

Bowen H. McCoy Family

Center for Ethics in Society at Stanford

Bringing ethical reflection to bear on important social problems through research, teaching, and engagement

Volume 13

Spring 2010 Newsletter

Message from Director Debra Satz

In the past two years, since it launched its full slate of programming, the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society has made significant progress on its central goals of helping to create a vibrant intellectual community across the University, enriching undergraduate and graduate ethics education, stimulating research projects, adding significantly to public discussion about ethics, bridging the university to the community, and gaining national recognition as one of the leading ethics centers in the U.S.

Since 2008, the Center has hosted two conferences: A conference on Justice and Educational Distribution in Fall of 2008 and a conference on Distributional Justice and Climate Change in Spring of 2010, the latter co-sponsored with two "centers of excellence" in Norway. A follow up climate change conference is planned in Oslo for June 2010.

We have also sponsored a biweekly Humanities Center Workshop in Environmental Norms, Institutions and Policies since 2008, now regularly attended by approximately 25-40 graduate students and faculty across the schools of humanities and sciences, law, earth sciences and engineering. A number of the postdoctoral fellows have also been regular attendees of this workshop. Among visitors to the workshop in the last two years have been Elinor Ostrom, Jeffrey Sachs, James Hansen, and Paul Collier. The workshop held an all day mini conference in Spring 2009 with over half a dozen presenters.

A book of papers based on a 2005 conference on the work of our late colleague Susan Okin, was published by Oxford University Press in 2009: *Toward a Humanist Justice: The Political Philosophy of Susan Moller Okin*. Papers from the 2008 education conference are appearing in an issue of *Theory and Research in Education* edited by steering committee member Eamonn Callan.

The Center has run a unified series –The Ethics of Food and the Environment –for three years. We have hosted lectures approximately four times a quarter from a mix of scholars and practitioners dealing with the ethics of what we eat and consume, and its effects on health and the environment as well as the issues that arise in a world where one billion people are hungry. This lecture series emphasized the importance of ethics to environmental problems and solutions. The talks have drawn

audiences of 100 to 2000 people and have served as a bridge between the campus and the wider community.

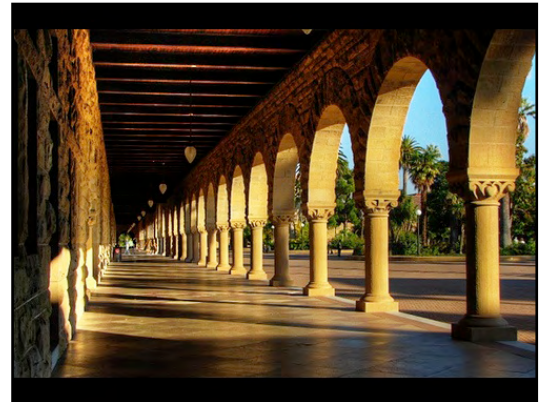
This year, with two years of funding from the Dean's office, the Center along with the new Program on Human Rights launched a human rights fellowship for undergraduates. We have chosen our first four fellows.

Our initiative bringing Stanford faculty to teach humanities courses at a halfway house in Redwood City will reach its tenth year next year. Since it's founding, over 30 Stanford faculty and staff have taught in the program; the program has won Stanford's Community Partnership award [in 2008] and this year, Rob Reich and I as co-founders of the program have won the Roland Prize for faculty service. Over 40 undergraduates have served as writing tutors for the classes.

Next year will be a year of some new beginnings. We are preparing to launch a new yearly theme series on the ethics of war. This series will feature talks, films, and panel discussions on such topics as: morality and the rules of war; the morality of nuclear weapons; the theory of just intervention; terrorism; military service; pacifism and non-violence; and the question of responsibility for war crimes and crimes of aggression.

I am taking on a new role at Stanford: in addition to continuing to direct the Center, in September I will become the Senior Associate Dean of Humanities and the Arts. Luckily, I have many allies and colleagues, institutional and personal, who make playing this dual role possible.

We hope to continue to engage students, faculty and staff at Stanford as well as the wider community in our events! ☺



2010 - 2011 HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIPS

This year, in partnership with the Program on Human Rights, we launch our new Human Rights Fellowship program. These fellowships are intended to enable students to make a valuable contribution to human rights theory and practice. Offered to rising sophomores, juniors and seniors, grants will be given to four undergraduates who will partner with human rights organizations, government agencies, NGOs, or international organizations (either here or abroad) during the summer of 2010. It is our hope that these fellowships will encourage students to build human rights work into their future careers, whether those careers are in academic life, in governmental or intergovernmental organizations, as activists, or as legal practitioners. ☞



AURORA DAVID IS AN UNDECLARED SOPHOMORE.

