

COUNTRY CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND ASYLUM DECISION-MAKING

A workshop organized by American University's
Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) and Washington College of Law (WCL)
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SPEAKER AND DISCUSSION FACILITATOR BIOS

SABRINEH ARDALAN

Sabrineh Ardalan is Assistant Director of the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, as well as Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, where she teaches courses on trauma, refugees, and asylum law and U.S. immigration and asylum law and policy. In 2016, she was awarded a Fulbright senior scholar grant to research the development of Morocco's asylum system. She previously clerked for the Honorable Michael A. Chagares of Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the Honorable Raymond J. Dearie, Chief District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. She also worked as the Equal Justice America Fellow at The Opportunity Agenda and as a litigation associate at Dewey Ballantine LLP. She holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. in History and International Studies from Yale College. She has written several articles and a book chapter on the role of country condition evidence, expert testimony, and interdisciplinary collaboration in asylum representation.

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JOSÉ RICARDO BARRIENTOS QUEZADA

José Ricardo Barrientos Quezada is currently working as Senior Economist at the Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies (ICEFI) and is an expert on fiscal policy topics. From 2009-2010, he served as Vice Minister of Public Finance of Guatemala, and during the period 1994-2005, he served as director and technical advisor at the Fiscal Analysis Unit at the Ministry of Public Finance of Guatemala. As an independent consultant, he has researched and evaluated a wide range of fiscal and other public policies, and has published works on tax policy and tax evasion in Guatemala. Mr. Barrientos also served as an independent consultant for the most recent Fiscal Pact Commission in Guatemala, and was in charge of the indirect taxation study and proposal (2007). He completed doctoral studies in Mathematics at the University of Barcelona, Spain (2005-2006) and holds an International Tax Certificate from Harvard University (2000). He completed an undergraduate degree in Mathematics at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

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LENNI BENSON

Lenni Benson has been teaching and writing in the field of immigration law since 1994. She is a professor at New York Law School and founder of the NYLS Safe Passage Project, where she now serves as Senior Advisor for Policy and Research. The Project recruits, trains, and mentors lawyers and student volunteers who are willing to represent immigrant youth and has won state and national awards for its promotion and support of pro bono work. From 2012 to 2015 she was the Chair of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee for the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. In 2011-2012 she served as a consultant/researcher for the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS). With Russell Wheeler of the Brookings Institution, she prepared a comprehensive report on ways to improve removal adjudication and that report resulted in a formal adoption of over thirty-eight recommendations by ACUS. She is the past chair of the AALS Immigration Law Section and past immigration committee chair for the ABA Section on Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice. Prior to joining academia, she practiced immigration law as a partner in the Los Angeles office of Bryan Cave, LLP. She is a native Arizonan and earned her law degree at the Arizona State College of Law in 1983. She has been an adjunct professor at

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BLAINE BOOKEY

Blaine Bookey is Co-Legal Director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies based at the University of California Hastings College of the Law where she coordinates many aspects of the Center's work including impact litigation, legal technical assistance and training, and research and policy analysis. She led the Center's amicus briefing in the landmark *Matter of A-R-C-G* litigation and authors original scholarship on cutting edge refugee and human rights issues. Blaine has also taught as an Adjunct Professor at UC Hastings and co-directs the University's Haiti Justice Initiative. Prior to joining the Center, Blaine served as a federal appellate law clerk and legal fellow at a public interest law firm in Port au Prince, Haiti. She is a graduate of UC Hastings and Northwestern University and Co-Chairs the Board of Directors of the international women's rights organization, MADRE. In 2016, Blaine received the David Carliner Public Interest Award from the American Constitution Society for her work on behalf of marginalized communities.

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Robert Brenneman is Associate Professor of Sociology at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. His research focuses on violence and security in Central America. His book, *Homies and Hermanos: God and Gangs in Central America* (Oxford University Press 2012) takes a close-up look at the lives of sixty-three former gang members, many of whom joined an evangelical congregation as part of their attempt to extricate themselves from gang violence. He is currently conducting new research on the private security sector in Guatemala during a year-long sabbatical funded in part by a Fulbright Fellowship.

