

FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION



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ROOSEVELT HOUSE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE AT HUNTER COLLEGE

Roosevelt House, an integral part of Hunter College since 1943, reopened in 2010 as a public policy institute honoring the distinguished legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Its mission is three-fold: to educate students in public policy and human rights, to support faculty research, and to foster creative dialogue. The institute provides opportunities for students to analyze public policy and experience meaningful civic engagement; for faculty to research, teach, and write about important issues of the day; and for scholarly and public audiences to participate in high-profile lectures, seminars, and conferences.

www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu

HUNTER COLLEGE HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

The Hunter Human Rights Program at Roosevelt House aims to give students the tools they need to address human rights problems intelligently and constructively, whether as advocates, scholars, researchers, or informed citizens. Via academic study and hands-on experience, students explore both the theoretical and practical underpinnings of human rights debates.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)

OHCHR works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law. It supports the work of the treaty bodies that monitor State Parties' compliance with human rights treaties and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. The office is headed by High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, who spoke at Roosevelt House in October 2015.

www.ohchr.org



ROOSEVELT HOUSE
PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE AT HUNTER COLLEGE

and the
HUNTER HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

Present



*A program in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** and the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)***



Thursday, December 15, 2016

PROGRAM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Harold Holzer, *Jonathan F. Fanton Director*
The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College

Kate Gilmore
UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (by video)

INTRODUCTION & MODERATOR

Lawrence Moss, *Distinguished Lecturer*,
Rita E. Hauser Director of the Hunter Human Rights Program

PANEL I: From Declaration to Covenants & the Quest for Universal Ratification

Reflections on the Drafting of the Two Covenants
Blanche Wiesen Cook, *CUNY Graduate Center*;
Eleanor Roosevelt biographer

Universal Ratification: The US and ICESCR
Michael Posner, *NYU Stern School of Business*;
former US Assistant Secretary of State

Universal Ratification: China and ICCPR
Jerome A. Cohen, *NYU US-Asia Law Institute*
Ai Weiwei, *contemporary artist and activist (by video)*

The Human Rights Covenants: A Call to Arms
Catherine Albisa, *Executive Director, NESRI*

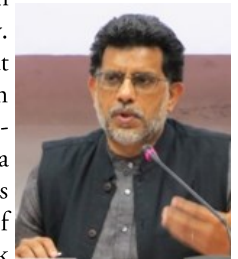
DISCUSSION

PANEL II: SPEAKERS

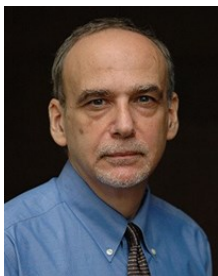
Aisling Reidy is a Senior Legal Advisor at Human Rights Watch. Reidy has served as senior legal advisor at Human Rights Watch since 2006, focusing on Europe and Central Asia, the Americas, and several African states. She has taught international humanitarian law and human rights law at a university level. Previously, Reidy, an Irish Barrister, was the director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties. She also worked in The Hague as a trial lawyer in the Office of the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Reidy has litigated multiple cases before the European Court of Human Rights and has appeared on behalf of Turkey's Kurdish victims of rights violations. Immediately after the Kosovo War, she worked in Kosovo as senior human rights analyst for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, where she worked with families of the "disappeared" as the head of a victim identification and recovery program. She is a fellow of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex in the UK, and was a senior research fellow at University College London. She holds a law degree from the National University of Ireland and a master's in international human rights law from University of Essex.



Miloon Kothari, based in New Delhi, India, is an independent expert on human rights and social policy. He is the President of UPR Info, an organization that works to make the UPR process an effective mechanism to improve human rights. Kothari was a Dr. Martin Luther King Visiting Scholar at MIT in 2013-14 and a Visiting Scholar at the MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice in 2014-15. He is currently Senior Advisor of the MIT Displacement Research and Action Network (DRAN). Kothari is a leading voice at forums on human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights. He served (from 2000-08) as the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing with the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council. During his tenure as Special Rapporteur, Kothari led the process that resulted in the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development based Evictions and Displacement—the current global operational human rights standard on the practice of forced evictions. An architect by training, Kothari is the founder and former coordinator of the South Asian Regional Programme of the Habitat International Coalition's Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN). He has contributed significantly as founding member and convener (2009-13) to the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR).



PANEL II: SPEAKERS



Gerald Neuman is the J. Sinclair Armstrong Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law, and the Co-Director of the Human Rights Program at Harvard Law School. He teaches human rights, constitutional law, and immigration and nationality law. His current research focuses on international human rights bodies, transnational dimensions of constitutionalism, and rights of foreign nationals. He is the author of *Strangers to the Constitution: Immigrants, Borders and Fundamental Law*

(Princeton 1996), and co-author of the casebook *Human Rights* (with Louis Henkin et al., Foundation Press). Prior to joining HLS in 2006, he served on the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania Law School (1984-1992) and Columbia Law School (1992-2006). From 2011 to 2014, he was a member of the Human Rights Committee, the treaty body that monitors compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Beth Simmons is an Andrea Mitchell University Professor in Law and Political Science at Penn Law. Simmons is best known for her research on international political economy during the interwar years, policy diffusion globally, and her work demonstrating the influence that international law has on human rights outcomes around the world. Two of her books, *Who Adjusts? Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policy During the Interwar Years* (1994) and *Mobilizing for*

Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics (2009) won the American Political Science Association's Woodrow Wilson Award for the best book published in the United States on government, politics, or international affairs. The latter was also recognized by the American Society for International Law, the International Social Science Council, and the International Studies Association as the best book of the year in 2010. She is currently conducting research in three areas: global performance assessments as informal governance mechanisms in international affairs; international border crossings, and especially evidence of their "thickening" in recent decades in many parts of the world; and international and transnational crime. Simmons has spent a year working at the International Monetary Fund, directed the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard, is a past president of the International Studies Association, and has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

PROGRAM

PANEL II: Impact of the Covenants, Past and Future

Treaty Body Monitoring of the Covenants
Gerald Neuman, *Harvard Law School*;
former Human Rights Committee member

The Impact of the two Covenants After 50 Years
Beth Simmons, *University of Pennsylvania*

The Human Rights Covenants: A Focus for Advocacy?
Aisling Reidy, *Senior Legal Advisor, Human Rights Watch*

The Human Rights Covenants: On or Off the Agenda?
Miloon Kothari, *President, UPR Info*;
former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing

DISCUSSION

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Sponsored by the Mission of Finland to the UN

Welcoming Remarks by **H.E. Kai Sauer**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN

PANEL 1: SPEAKERS



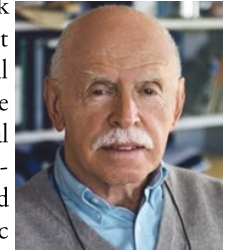
Blanche Wiesen Cook (Hunter College '62), is Distinguished Professor of History and Women's Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and the author of many books including several biographies of Eleanor Roosevelt—most recently, *Eleanor Roosevelt, Volume 3: The War Years and After, 1939-1962* (Viking, 2016). The first volume was a *New York Times* best seller for three months and received numerous awards, including the 1992 Biography Prize from *The Los Angeles Times*, and the Lambda Literary Award. For more than 20 years she produced and hosted her own program for Radio Pacifica, originally called *Activists and Agitators*, later renamed *Women and the World* in the 1990s. She is the former Vice-President for Research of the American Historical Association, and was Vice-President and Chair of the Fund for Open Information and Accountability. She was also Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Freedom of Information and Access Committee of the Organization of American Historians. Among her other honors, Professor Cook was named Scholar of the Year by The New York State Council on the Humanities in 1996.



Michael Posner is the Jerome Kohlberg Professor of Ethics and Finance and a Professor of Business and Society at NYU's Stern School of Business, where he is working to launch the first-ever center on business and human rights at a business school. Prior to joining NYU Stern, Posner served from 2009 to 2013 in the Obama Administration as Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the State Department. From 1978 to 2009, he led Human Rights First. Posner is recognized as a leader and expert in advancing a rights-based approach to national security, challenging the practice of torture, combating discrimination, and refugee protection. As Assistant Secretary, Posner represented the U.S. Government to foreign officials and representatives of civil society in China, Russia, Egypt, Burma, Bahrain, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, among many others. Throughout his career, Posner has been a prominent voice in support of human rights protections in global business operations in the manufacturing supply chain, the extractives industry, and the information and communications technology sector. A member of the California Bar and the Illinois Bar, he received his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Law School, and a B.A. with distinction and honors in History from the University of Michigan.

PANEL I: SPEAKERS

Jerome A. Cohen is Professor of Law at New York University Law School, and the senior American expert on East Asian law. As Director of East Asian Legal Studies at Harvard Law School from 1964-1979, he helped pioneer the introduction of East Asian legal systems and perspectives into American legal curricula. Professor Cohen teaches courses on Chinese law and society, international business contracts and economic cooperation with East Asia, and on comparative international law, analyzing how countries with a Confucian tradition relate to the international laws and traditions of the "Christian West." As co-director of the NYU US-Asia Law Institute, he hosts a weekly Asia Hour for students with prominent diplomatic and government officials, leading academics, and other influential practitioners in the East Asian legal area, and coordinates a Chinese language colloquium. As Adjunct Senior Fellow for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, he directs the Winston Lord Roundtable on Asia, the Rule of Law, and U.S. Foreign Policy.



Ai Wei Wei is a Chinese contemporary artist and activist. He currently has shows at four NYC galleries.

Catherine Albisa is Executive Director of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI). She is a constitutional and human rights lawyer with a background on the right to health. Cathy also has significant experience working in partnership with community organizers in the use of human rights standards to strengthen advocacy in the United States. She co-founded NESRI along with Sharda Sekaran and Liz Sullivan in order to build legitimacy for human rights in general, and economic and social rights in particular, in the United States. She is committed to a community-centered and participatory human rights approach that is locally anchored, but universal and global in its vision. Cathy clerked for the Honorable Mitchell Cohen in the District of New Jersey. She received a BA from the University of Miami and is a graduate of Columbia Law School.