I am working to put together a new proposal since my original proposal would have taken me to the Philippines, a location currently on the State

Department Travel Warning list. Although I can't physically go to the Philippines, I am committed to working with an organization, either here in the US or abroad, that protects and promotes human rights in the Philippines. ☞

ALEXEI DUNAWAY IS A JUNIOR MAJORING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.



My project for this summer is working for the Americas Division of Human Rights Watch (HRW). It is likely that I will work on countries including Mexico, Colombia, or Venezuela, and on issues like the drug war or arms smuggling. My duties will include substantive research to document human rights abuses, press analyses, writing press releases, and orchestrating meetings between human rights defenders and government officials. ☞



ALICIA ROBINSON IS A JUNIOR MAJORING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MINORING IN ARABIC.

This summer I will be working with the UNICEF office in Cairo, Egypt. My fellowship will focus on Adolescent Development and Participation, as well as Child Protection. Specifically I will be coordinating NGO-UNICEF consultations, working with the Youth Advisory Group and Youth Media Clubs on children's rights issues, and drafting a policy brief for decision-makers on UNICEF's Child Poverty and Disparities Study. ☞

GRIFFIN MATTHEW IS A SENIOR MAJORING IN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR & PURSUING AN MA IN PUBLIC POLICY NEXT YEAR.

Last summer I worked with an incredible team of Rwandan medical students, physicians, translators, DJs, community leaders, and government officials to create a community health radio program in Rwanda. Our goal was to bring critical health information about child health issues and HIV/AIDS to rural areas of Rwanda. This summer, since travel to Rwanda is not possible, I will be working with the Hesperian Foundation to record and distribute copies of our broadcasts throughout the Great Lakes region of sub-Saharan Africa and parts of western African.

My primary goal is to create a series of broadcasts that are available in English, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Luganda, and French. These broadcasts will feature engaging public service announcements and a radio drama about HIV and AIDS called "Tru Luv", created by the African Broadcast Media Partnership and Kaiser Family Foundation. Our community health radio program is intentionally based out of Rwanda, to send a message of hope to our listeners, showing that the radio, a tool that was once used for death, can be transformed into a tool that brings hope and life. ☞



HOPE HOUSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Since spring quarter of 2001, Stanford faculty, staff and students have been engaged in a unique project in Redwood City. Each quarter, two Stanford faculty members offer a course in the humanities to the residents of Hope House, a residential drug and alcohol treatment facility for women who were recently incarcerated. Focusing on such themes as ethics, social justice, and moral responsibility, the women of Hope House engage in college-level course work as part of their rehabilitation and recovery. This is a collaborative effort between the Program in Ethics in Society and Stanford Continuing Studies.

The Hope House Scholars program proceeds with the conviction that a liberal arts education ought not be the sole province of the wealthy and well-educated. We believe that the study of the liberal arts will contribute substantially to the intellectual growth and personal enrichment of course participants, and will help equip them for fuller participation in the educational, economic and political life of our society. To receive a liberal education is to learn about freedom, and becoming free; this is the democratic birthright of all Americans. By challenging their minds, we offer a non-traditional avenue for the women to deal with their addiction, recovery, incarceration, freedom, and reunification with their children. ♪



Helle Rytkonen (Program in Writing and Rhetoric) pictured with **Mark Applebaum** (Music) with a Winter 2010 graduate.

Helle returned to teach her 2nd class because “teaching at Hope House is both professionally challenging and rewarding. The Hope House students often

bring different perspectives to the table than the typical Stanford student so the same text taught at both Stanford and Hope House often yields very different responses. It truly feels as if we make a difference in their lives - and it is absolutely certain that they make a difference in ours. It's hard to ever forget them and fond memories of the time with them linger for a long time after the quarter has ended.” ♪

Debra Satz and Rob Reich, who founded the Hope House Scholars Program, were awarded the 2010 Miriam Aaron Roland Volunteer Service Prize. This award, given by the Haas Center for Public Service, is given to faculty who make significant contributions through public service and encourage their students to do the same. ♪



Fall 2009

Choices

Szonja Szelenyi (Sociology)
Elisabeth Hansot (Political Science,
Emeritus)

Winter 2010

Humor in Music

Mark Applebaum (Music)
Helle Rytkonen (Program in Reading and
Rhetoric)

Spring 2010

Spirituality and Nonviolent Urban and Social Transformation

Joanne Sanders (Religious Life)
Patricia Karlin-Neumann (Religious Life)

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS PROGRAM IN ETHICS IN SOCIETY

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR ROB REICH



The past year has seen a strong surge of interest in the Program on Ethics in Society. We have a wonderful crop of three seniors writing honors theses, and I expect close to a dozen to complete theses next year. And there's an even larger group of sophomores who are entering the program. I continue to be amazed at the diversity of substantive interests: students are writing on ethical questions concerning educational policy, philanthropy and overseas aid, privacy on social media sites (such as Facebook). And in coming years we'll have theses from students from a wide array of majors: philosophy, political science, computer science, english, religious studies, public policy, and economics.