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Dree Collopy is a partner of Benach Collopy LLP, where she devotes her practice to defending and representing individuals in asylum matters, removal proceedings, federal court litigation, VAWA and U visa petitions, waivers of inadmissibility, and complex adjustment of status and naturalization applications. A recognized asylum expert, she chaired AILA National's Asylum and Refugee Committee for several years and is the author of *AILA's Asylum Primer*. She serves on working groups developing nation-wide policy advocacy and litigation strategies on behalf of refugees, develops case materials and strategies for the representation of detained women and children refugees, mentors pro bono attorneys, and frequently lectures and publishes on cutting-edge asylum and other immigration issues. Dree has been active in the fight to end family detention, volunteering at the facilities in Artesia, NM and Karnes City and Dilley, TX

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Amanda Frost is a professor of law at American University Washington College of Law, where she writes and teaches in the fields of constitutional law, federal courts and jurisdiction, immigration law, and judicial ethics. During the 2016-17 academic year, she is serving as interim director of American University's Immigrant Justice Clinic. Professor Frost is an affiliated researcher at Oxford University's Border Criminologies, an Academic Fellow at the Pound Civil Justice Institute and a member of the National Constitution Center's Coalition of Freedom Advisory Board. Professor Frost has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, UCLA Law School, Université Paris X Nanterre, and the Johannes Gutenberg

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Mauricio Gaborit holds a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Michigan, and is presently Chairman of the Department of Psychology of the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas (UCA) of El Salvador, and Director of its Graduate Program in Social Intervention. He has published in the areas of gender, social, and gang violence and psychosocial intervention in political violence, disasters and undocumented migration of children to the U.S. He taught at St. Louis University and has served as visiting professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Georgetown University, where he held the Jesuit Chair, and the Institute for Peace Studies of the University of Tromsø in Norway. His current interest is in researching historical memory in communities that suffered the violence of civil war in El Salvador, and the decision process of undocumented migration of children and their families.

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KIMBERLY GAUDERMAN

Kimberly Gauderman joined the University of New Mexico History Department in 1998. She teaches a variety of courses focusing on early and modern Latin American history. Reflective of her research interests and her concern for social justice and human rights, she focuses on the construction of institutional authority in the early modern and modern periods in Iberia and Latin America and the creation of racial categories, gender norms, and sexuality. She offers courses on early Mexico (including Central America), early South America, modern Central America and the Andean nations that include such themes as indigenous peoples, women, gender and sexuality and human rights. In addition to her research and teaching at UNM, Dr. Gauderman is on the board of faculty at the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO) in Ecuador. For the last six years she has also worked as an expert witness for individuals seeking asylum from Andean nations and Central America. She has worked with attorneys across the nation to support women, members of the LGBTI community, and unaccompanied minors who seek asylum in the United States because of domestic, sexual, and gang violence.

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Denise Gilman is clinical professor and director of the Immigration Clinic at the University of Texas Law School where she also teaches a Refugee Law and Policy seminar. Over the past several years, Professor Gilman and the clinic have dedicated much of their work to representation and advocacy on behalf of detained Central American asylum seekers. Before embarking on an academic career, Professor Gilman served as director of the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and held positions at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights First. Professor Gilman served on the American Bar Association Commission on Immigration from 2012-2015 and is currently vice-chair of the Immigration Committee of the ABA Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice. She has published on human rights and immigrants' rights

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Eric Hershberg is Director of the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) and Professor of Government at American University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has taught at Simon Fraser University, New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton and the New School. From 1991 to 2005 he served as a Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York City. Prof. Hershberg is Past-President of the Latin American Studies Association (2007-2009) and has published widely on issues of political economy, development and democracy throughout Latin America. His most recent books include *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America: Voice and Consequence*, co-edited with Maxwell A. Cameron and Kenneth Sharpe (Palgrave-MacMillan 2012; Spanish edition, *Instituciones nuevas para la participacion democratica en America Latina: voz y consecuencia*, FLACSO 2012); *Left Turns: Politics, Policies and Trajectories of Change in Latin America*, co-edited with Maxwell A. Cameron (Lynne Rienner 2010); and *State and Society in Conflict: Comparative Perspectives on Andean Crises*, co-edited with Paul W. Drake (Univ of Pittsburgh Press 2006). He has submitted numerous expert affidavits for immigration cases stemming from the recent wave of youth and family migration from the region. With colleagues at CLALS he is undertaking studies of challenges to resettlement of youth migrants in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and beyond.

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ELIZABETH G. KENNEDY

Elizabeth G. Kennedy is a social scientist who focuses on the experiences and needs of child, youth and forced migrants and their families. From 2013 to 2014, she completed a Fulbright Fellowship in El Salvador, in which she and Salvadoran Karla Castillo conducted just short of 600 interviews with over 650 child migrants (about one-third of them girls) traveling alone and in families, and numerous government officials, NGOs and researchers throughout the Northern Triangle. Together, she and Karla followed up with a handful of these children and families in two departments in summer 2016. To triangulate the aforementioned interviews with a representative sample (16%) of Salvadoran children deported from Mexico in 2014, Elizabeth has compiled, calculated and mapped government statistics on disappearance, homicide and rape and is now leading a team of 10 to systematically synthesize Salvadoran news reports by location and theme. Elizabeth also has over a decade’s experience in youth programming with children from low-income backgrounds in multiple countries and has consulted for UNHCR, the Open Society Foundation, and others, including film makers, journalists, and a playwright. She will soon publish in English and Spanish a series of reports on deportees to the Northern Triangle who were murdered and departmental reports for the interviews she and Karla conducted in 2014, with their attendant supporting materials.

