The documentation and analysis of human rights violations has played a foundational role in the growth of human rights, the foundational global moral and legal discourse of our ever-more integrated world. It is through this work that the world has come to understand the scope and severity of human rights abuses, especially severe violations of civil and political rights. However, despite the central role of human rights documentation and analysis, there currently exists minimal coherence, rigor, and methodological clarity within the field. This represents a profound challenge to the efficacy and policy value of human rights theory and practice and illustrates an especially exciting area for increased collaboration between academics and practitioners.

This conference and workshop have two key goals: first, to develop productive links between human rights practitioners and academics and second to deepen the scholarly/practical discussion regarding how to more effectively and coherently gather and analyze data on human rights violations. Together, participants explore a set of core questions, including: how can established social science methodologies be better integrated into human rights work?; how can field-based human rights research develop consistent methodological approaches so that the data gathered can be universalized and thereby gain the explanatory power of other global discourses (such as international public health and international economics)?; and how can best practices be developed regarding methods of collection, storage, replication, distribution, and presentation?
FRIDAY JANUARY 23, 2015

8:45 – 9:15 Coffee and light refreshments

9:15 – 9:30 Welcome & Orientation
Pat Kenney, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Cameron Thies, Director, School of Politics and Global Studies
Daniel Rothenberg and Reed Wood, School of Politics and Global Studies

9:30 – 10:15 Session 1 – Are International Human Rights Regimes Effective?
Kathryn Sikkink and Bridget Marchesi, “The Effectiveness of International Human Rights Legal Regime: What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?”
Discussant, David Gartner

10:15 – 10:25 Break

10:25 – 11:40 Session 2 – New Methodologies: Big Data, Crowd Sourcing, and the Challenges of Linking Research and Advocacy
Patrick Ball, “Not Big Enough: the Hidden Biases in ‘Big’ Data Documenting Killings in Syria”
Brian Root, “The Right Tool for the Job: the Links Between Research Methods and Advocacy”
Moderator, Victor Peskin

11:40 – 12:30 Break and Lunch

12:30 – 1:20 Session 3 – U.S. Department of State Engagement: Overview of DRL Activities and Use of Human Rights Reports as Data
Daniel Berliner and Benjamin Bagozzi, “Analyzing Human Rights Monitoring Reports with Structural Topic Models”
Moderator, Devorah Manekin

1:20 – 1:30 Break

1:30 – 2:45 Session 4 – New Ways of Measuring and Understanding Human Rights Violations
Will Moore, “Global Torture Data: A Comparison of the Ill Treatment and Torture (ITT) Data to the Human Rights Global Knowledge Graph (HR-GKG) Data”
Reed Wood, Thorin Wright, Chris Fariss and Chad Clay, “Addressing Spatial Variation in Human Rights: The Sub-National Analysis of Repression Project”
Moderator, Jessica Maves Braithwaite
2:45 – 2:55  Break

2:55 – 4:10  Session 5 – Non-governmental Organizations, Grassroots Efforts, and the Challenges of Predicting and Responding to Atrocities
Sarah E. Mendelson, “Addressing the Influence Gap: How Scholars and Practitioners Can Push Back on Closing Space around Civil Society”
Scott Edwards, “When ‘What We Know’ Depends on the NGO: The Human Rights Watchdog as a Measurement Device”
Jennifer Tsai, “Justice Sector Interventions in Atrocity Prevention”
Moderator, Steve Landis

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2015

9:00 – 9:30  Coffee and light refreshments

9:30 – 10:30  Workshop Session 1
John Hagan, Joshua Kaiser, Anna Hanson, and Patricia Parker, “Neighborhood Sectarian Displacement and the Battle for Baghdad: A Self-fulfilling Prophecy of Fear and Crimes Against Humanity in Iraq”
Discussant, Thorin Wright

10:30 – 10:40  Break

10:40 – 11:40  Workshop Session 2
Discussant, Daniel Rothenberg

11:40 – 11:50  Break

11:50 – 12:50  Workshop Session 3 (with lunch)
Daniel Rothenberg, “Truth and Testimony: Exploring the Role of Personal Narrative in Understanding Atrocities”
Discussant, LaDawn Haglund

12:50 – 1:00  Break

1:00 – 2:00  Workshop Session 4
Christopher Fariss, “Creating, Extending, and Validating Latent Variable Models of Human Rights”
Discussant, Reed Wood

2:00 – 2:10  Concluding Remarks
Daniel Rothenberg and Reed Wood
CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Patrick Ball, Executive Director of the Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG), Fellow at the Human Rights Center at Berkeley Law, Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (IDCR) at the University of Essex, and Research Fellow at Carnegie Mellon's Center for Human Rights Science. He is a globally recognized expert on human rights databases and has spent more than twenty years conducting quantitative analysis for truth commissions, non-governmental organizations, international criminal tribunals, and United Nations missions, including preparing the current mortality data on Syria for the UN. In June 2014, the American Statistical Association honored Patrick as a Fellow. In April 2005, the Electronic Frontier Foundation awarded Ball with its Pioneer Award. In June 2004, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) gave him the Eugene Lawler Award for Humanitarian Contributions within Computer Science and Informatics, and in 2002, he received a Special Achievement Award from the Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Daniel Berliner, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on the international and domestic politics of transparency and accountability policies. One strand of this research studies these topics by examining the global spread of Freedom of Information laws, and the politics of their adoption, design, implementation, and impacts. Another studies the governance of global supply chains, and the adoption, design, and impacts of environmental and corporate social responsibility initiatives that aim to bring about greater accountability by relying on information-based mechanisms. In the 2012-2013 academic year, Berliner was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Freie Universität Berlin and in the 2014-2015 academic year, he is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at ASU. He is the co-author of Labor Standards in International Supply Chains: Aligning Rights and Incentives (Elgar Publishing).