The Program also hosted a few special events this year. A group of undergraduates had a session with Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute, during his February visit to campus. We had a special event on the topic of Ethics, Wall Street, and the Financial Crisis with award-winning author Roger Lowenstein who has a newly published book, *The End of Wall Street*. We also hosted a lunch with undergraduates and Rev. Jim Wallis who was on campus giving the Roger W. Heyns Lecture in Religion and Community. An intense and illuminating discussion about religion and politics!

2009 - 2010 ETHICS IN SOCIETY SENIORS



CRISTINA CORDOVA
Political Science
"Ethics of Privacy on Online Social Networks"



RACHEL DOWLING
Philosophy, Minor: Dance
"Philanthropy and Global Justice: the Case of Education"



KATEY MULFINGER
Human Biology
"Salvaging the Failed Paradigm: Theory and Policy Recommendations for an Equitable Education System"

We also sponsored a few new and exciting courses. John McCaskey taught a seminar on the Moral Foundations of Capitalism. Debra Satz offered a seminar on Moral Limits of the Market. And I continued to teach large courses to freshman and sophomores (Freedom, Equality, and Difference in the Introduction to the Humanities program; Ethics and Politics in Public Service) looking to spark interest in ethics.

I am also serving on a newly established university committee, the Study of Undergraduate Education at

Stanford (SUES), which is charged with reviewing the entire undergraduate curriculum, focusing especially on Stanford general education requirements. Ethics in Society student Aysha Bagchi is a member of the committee, too. It is always a pleasure to work with our exceptional students in the Ethics in Society honors program. I am excited now to have an opportunity to shape the academic experience of the next generation of Stanford students. ☺

[LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK!](#)

MEET THE 2010 - 2011 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

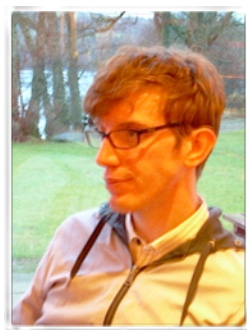


JEAN THOMAS

Jean received her B.A. and an M.A. in English literature from the University of Toronto, where she also completed her J.D. She received her doctoral degree in law, as well as her L.L.M., from New York University. Her main interest is in the area of legal philosophy, and in rights theory in particular. Her doctoral research was grounded in the question

of which private actors should, under which circumstances, bear the burdens associated with public law rights. Her dissertation explored the possibility of human rights enforcement in private litigation, and the relationship between human rights and private obligations.

In her post-doctoral work at Stanford, Jean will revise her dissertation for publication and further develop several of its aspects. ↻



TOM DOUGHERTY

Tom is currently finishing up a philosophy Ph.D at MIT. His dissertation is entitled, "Help! Not Just Anybody. Essays on Altruism and Conflicts of Interest." It looks at what beneficence requires of us as individuals. His primary research interests are in ethics and the philosophy of mind. At the Center, he will be focusing on questions

concerning our obligations to people in need, as well as foundational issues in a theory of rights. ↻

JOSEPH MAZOR

Joseph Mazor completed his Ph.D in the interdisciplinary Political Economy and Government Program at Harvard University in June of 2009. He was a Graduate Fellow at the Harvard Project on Justice, Welfare, and Economics in 2007-2008 and a Graduate Fellow at the Harvard



Center for Ethics in 2008-2009. After graduating, he spent the 2009-2010 academic year as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton.

In his dissertation, Joseph examines the normative foundations of natural resource property rights and argues for a highly egalitarian global distribution of natural resource wealth and for more robust global institutions to manage common environmental resources. Joseph's primary research interests lie in distributive justice, environmental justice, and deliberative democracy.

During his time at Stanford, Joseph will build on his dissertation work by considering how property rights in common environmental resources should be structured and distributed. ↻

TOWARD A HUMANIST JUSTICE

In October 2009, we gathered to celebrate the release of *Toward a Humanist Justice*, a book that honors and examines the work of the late Susan Moller Okin, former colleague and friend. Okin taught in Stanford's Political Science department and was also the Director of the Program in Ethics in Society.

Contributors to the volume are: Nancy Rosenblum (Harvard), Josh Cohen (Stanford), Elizabeth Wingrove (Michigan), John Tomasi (Brown), David Miller (Oxford), Molly Shanley (Vassar), Cass Sunstein (Harvard), Ayelet Shachar (Toronto), Alison Jaggar (Colorado), Chandran Kukathas (LSE), Robert Keohane (Princeton), and Iris Marion Young (Chicago).

