

TOWARDS DYSTOPIAN DEMOCRACIES IN EUROPE AND THE USA?

FROM PREJUDICE IN IMMIGRATION POLICIES TO MASS SURVEILLANCE IN COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS



Credit: Santi Palacios

OCTOBER 22, 2015, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

New York University
Lipton Hall
108 West Third Street, New York, NY 10012

RSVP to vd526@nyu.edu by October 20

PROGRAMME

Developments of democracy in Europe and the USA have followed mutually influencing paths over the past two centuries. From the declarations of rights to the establishment of democratic institutions after WWII, these regions have built their governments on the foundation of human rights protection. These foundations have now been weakened by the responses to a number of challenges, in particular immigration and counter-terrorism.

The influx of migrants and asylum-seekers, from Africa and the Middle East to Europe and from Central and Latin America to the USA, are being met with a combination of repressive measures: walls and fences, naval military operations, laws criminalizing undocumented immigration, racial profiling, insufficient integration policies, to mention a few. Populist and xenophobic parties have fuelled racist resentment towards Muslims and immigrants in general and have encouraged hate speech and crimes.

At the same time, the USA and Europe are increasingly engaging in counter-terrorism operations in a way which is straining the democratic fabric of our society. Some of these measures have a disproportionate impact on ethnic and religious minorities, thus further polarizing societies. Governments and policy makers, claiming the incompatibility of security with human rights protection, are adopting laws and policies, which increase the powers of security services without guaranteeing the checks and balances necessary in a democracy. Ultimately, such policies contribute to the erosion of democratic core values on both sides of the Atlantic and play in the hands of populist parties and of those who promote antidemocratic causes.

6:30 pm – 6:45 pm

WELCOME ADDRESS

Thomas J. CAREW, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, NYU

INTRODUCTION

Jean-Philippe DEDIEU, CIRHUS Research Fellow and SCA Visiting Scholar, NYU

6:45 pm – 7:15 pm

LECTURES

Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Susan N. HERMAN, President of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

7:15 pm – 8:15 pm

DISCUSSION & DEBATES WITH THE ROOM

Chair

Ahmed SHIHAB-ELDIN, Journalist, Correspondent, and Producer for VICE on HBO

Sally Engle MERRY, Silver Professor of Anthropology & Faculty Co-director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the New York University School of Law, NYU

Larry SIEMS, Writer, Human Rights Activist, and Editor of *Guantánamo Diary* by Mohamedou Ould Slahi (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2015)

8:15 pm – 8:30 pm

CONCLUSION

Jacqueline BHABHA, FXB Director of Research, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard

CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY:

Jean-Philippe DEDIEU, CIRHUS Research Fellow & SCA Visiting Scholar, NYU

Stefano MONTANARI, Head of Communication Unit, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY:

Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CIRHUS), NYU

Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty, Arts, Humanities & Diversity, NYU

Department of Social and Cultural Analysis (SCA), NYU

FXB Center For Health And Human Rights, Harvard University

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ), NYU

BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jacqueline BHABHA, FXB Director of Research, Harvard University

Jacqueline Bhabha is FXB Director of Research, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Lecturer in Law at Harvard Law School, and an Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School.

She received a first class honors degree and an M.Sc. from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the College of Law in London.

From 1997 to 2001, Jacqueline Bhabha directed the Human Rights Program at the University of Chicago. Prior to 1997, she was a practicing human rights lawyer in London and at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Jacqueline Bhabha serves on the board of the Scholars at Risk Network, the World Peace Foundation and the Journal of Refugee Studies. She is also a founder of the Alba Collective, an international women's NGO currently working with rural women and girls in developing countries to enhance financial security and youth rights.

Selected bibliography:

Bhabha, Jacqueline. 2014. *Child Migration & Human Rights in a Global Age*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Bhabha, Jacqueline. 2014. *Coming of Age Reframing the Approach to Adolescent Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Thomas J. CAREW, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, New York University

Thomas J. Carew has served as the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at NYU since July 2011. He was previously the Bren Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at the University of California, Irvine, where he also served as Chair of the Task Force on Undergraduate Education, and as a member of the system-wide Commission on Undergraduate Education. He has also held leadership roles at Yale University and Columbia University.

