methodist Church since 1884. For more information, visit [www.hendrix.edu](http://www.hendrix.edu).

Source: <http://www.hendrix.edu/news/news.aspx?id=60029>