The volume is edited by Debra Satz (Stanford) and Rob Reich (Stanford).

Proceeds from the book are being donated to Global Fund for Women (GFW). GFW advances human rights by investing in women-led organizations worldwide. Its international network of women and men mobilizes financial resources to support women's contributions to social justice, equality and peace. To date over \$1000 in royalty income has been raised for GFW. ↻

CHRISTIAN PROGRESSIVE JIM WALLIS SHARES HIS MESSAGE ON SOCIAL CHANGE, POLITICS, AND FAITH

review by Marilie Coetsee, MA candidate Philosophy

According to Jim Wallis, many Americans are still waiting for change. But if, as Obama claimed, we are the ones we are waiting for, then Wallis would now add: we are still waiting for change because we are still waiting for us.

In addition to being Stanford's guest speaker this year for the annual Roger W. Heyns Lecture in Religion and Community, Jim Wallis is the author of two New York Times' bestseller books (*God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It* and *The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America*), a pastor, founder of the progressive Christian magazine 'Sojourners,' and a long time civil rights and social activist. In Reverend Wallis's lecture, he reminded the Stanford community that "Lincoln needed Frederick Douglass, Johnson and Kennedy needed King, FDR needed the labor movement, and, today, politicians need us." In order to change political and economic outcomes, he argued, we have to change the social context in which political and economic decisions are made. For Wallis, the right social context is a context where people work to find common moral ground and build on it. This common moral ground need not be a "mushy middle" or a "soulless center." To find it, he urged, we must go "not right or left, but deeper." Thus, for instance, according to Wallis, even if many don't want to settle for what they see as a morally compromised middle between full access and no access to abortion supply, we all might still agree that we have a deep moral interest in decreasing abortion demand – and that we must work together to make that happen.

HEALTH CARE REFORM PANEL DISCUSSION

At the time of the panel, approximately 45 million people – about 1 in 6 Americans – lacked health insurance. Numerous studies have demonstrated that lack of insurance is associated with worse health outcomes. For those that do have insurance, the costs of care are rising rapidly, leading many to postpone or forego needed care. Additional evidence has documented major lapses in the quality of care. And despite spending more on health care than any other country, the overall health of Americans lags behind their European and Canadian counterparts in many respects.

Panel: Hal Luft (Director, Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute), Victor Fuchs (Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., Professor of Economics and of Health Research and Policy, Emeritus, Stanford), Hal Holman (Berthold and Belle N. Guggenheimer Professor of Medicine, Emeritus, Stanford), and Chair, Don Barr (Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Stanford). ↪

In a lunchtime roundtable discussion with students, Wallis made it clear that his vision for how it is possible to "go deeper" stems from his religious faith. He believes, he explained, that faith is personal, not private, and thus properly political. He argued that faith should not only motivate people to become involved in politics, but - once they become involved - it should motivate them to adopt a tone of invitation and inspiration, not accusation and acrimony. He also pointed out that more Americans than ever identify themselves as 'spiritual, not religious,' and relayed his conviction that the search for real social change is best satisfied when it is fused with personal spiritual renewal. If Wallis believes that political and economic change requires social change, then, it seems, he also believes that social change requires personal change. And personal change, he would urge, is not something we need to – or should – wait for any longer. ↪

2009-2010 WESSON LECTURES "UNDERSTANDING INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION"

This year's Wesson Lecture was given by Larry Lessig, the newly appointed director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard. Prior to arriving at Harvard University, Lessig was a Professor of Law at Stanford, where he founded the school's Center for Internet and Society. For much of his career, Lessig focused on law and technology, especially as it affects copyright. His current academic work addresses institutional corruption.

A review of Lessig's Wesson Lecture talk can be found on our website and a recording of the talk can be found on [BlipTV](#). ↪

Ethics@Noon

Ethics@noon is an informal series of noon-time talks that raise ethical questions across many disciplines. The talks, which are led by Stanford faculty, attract undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff and community members.