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ELIZABETH KEYES

Elizabeth Keyes directs the Immigrant Rights Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law. Her teaching, scholarship and practice all focus on improving access to justice for immigrants in the immigration system and other intersecting areas of the law, from criminal to family law. She has represented immigrants over many years in cases involving asylum, trafficking, domestic violence, worker rights, detention, and special immigrant juvenile status, among others. She is also president of the

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CECILIA MENJIVAR

Cecilia Menjívar is a Foundation Distinguished Professor in Sociology at the University of Kansas. Her research falls into two areas: immigration from Central America to the United States and on violence in Central America. With respect to the first, she has researched the effects of the immigration system of laws and the creation of different legal statuses on various aspects of immigrants' lives, such as family formation and structure, gender and generational relations, and effects on the countries of origin. In her second area of work, she has focused on technologies of state terror, political violence, and gender, symbolic and structural violence. Both areas allow her to examine the workings of state power on the everyday lives of individuals. She is the author of *Fragmented Ties: Salvadoran Immigrant Networks in America* (California, 2000) and *Enduring Violence: Ladina Women's Everyday Lives in Guatemala* (California, 2011) as well as articles and chapters that have appeared in major publication outlets. She is the editor of *Through the Eyes of Women: Gender, Social Networks, Family and Structural Change in Latin America and the Caribbean*, (de Sitter, 2003), and co-editor (with Nestor Rodriguez) of *When States Kill: Latin America, the U.S. and Technologies of Terror* (Texas, 2005), (with Havidán Rodriguez and Rogelio Saenz) of *Latinos/as in the United States: Changing the Face of América* (Springer 2008), and (with Daniel Kanstroom), *Contracting Immigrant Illegality: Critiques, Experiences, and Responses* (Cambridge, 2014). Her most recent book is *Immigrant Families* (Polity, 2016), co-authored with Leisy Abrego and Leah Schmalzbauer and the forthcoming co-edited volume (with Bryan Roberts and Nestor Rodriguez) of *Deportation and Return in a Border Restricted World: Experiences in Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras* (Springer).

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KAREN MUSALO

Karen Musalo is Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law. She is lead co-author of *Refugee Law and Policy: An International and Comparative Approach* (4th edition), and has written numerous articles on refugee law issues, with a focus on gender asylum, as well as religious persecution, and conscientious objection as bases for refugee status. Professor Musalo has contributed to the evolving jurisprudence of asylum law not only through her scholarship, but also through her litigation of landmark cases. She was lead attorney in *Matter of Kasinga* (fear of female genital mutilation as a basis for asylum), and her litigation victories include *Matter of R-A-*, and *Matter of L-R-*, two cases that established the principle that women fleeing domestic violence may qualify for refugee protection. She participated as *amicus* in *Matter of A-R-C-G-*, the first precedent decision affirming the viability of domestic violence asylum claims. Professor Musalo is recognized for her innovative work on refugee issues. She was the first attorney to partner with psychologists in her representation of traumatized asylum seekers, and she edited the first handbook for practitioners on cross-cultural issues and the impact of culture on credibility in the asylum context. Her current work examines the linkage between human rights violations and migration, with a focus on the phenomenon of femicides in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras and its relation to requests for refugee protection from women from these countries. She is the founding director of the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, which is internationally known for its research and legal advocacy and for its program of expert consultation to attorneys.

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Manuela Orjuela- Grimm is a molecular epidemiologist and pediatric oncologist whose research focuses on gene-nutrient/environment interactions during pregnancy and early childhood and the development of later genetic and epigenetic changes in childhood disease. She received her M.D. from Yale University and her Sc.M. from Harvard School of Public Health. In collaboration with researchers at the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP), Dr Orjuela is involved in multiple studies assessing dietary intake in Mexico and in recent Mexican immigrants. Dr. Orjuela's interests include nutrient and environmental exposures during early life and later genetic and epigenetic effects; dietary assessment in Mexico and in U.S. Latino populations; effects of acculturation and early life migration on nutrient/environmental exposures in U.S. Latinos. She is also currently working with a multidisciplinary group on a project titled “Children & Adolescents Migrating Independently Neuropsychological Assessment, Neighborhood, Diet & Opportunities (CAMINANDO),” examining issues relevant to the migration of unaccompanied minors from Central America and Mexico to the New York City region, and is collaborating with the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública in Mexico's work on nutrition in young migrants traveling through central Mexico.