A renowned scholar and the author of over 180 scholarly articles and three books, Dean Carew has focused his research on the behavioral, cellular, and molecular analyses of learning and memory.

Among his many honors are the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) MERIT Award, an NIMH Career Development Award, Yale's Dylan Hixon Prize for Excellence in Teaching in the Natural Sciences, and the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award at the University of California, Irvine. He is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served as President of the Society for Neuroscience in 2008.

Dean Carew earned a BA from Loyola University, an MA in physiological psychology from California State College, and his PhD in physiological psychology from the University of California, Riverside. He also received an honorary MA from Yale University in 1984.

Jean-Philippe DEDIEU, CIRHUS Research Fellow & SCA Visiting Scholar, NYU

Jean-Philippe Dedieu is a CIRHUS Research Fellow and a SCA Visiting Scholar at New York University (NYU). A former Fulbright Fellow at University of California - Berkeley (UCB), Jean-Philippe Dedieu holds a MBA from ESSEC Business School and a Ph.D. in history and sociology from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS).

Jean-Philippe Dedieu's work focuses on African Diasporas and politics. In addition to his contributions to *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, his academic articles appeared in *African Issues*, *Black Renaissance*, *Critique internationale*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Revue française de science politique* among others.

Following these publications, Jean-Philippe Dedieu was called in 2013 by a Parliamentary committee of the French National Assembly to testify on immigration in France. Since 2014, he is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Doctors of the World Foundation. In 2015, he was awarded a Weatherhead Initiative on Global History (WIGH) Fellowship at Harvard University.

Selected bibliography:

Dedieu, Jean-Philippe. 2012. *Immigrant Voices: African Migrants in the Public Sphere in France, 1960-1995* [in French]. Paris: Les Belles Lettres.

Susan N. HERMAN, President of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Susan N. Herman was elected President of the American Civil Liberties Union in October 2008, after having served on the ACLU National Board of Directors for twenty years, as a member of the Executive Committee for sixteen years, and as General Counsel for ten years.

Susan N. Herman received a B.A. from Barnard College as a philosophy major, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Note and Comment Editor on the N.Y.U. Law Review. Before entering teaching, Professor Herman was Pro Se Law Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Staff Attorney and then Associate Director of Prisoners' Legal Services of New York.

Susan N. Herman holds a chair as Centennial Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, where she currently teaches courses in Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure, and seminars on Law and Literature, and Terrorism and Civil Liberties. She writes extensively on constitutional and criminal procedure topics for scholarly and other publications, ranging from law reviews and books to periodicals and on-line publications.

Selected bibliography:

Herman, Susan N. 2011. *Taking Liberties: the War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Nils Muižnieks was elected Commissioner for Human Rights on 24 January 2012 by the Parliamentary Assembly and took up his position on 1 April 2012. He is the third Commissioner, succeeding Thomas Hammarberg (2006-2012) and Alvaro Gil-Robles (1999-2006).

Nils Muižnieks is a Latvian national educated in the United States of America, where he obtained a Ph.D. in political science at the University of California at Berkeley.

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks held prominent posts such as Director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies - now Latvian Human Rights Centre (1994-2002); Latvian minister responsible for social integration, anti-discrimination, minority rights, and civil society development (2002-2004); Director of the Advanced Social and Political Research Institute at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Latvia in Riga (2005-2012); Chairman of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (2010-2012). He has also published extensively on human rights issues, in particular on racism, discrimination and minority rights.

Selected bibliography:

Muižnieks, Nils. 2011. *Latvian-Russian Relations: Dynamics Since Latvia's Accession to the EU and NATO*. Riga: University of Latvia Academic Press.

Muižnieks, Nils. 2008. *Georgian Security: A Latvian Perspective*. Riga: University of Latvia Press.

Sally Engle MERRY, Silver Professor of Anthropology & Faculty Co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU

Sally Engle Merry is Professor of Anthropology and is Faculty Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at New York University. She is former director of the Law and Society Program, and an affiliated faculty member of the NYU School of Law.