FALL 2009

Empirical Social Science: What's Ethics Got to Do with It?/Alison Morantz (Law School)

From Ethics in Society to Law Practice/Michelle Friedland (Ethics in Society alum currently is a lawyer at Munger, Tolles & Olson)

Leaving Kim on the Side of the Road: Modern Journalism's Intimate Ethical Dilemmas/Glenn Frankel (Communication)

The Coming Explosion in Pre-Natal Genetic Testing/Hank Greely (Law School)

To Entertain Is Human; To Inform, Divine/Jim Bettinger (Director, Knights Fellowships)

Stereotype Threat: Creating Safety in Learning/Adina Glickman (Center for Teaching & Learning)

Is Death Better Than This Life?: Ethical Decisions in Severe Genetic Skin Diseases?/Alfred Lane (School of Medicine)

The Controversy Continues: The Ethics of Research with Human Embryos/William Hurlbut (Neuroscience Institute)

WINTER 2010

This Little Kidney Went to Market: The Ethics of Organ Selling/Debra Satz (Philosophy / Director, Center for Ethics in Society)

The Ethics of Contested Identities: The Case of Taiwan/Melissa Brown (Anthropology)

Burning Man at Google: The Countercultural Ethos of New Media Production/Fred Turner (Communication)

Fairness in Financial Globalization/Aaron James (Philosophy, UC Irvine)

Online Education for K-12 Students: Growth and Ethical Implications/Mark Kushner (Vice President, K12)

Making Ethical Distinctions: Precise Decision Language/Ron Howard (Management Science and Engineering / Graduate School of Business)

Mass Incarceration and Its Unintended Consequences for Children, Communities, and Democracy/Joan Petersilia (Law School)

Assessing Othello's Risk of Cardiac Disease - The Role of Race as a Source of Health Disparities/Don Barr (School of Medicine)

When Philosophy is Unethical/Manuel Vargas (Philosophy, University of San Francisco)

Cultural Prostitution in Collecting Antiquities: Why Buying, Selling Someone Else's History Is Fraught With Problems/Patrick Hunt (Director, Stanford Alpine Archaeology Project)

SPRING 2010

Ethics, Public Policy, and Philanthropy/Rob Reich (Political Science / Director, Ethics in Society Undergraduate Honors Program)

Foreign Aid and Poverty/Nicole Hassoun (Post Doctoral Fellow, Center for Ethics in Society)

Does Religion Do More Harm Than Good?/Scotty McLennan (Dean for Religious Life)

When to Shut Students Up/Eamonn Callan (School of Education)

Contemporary Anthropological Critique of Bioethics/Lawrence Cohen (Anthropology, Berkeley)

What Are Our Passions and What Should We Do With Them?/Tamar Schapiro (Philosophy)

Ethical Reasoning Requirement and the Stanford Undergraduate Curriculum/James Campbell (History)

The Ethics of the Way We Deliver Education to a Highly Diverse Population/Martin Carnoy (School of Education)

Sustainable Development or Shuffle Deck Chairs on the Titanic: The (Difficult) Choice is Ours/John Kunz (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

ETHICS IN SOCIETY ALUMNI UPDATES

ERIC BEERBOHM ('98): My main professional news is a new appointment at the Safra Ethics Program at Harvard University. Over the next few years I hope to bring some of the undergraduate components of the Ethics in Society Program -- ethics across the curriculum, house-based events, and a thesis program -- to Harvard's Ethics Center.

SHALINI BHARGAVA RAY ('00): Last June, I got married in Philadelphia, the city where my husband and I met. We celebrated our wedding with family and friends at the National Constitution Center, overlooking Independence Hall. After the wedding, we moved to Gainesville, Florida, to take up jobs at the University of Florida, where I teach Legal Research & Writing and Appellate Advocacy at the law school. In March, I gave birth to our dear son, Rahul, who arrived a few weeks early but is doing well. I look forward to returning to Stanford for my 10-year reunion this fall.

ALAN DAGOVITZ ('03): I'm in the third year of a PhD at the U. Chicago, in religion and literature. Now that I'm done with exams (hooray!) I'll be working on my dissertation, which is tentatively entitled "A Grammar of Enchantment". It will examine Chinese divination, the Eucharist ritual, Santa Claus, and free action, attempting to show that the structure of each entails a necessary element of mystery, without which they cannot succeed.

IAN SLATTERY ('04): I am living in San Francisco and continuing to make documentary films with Berkeley-based Luna Productions. Recent projects have taken me around the globe, and around the block, with last September's trip to the Ecuadorian Amazon for a film about indigenous communities confronting climate change, and a current film about the Bay Area's Women's and Children's Center in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco. I'm also continuing to work on outreach with the Emmy-nominated documentary, *Soldiers of Conscience*- including helping to organize the recent Truth Commission on Conscience in War at The Riverside Church in New York City. I will be joining other organizers for a panel about the Commission at the American Academy for Religion conference this fall. Feel free to contact me at ian.slattery@gmail.com

J.J. PRESCOTT ('96): I am an assistant professor at the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor, MI. I teach criminal law, employment law, and law and economics courses. My research is primarily empirical and is designed to measure and understand the consequences of laws and legal change.

RANJANA REDDY ('04): I'm in my sixth year of teaching. It's my fourth year at a charter school in Newark that I helped found four years ago. I'll be attending law school next year (not sure where yet).

