BassConnections Research Team

The Construction of Memory at Duke and in Durham

Most universities have yet to engage in a deep examination and public acknowledgement of their complex histories. Duke could be among the leaders in this area, fostering a deep and broad rethinking of the past and a positive plan for establishing a fuller physical and interpretive account of history. What stories are missing from campus and should be told?

The Construction of Memory at Duke and in Durham is led by a diverse group that will use Duke's campus and Pauli Murray's home as laboratories for the telling of a more complete and complex history. This project team will mine memory studies to ask how, why and where people use the past for contemporary meaning; how the Duke campus and Durham's Pauli Murray house currently embody and tell their stories; and how this team can help chart a deeper engagement with history at both sites. Learn more here.

Congratulations to Lauren Kelly!

Published in Student Pulse
Lauren Kelly’s paper “The Human Rights Impacts of VAWA 2013: A True Victory for Native American Women?” was recently published in Student Pulse. Kelly, who is the co-chair of the DHRC@FHI Student Advisory Board, conducted her research for the DukeImmerse Rights & Identities in the Americas semester in Fall 2013. Her paper also won the 2014 Oliver Koonz Human Rights Prize. Read her paper on Student Pulse.

Oliver W. Koonz Human Rights Prize
Applications accepted until April 1, 2016

Duke undergraduates are invited to enter essays or alternative projects regarding global human rights issues in our annual Oliver W. Koonz Human Rights Prize competition. The Duke Human Rights Center awards one $500 prize in each category of best essay and best alternative project on a human rights theme. Learn more here.

The Oliver W. Koonz Human Rights Prize honors Oliver W. Koonz (1910-2009), who was the father of Claudia Koonz, the Peabody Family Professor Emeritus in the History Department and a founding member of the Duke Human Rights Center@FHI.

Encountering Ghanaian Political History in Durham, North Carolina
From the Human Rights Archive

The Rubenstein Library holds the archives of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), perhaps the single most important point of connection for communities who, in their desire to confront troubled pasts, have turned to the truth and reconciliation commission (TRC). The ICTJ archives reveal the workings of the global transitional justice crossroads, they spotlight an institution that carries forward the lessons, expertise, and experience of each commission to those that come afterwards.

In the year 2000, for the first time since the British ceded political authority over the territory they called Gold Coast, Ghana experienced regime change by ballot box. Subsequently, Ghana’s TRC was ushered in by the newly elected New Patriotic Party (NPP) government. For about 18 months,
glimpses, recordings, and debates about Ghana’s history of human rights abuse, as rendered by its citizenry, occupied the body politic. But fifteen years later, a lot has happened in Ghana- and frustratingly, much has remained the same. Read more.

Quantitative Methods in Human Rights Research

Two-day workshop this May

The field of quantitative human rights is finding a new maturity as researchers increasingly use quantitative tools to address human rights problems. Researchers are grappling with problems such as how to estimate civilian conflict mortality in Syria and Iraq, how to determine refugee flows in the current crisis and how to track the improper use of deadly force by law enforcement officials in the United States.

On May 5th and 6th an interdisciplinary group of Duke faculty is organizing a two-day workshop for leading researchers to explore these and other issues. Faculty organizers are Sumedha Ariely (Global Health), David Banks (Statistics), Robin Kirk (Duke Human Rights Center at FHI), Beka Steorts (Statistics), and Duncan Thomas (Economics).

2016 Democracy Summer Internship

Applications accepted until March 15th

Democracy Summer is an innovative internship program that exposes young leaders to new ideas and political movements, teaching them how to organize people around a shared vision for a better democracy in our state. The program also equips young people with lifelong skills that they can use to work for positive social change in their communities. Learn more here.

Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education

Call for applications

PAGE is seeking graduate, post-graduate and undergraduate students to provide collaborative leadership with an innovative
GET INVOLVED WITH THE DUKE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER @FHI

summer program for Appalachian girls. PAGE provides innovative learning opportunities for adolescent girls in Appalachia. It is designed to help rural girls enter a world that is global, digitally connected and navigated through literacy and leadership skills. Contact Deborah Hicks-Rogoff with questions at dhicks@duke.edu and learn more about PAGE and summer internships and fellowships here.