Sally Engle Merry received her BA from Wellesley College, MA from Yale University, and PhD from Brandeis University. She was a fellow at the Bunting Institute at Radcliffe in 1994-1995, the American Bar Foundation in 1999, the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Kennedy School at Harvard in 2001-2002, and the Human Rights Program of the Harvard Law School in 2010-2011.

Her research on human rights examines the process by which human rights ideas are interpreted in vernacular terms that are relevant to everyday life in communities around the world. Her specialty is the anthropology of law, and she has done research on courts and disputing in the USA, on law and American colonialism in Hawai'i, on gender violence and human rights, and on the role of new information technologies for human rights monitoring.

Selected bibliography:

Merry, Sally Engle. 2009. *Gender Violence: A Cultural Perspective*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Pub.

Goodale, Mark, and Sally Engle Merry, eds. 2007. *The Practice of Human Rights Tracking Law Between the Global and the Local*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Stefano MONTANARI, Head of Communication Unit, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe

Stefano Montanari is an Italian journalist who has covered human rights issues for several Italian and international media. He joined the Council of Europe in 2005, where he is now the head of the communication unit of the Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 1999 he graduated in Humanities at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", with a focus on History and International Relations. He obtained an M.A. in International Co-operation and Project Design in the same University.

Prior to his arrival at the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, he worked as communication consultant for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and UNDP ART Universitas Programme.

Selected bibliography:

Montanari, Stefano. 2013. "Cumplir los Derechos Humanos en Europa. La cooperación entre el Consejo de Europa y las Instituciones Nacionales de Derechos Humanos," in *La protección de los derechos humanos por las defensorías del pueblo*. Dykinson, S.L.

Montanari, Stefano. 2000. *Cronaca da sotto le bombe* (introduction). Edizioni Multimedia

Ahmed SHIHAB-ELDIN, Journalist, Correspondent, and Producer for VICE Media LLC on HBO

Ahmed Shihab-Eldin is Journalist, Correspondent, and Producer for VICE Media LLC on HBO and an adjunct faculty member of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Ahmed Shihab-Eldin graduated with honors from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism with a focus in digital media. In 2009, he began teaching courses in digital media at Columbia University as an Adjunct Professor.

Over the years, Ahmed Shihab-Eldin has worked as a News Producer for *The New York Times*, a Web Producer for Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), an Online Producer and Journalist at Al Jazeera English, as well as a Host and Producer at HuffPost Live. In 2012 he was featured on *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 list of 'young disruptors, innovators and

media entrepreneurs impatient to change the world'. In 2015, he was featured on the Arabian Business power list of the planet's 100 most influential young Arabs.

Selected bibliography:

Alhassen, Maytha, and Ahmed Shihab-Eldin, *Demanding Dignity: Young Voices from the Front Lines of the Arab Revolutions*, Ashland: White Cloud Press, 2012.

Larry SIEMS, Writer, Human Rights Activist, and Editor of *Guantánamo Diary* by Mohamedou Ould Slahi (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2015)

Larry Siems is the former Director of the Freedom to Write and International Programs at PEN American Center and the editor of *Guantánamo Diary*, an historical account of the ordeal of a Mauritanian Mohamedou Ould Slahi held captive since shortly after 9/11 in Guantánamo. Published in 2015, *Guantánamo Diary* was reviewed in main national and international journals such as *The Economist*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and was on *The New York Times* Best Seller list.

Larry Siems graduated from Neil Armstrong High School in 1977. He studied English and Classical Greek at the University of Notre Dame and poetry in the MFA program at Columbia University, and he was a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in 1987-1988.

Since then, he has balanced writing and activism, publishing scores of articles on human rights and cross-cultural themes and serving for many years as director of Freedom to Write Programs for the writers advocacy organization PEN, first at PEN USA in Los Angeles and then at PEN American Center in New York. His work has appeared in a wide range of publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *LA Weekly*, among others.

Selected bibliography:

Slahi, Mohamedou Ould (edited by Larry Siems). 2015. *Guantánamo Diary*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.
Siems, Larry. 2011. *Torture Report: What The Documents Say About America's Post-9/11 Torture Program*. New York: OR Books.