PABLO FEDERICO ('02): My wife and I left our jobs in 2008 to travel around Southeast Asia and explore the region. We spent time all over the place but enjoyed our time in Indonesia and Malaysia the most. We returned briefly to the U.S. for a few months to work on the Obama campaign in the swing states of New Mexico and Colorado where we had some very challenging but gratifying experiences and developed good friendships with many energetic and vibrant volunteers.

After the election, we continued our travels and headed to Peru and Brazil and returned to San Francisco in early 2009. I began working for Clorox in the summer of 2009 where I get to travel around the world to various Clorox offices and plants. I'm really enjoying my job but wish I was home more to enjoy our new home in San Francisco. My wife and I are now happily expecting the first addition to our family and overwhelmed with joy and excitement for this blessing.

TOM FEULNER ('06): I'm currently a sales manager at Yelp and living in San Francisco. I spend a lot of time hanging out with friends in the city and going to restaurants/bars. I'm also planning to publish a book in the next year.

NANDINI GANDHI ('01): I am finishing a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Iowa this spring. In July, I will be starting a one year fellowship at Duke University in Pediatric Ophthalmology. I will look forward to heading closer to home (California) after I finally finish my training in 2011.

MICHELLE MELLO ('93): I am completing my 10th year on the faculty of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health, where I am Director of the Program in Law and Public Health. I am teaching courses in Public Health Law and Public Health Ethics and I mentor students who are pursuing careers in Health Law. My current research projects include a study of legal and ethical issues confronting the pharmaceutical industry, which I am pursuing as a Greenwall faculty Scholar in Bioethics; a study of the politics of policy making concerning the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine; and a study of institutional programs that encourage early settlement of medical malpractice claims. In addition to research, I am working on ethics issues as a member of the committee that revamped Harvard's University-wide policy on financial conflicts of interest and as Chair of the Harvard School of Public Health's institutional review board. I live with my husband, Rakesh, and 18-month-old son, Evan, in Lexington, Massachusetts.

2009-2010 ARROW LECTURE

"DESIGNING A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

JEFFREY SACHS (Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. Sachs is also President and Co-Founder of Millennium Promise Alliance, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending extreme global poverty.)

review by Narasimha Rao, PhD candidate E-IPER

In an address to the Stanford community on February 18, Jeffrey Sachs considered the obstacles and potential to addressing the challenges of sustainable development. Sachs asserted that sustainable development is the most complicated topic on the planet, because it touches upon just about every puzzle in the policy conundrum. A summary of his key points follows.

SACHS BELIEVES WE FACE TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES THAT WE DON'T FULLY KNOW HOW TO ASSESS.

- The depletion of natural resources: whether this has peaked or will peak, resources are limited and depleting.
- Pervasive environmental degradation: we are reaching limits of anthropogenic interference in the earth's system.

SACHS IDENTIFIES SIX KEY FEATURES OF THE PROBLEM:

- The issues of sustainable development are global, but our institutions are by and large local and national. Our capacity to cooperate globally has always been slim.
- The problems are inherently inter-temporal, leading to stock, and not flow, problems. Stock problems are complicated partly because they can be irreversible.
- The problems involve eco-systems, which do not sit well with traditional ideas about the market economy. The market economy is about well-defined private property rights and separable individualistic ownership. Eco-systems are about flows, about migration, about movement across boundaries
- There is profound uncertainty and we don't understand the relationship between earth's physical system and our own society.
- The ramifications of population growth are central to the problem and difficult to reach an understanding about.
- Solutions for sustainable development fundamentally involve large scale technological transformation. The problems of inducing technological change go far beyond the marketplace.

ACCORDING TO SACHS, GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT AND CANNOT TAKE THE LEAD AS GLOBAL PROBLEM SOLVERS BUT UNIVERSITIES CAN AND MUST!

CAN THE POOREST PARTS OF THE WORLD ESCAPE FROM POVERTY IN A WAY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONTINUED HEALTHY FUNCTION OF THE EARTH'S ECO-SYSTEM?

According to Sachs, there are at least three ways this could go badly wrong: we can overshoot in the depletion of fossil fuels and vital water aquifers; broad regions of the world can be trapped by changing ecology in poverty; and we can stress our resource base so that economic growth itself grinds to a halt.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND WHAT CAN BE DONE?