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Galya Ruffer is the founding Director of the Center for Forced Migration Studies at the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University. Her research centers on refugee rights and protection, addressing the relationship between international human rights and processes of justice. She has recently launched a research program on refugee resettlement and has been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council and the Kellogg Center for Dispute Resolution and is a Senior Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (University of Duisburg-Essen). She has published on testimony and justice, asylum law and policy, refugee protection in a digital age, human rights litigation in transnational courts and immigrant incorporation and integration in Europe, with a recent book, *Adjudicating Refugee and Asylum Status: The Role of Witness, Expertise, and Testimony* (co-edited with Benjamin Lawrance; Cambridge University Press 2015). She is part of the Forced Migration Upward Mobility Project team to rethink refugees in resettlement as active agents in their own livelihoods, serves on the executive committee of the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration, and has worked as an immigration attorney representing political asylum claimants both as a solo-practitioner and as a pro-bono attorney. She holds a J.D. from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

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Alan Shapiro, MD, is Assistant Clinical Professor in Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Senior Medical Director for Community Pediatric Programs located in New York City's South Bronx. Community Pediatric Programs, a collaboration between the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and the Children's Health Fund operates a mobile medical unit-based health care program serving NYC's homeless children, families, and street-youth since 1987 and a federally qualified community health center in the South Bronx founded in 1993. Dr. Shapiro is the Director of the Center for Preventive Health and Special Initiatives, dedicated to closing gaps in health disparities through the development of innovative best-practice models of care in community-based settings. He is a pediatrician dedicated to providing care to vulnerable children throughout his career and has extensive experience working with underserved and marginalized pediatric populations such as homeless/street-involved youth, urban inner city and immigrant children. Most recently, Dr. Shapiro was the 2012 recipient of The Children's Health Fund Founders Award with which he co-founded Terra Firma, a healthcare and justice program for immigrant children. This medicallegal partnership has received national attention for its integrated model of care providing medical, mental health and legal services to newly arrived unaccompanied immigrant children and families. He has become a national expert on the healthcare needs of unaccompanied immigrant children. He is also a vocal advocate for the improved treatment of unaccompanied immigrant children and families. He co-authored a 2015 publication, "Terra Firma: Medical-Legal Care for Unaccompanied Immigrant Garifuna Children," in the *Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy*.

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EVE STOTLAND

Eve Stotland is the Director of Legal Services at The Door in New York City. Each year The Door serves more than 10,000 young people with a wide range of services including reproductive and mental health care, legal assistance, high school equivalency and ESOL classes, college advisement, career development, supportive housing, arts programming, and nutritious meals - all for free, confidentially, and under one roof. The Legal Services Center represents low-income youth in matters such as immigration, family law and public benefits. In particular, the Center is known its work on behalf of undocumented youth. In 2014, when EOIR began expedited processing of Unaccompanied Children from the Northern Triangle, The Door worked with other legal providers to found ICARE, the Immigrant Children Advocate's Relief Effort. Since then, ICARE has screened thousands of unaccompanied children for immigration relief and has accepted over 1,200 cases for representation. Eve began her career as a Skadden Fellow at Bay Area Legal Aid in California. She is a member of the New York City Bar Association's Committee on Pro Bono and Legal Services and the New York State Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court. Eve graduated cum laude from Brown University and received her J.D. from Yale Law School.

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Juliet Stumpf is the Robert E. Jones Professor of Advocacy and Ethics at Lewis & Clark Law School. She is an influential scholar of crimmigration law, the intersection of immigration and criminal law. She seeks to illuminate the study of immigration law with interdisciplinary insights from sociology, psychology, criminology, and political science. Her current research explores liminal immigration law and functional analysis of innovation in immigration law. She is a co-author of two casebooks: *Immigration and Citizenship: Process and Policy* (8th ed. West 2016), and *Forced Migration: Law and Policy* (2d ed. West 2013). Key publications include *D(e)volving Discretion: Lessons from the Life and Times of Secure Communities*, 64 AM. U. L. REV. 1259 (2015); *Doing Time: Crimmigration Law and the Perils of Haste*, 58 UCLA L. REV. 1705 (2011); *States of Confusion: the Rise of State and Local Power over Immigration*, 86 N.C. L. REV. 1557 (2008); and *The Crimmigration Crisis: Immigrants, Crime, and Sovereign Power*, 56 AM. U. L. REV. 367 (2006). Stumpf is a co-founder of CINET'S, a transnational, interdisciplinary network of crimmigration scholars. She sits on the Advisory Group of Oxford University's academic blog *Border Criminologies* and the Board of Directors of the Innovation Law Lab. In 2016, she received the Leo Levenson Award for Excellence in Teaching at Lewis & Clark Law School.

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