THE UNDERLYING DRIVERS OF THESE HUMAN INDUCED CHANGES ARE RATHER SMALL IN NUMBER:

- The food sector. That there are 1 billion people who struggle for survival, 1.5 billion people who have severe micro-nutrient deficiencies and another 1 billion people who are malnourished but not undernourished. Still, the food sector is the largest contributor of GHGs, accounting for about 34% of total GHG emissions.
- Energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Industrial toxics – especially from petro-chemical industries, refining industries and smelting and metals industries.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

- Stabilize the world's population.
- Move to sustainable agriculture – including technological choices, intensification of agriculture, and substitutions of capital for resources.
- Transition to sustainable energy, minimize externalities
- (On any list of policy solutions) include compensation and management of large scale regional (migration) shocks.

THE CHALLENGE OF FINDING SUSTAINABLE PATHWAYS IS LARGELY AN INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM. WE NEED INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS AND A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF TAXATION AT LEAST ON A SMALL SCALE. MATERIALLY, WE CAN AFFORD THE TYPE OF TRANSFORMATION THAT IS NEEDED; HOWEVER, WE HAVE AN INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS. WE CANNOT AGREE ON ANYTHING OR DISCUSS THINGS HONESTLY. WE NEED AN ETHICAL SYSTEM; A SHARED UNDERSTANDING THAT IS WORLD WIDE AND FUTURE ORIENTED.

This talk was recorded and can be found on [Stanford iTunes](#). Use the [Stanford Power Search](#) feature or look for our folder as a [Featured Contributors](#) under [Arts & Humanities](#).

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2009 - 2010 POSTDOCTORAL AND VISITING FELLOWS



NICOLE HASSOUN

During her time at Stanford, Nicole taught the course Contemporary Moral Problems to a group of talented and energetic students; submitted a few papers on globalization, international trade, and population health for publication; and did a bit of work on a manuscript on global justice. She has also given more than 15 talks on her existing research.

In addition, Nicole started a new project on measuring poverty at the United Nation's World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER). Her draft paper "Another Mere Addition Paradox?" was accepted for the WIDER Working Paper series. Her paper "The Anthropocentric Advantage? Environmental Ethics and Climate Change Policy," is forthcoming in the *Critical Review of Social and Political Philosophy* and her paper "Making the Case for Foreign Aid," is forthcoming in *Public Affairs Quarterly*. ☞



ALLEGRA MCLEOD

This year Allegra has been working on two major scholarly projects. The first involves the revision of her Ph.D. dissertation, entitled "Exporting U.S. Criminal Justice: Crime, Development, and Empire After the Cold War." This work offers a critical historical account of the globalization of U.S. criminal justice models in the waning and aftermath of the Cold War. In March 2010, she presented a version of this article at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities at Brown University. She is working now to finalize a book proposal.

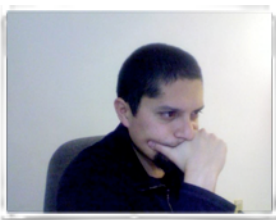
Along side her research, Allegra (together with Kieran Oberman) is teaching a course entitled Introduction to Global Justice and she is working as a consulting attorney with Stanford's Immigrants' Rights Clinic and Stanford's Criminal Defense Clinic. ☞



KIERAN OBERMAN

This year Kieran has been developing work from his Ph.D thesis on the ethics of immigration policy. His thesis argued that people have a human right to cross international borders. It is widely accepted that people have human rights to such freedoms as freedom of speech, association, religion and movement within their state. These human rights entitle people to a full range of options over important aspects of their lives: they are entitled to choose whom they marry, whom they associate with, which religion they adhere to and where they wish to live. Yet options of this sort do not only exist within a person's state but also in other states. If people are to fully exercise their human rights to important freedoms they must be able to enter foreign states.

Along with Allegra McLeod, he is teaching a course entitled Introduction to Global Justice. The course is designed to encourage students to think critically about some of the most important questions in international politics. Outside of work hours, he is involved in campaigning for government action to address climate change. ☞



MANUEL VARGAS

This year Manuel has been a Visiting Fellow at the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of San Francisco, where he will return in the Fall of 2010.

At the Center, he has been working on a book about moral responsibility, or the conditions under which people are morally praiseworthy and blameworthy. Central to his project is the idea that if we want a picture of agency that is scientifically plausible but still adequate to support our practices of holding one another responsible, it will conflict with some commonplace but erroneous assumptions about the kinds of creatures we are. Manuel reports that the Center is a wonderful place to think about ethics. ☞

UPDATES FROM THE 2008 - 2009 POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS



BRAD MCHOSE

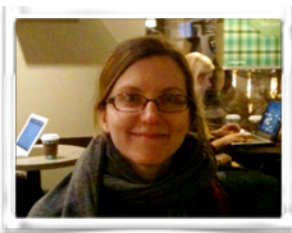
After completing my fellowship at the Center last spring, I went backcountry skiing in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, which, I discovered, is an amazing place. Last fall I began a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Program on Values in Society at the University of Washington. Since arriving, I've taught an introductory course on political philosophy, a course on libertarianism, egalitarianism and public policy, and a course on the moral norms governing international trade. Looking ahead, I've just starting organizing a conference on fair trade, which we will host in the spring of 2011. ☺



AVIA PASTERNAK

After leaving Stanford I joined the School of Public Policy at University College London, where I hold a British Academy Post Doctoral Fellowship. I have been continuing my work on corporate responsibility in democracies, tying it to my new research project which concerns the global responsibilities of liberal democracies. More specifically, I am now working on a paper that argues that human rights define the extent to which democracies and non-democracies should be held corporately responsible for their policies by the international community. Along side my research work I am teaching an MA course at UCL on Global Citizenship and Global Democracy. The course explores whether and how traditional conceptions of citizenship and traditional notions of

democracy, representation and accountability can be applied at the global level. Finally, I enjoy seeing Eli, my baby boy who was born in Stanford, growing up so fast. Soon he will be taking his first steps! ☺

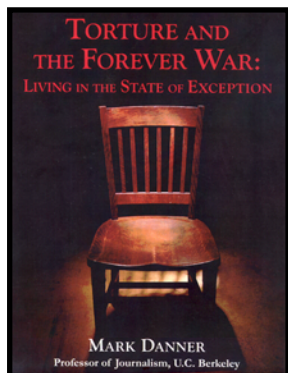


ZOFIA STEMPOWSKA

While at Stanford, I was extremely lucky to get a permanent post at the University of Reading, which has cut my commute by over 2 hours! Since arriving back in the UK, I returned to full-time teaching and taught a new course to my new students on the ethics of war. I also continued work on the projects I worked on while at Stanford (and, for anyone interested in the mundane details of the academic life, have had one paper accepted for publication and another one sent off for review). I will be returning for a brief visit to the Center during the Spring Quarter. I am delighted at the prospect and I am already dusting off my sunglasses. ☺

THE 2009-2010 TANNER LECTURES

“Torture and the Forever War: Living in the State of Exception”



This year's Tanner lectures were given by Mark Danner. Danner is a writer and reporter who for twenty-five years has written on politics and foreign affairs, focusing on war and conflict. He has covered Central America, Haiti, the Balkans, Iraq and the Middle East, among many other stories. Danner is Professor of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley and the James Clarke Chace Professor of Foreign Affairs, Politics and the Humanities at Bard College.

Danner's lectures were titled “Imposing the State of Exception: Constitutional Dictatorship, Torture and Us” and “Naturalizing the State of Exception: Terror, Fear and the War Without End”. Commentators were Eric Posner (Law, Univ. of Chicago), Colonel Steven Kleinman (Senior Intelligence Officer U.S. Air Force), Elaine Scarry (Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value, Harvard) and Stephen Holmes (Law, NYU).

This series was recorded and can be found on [Stanford iTunes](#). Use the Stanford Power Search feature or look for our folder as a Featured Contributors under Arts & Humanities. ☺



Reviews of many of our Ethics of Food & the Environment talks can be found on our [website](#).

* This talk was recorded and can be found on [Stanford iTunes](#). Use the Stanford Power Search feature or look for our folder as a Featured Contributors under Arts & Humanities.

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THE ETHICS OF FOOD & THE ENVIRONMENT SERIES

LECTURES

"Redefining Soul Food: Politics and Pleasures of Food and Eating in the Black Communities"

Bryant Terry (Eco Chef)

"The Garden Project - Growing Plants, Growing People"

Cathrine Sneed (founder The Garden Project)

"Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds about Animals and Food"

Gene Baur (president & founder of Farm Sanctuary)

"Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food"

Kathleen Merrigan (current Deputy Secretary, US Department of Agriculture / former Director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University)

"The End of Overeating: Taking Control of the Insatiable American Appetite"

David Kessler (Author / Professor UCSF School of Medicine / former commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration)

"The Climate Change Problem: Science, Ethics and Policy"

Stephen Schneider (Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies & Biology, Stanford)

"Designing a Path to Sustainable Development"

Jeffrey Sachs (Director, The Earth Institute / Health Policy and Management, Columbia) *

"Understanding Social Ecological Systems"

Elinor Ostrom (recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics / Political Science, Indiana University)*

"Trade and Environmental Politics in North America: The Case of Transgenic Maize and Biodiversity in Mexico"

William Kennedy (Advisor, US Millennium Challenge Corporation)

"Energy, Food, Environment: Understanding the Links"

Vaclav Smil (Environment & Geography, University of Manitoba)

FILMS

Maquilapolis: City of Factories

Killer-at-Large

Trouble the Water

End of the Line