Chad Clay, Assistant Professor in the Department of International Affairs at the University of Georgia and Co-Director of the CIRI Human Rights Data Project. His areas of specialization include international relations, comparative politics, and methodology. His general research interests include the impact of international factors on human rights practices, political violence, and economic development, and, in particular, the spatial diffusion of these political outcomes, as well as the institutions, organizations, and processes that generate such diffusion. As Co-Director of the CIRI Human Rights Data Project, he provides standards-based quantitative information on government respect for a wide range of internationally recognized human rights for countries of all regime-types and from all regions of the world.

Christian Davenport, Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan and Co-Founder and Director of the Conflict Consortium. He works on the measurement of human rights violations and conflict with a focus on mass atrocities. Most of his advisory work concerns fact-finding, documenting past abuses, truth commissions, international criminal tribunals, and developing alternatives means for dealing with the legacy of state repressive behavior. He is the author of State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace (Cambridge University Press), Media Bias, Perspective and State Repression: The Black Panther Party (Cambridge University Press), How Social Movements Die: Repression and Demobilization of the Republic of New Africa (Cambridge University Press), co-editor of Repression and Mobilization (University of Minnesota Press), and editor of Paths to State Repression: Human Rights Violations and Contentious Politics (Rowman and Littlefield).
Scott Edwards, Adjunct Professional Lecturer in the School of International Service at American University and Project Manager for the Science for Human Rights project at Amnesty International. He has written and consulted extensively on complex humanitarian crises, protection, and armed conflict. His current research focuses on the development of early warning mechanisms for humanitarian crises, as well as the practical use of new methods and technologies for human rights compliance monitoring and evidence collection. His work with the Science for Human Rights (SHR) project focuses on utilizing geospatial technologies, like satellite imagery, for human rights monitoring and conflict prevention, providing access to previously inaccessible conflict zones and compelling visual evidence. He is the author of The Chaos of Forced Migration: A Modeling Means to a Humanitarian End (VDM Verlag Publishing).

Christopher Fariss, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Penn State University. His core research interest concerns the politics of human rights, violence, and repression. He uses computational methods to understand why governments commit atrocities against individuals within their jurisdiction. These computationally intensive methods and research design, essential for analyzing "big data," open up new insights into the micro-foundations of state repression. He has worked on several human rights measurement projects, including the Human Rights Protection Scores and the Human Rights Dependence Scores.

David Gartner, Professor of Law and Associate Dean at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Faculty Co-Director of the Center for Law and Global Affairs, Faculty Affiliate in the School of Public Affairs, and Senior Sustainability Scholar at the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. Professor Gartner teaches Constitutional Law, Law and Democracy, International Institutions, Foreign Relations Law, and Global Health Law and Policy. His current research focuses on the role of innovative international institutions and non-state actors in shaping international law and the response to global challenges in areas such as global health, development, education, and the environment. Before joining Arizona State University, Professor Gartner was a Fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University.

John Hagan, John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University, and Co-Director of the Center on Law & Globalization at the American Bar Foundation in Chicago. He is an award-winning sociologist who pioneered the application of advanced crime measurement techniques to the study of genocide. Using systematic methods of estimating crime volumes from victimization surveys administered by the U.S. State Department, Hagan and his colleagues found substantial under-counting of murders in Darfur, resulting in evidence of homicides over four times more than previous estimates. Hagan’s team also showed that there was substantial evidence of racial motivation in the killings and rapes, with little evidence of a strategic response to rebellion as claimed by Sudanese authorities. Hagan won the 2009 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for his innovative research on genocide in Darfur and the Balkans. He is the author of Who Are the Criminals? The Politics of Crime Policy in the Age of Roosevelt to the Age of Reagan (Princeton University Press), Justice in the Balkans: Prosecuting War Crimes at The Hague Tribunal (University of Chicago Press), Northern Passage: American Vietnam War Resisters in Canada (Harvard University Press), and co-author of Darfur and the Crime of Genocide (Cambridge University Press) and Gender in Practice: A Study of Lawyers’ Lives (Oxford University Press).

LaDawn Haglund, Associate Professor of Justice and Social Inquiry, Fellow of Human Rights and Sustainability at the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, Senior Sustainability Scholar at the Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University, and Faculty Fellow at the Center for Law and Global Affairs at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Her scholarly interests include macro- and comparative sociology; development and human rights, especially in Latin America; international political economy; globalization studies; and institutions and social change. During her 2011-2012 sabbatical, she received a Fulbright Research Fellowship to support her work analyzing Brazilian courts as mechanisms for
adjudicating the human right to water, as well as the implications of these cases for the environment. She and a colleague received a National Science Foundation research grant for 2013-2015 to deepen and extend this analysis to India and South Africa. She is the co-editor of Closing the Rights Gap: From Human Rights to Social Transformation (University of California Press).

Patrick Kenney, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies, and director of the Institute for Social Science Research at Arizona State University. Dean Kenney is a political scientist whose research focuses on campaigns, elections, and voting behavior. He has more than ten years of leadership and twenty years of scholarship in social science research at ASU. Before appointed as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kenney served as the founding director of the School of Politics and Global Studies. As the director of the Institute for Social Science Research, he works to provide research-based support for interdisciplinary collaboration among social science departments, schools and research centers across the University. He is the co-author of The Spectacle of U.S. Senate Campaigns (Princeton Press), No-Holds Barred: Negativity in U.S. Senate Campaigns (Prentice Hall), and The Changing Face of Representation (University of Michigan Press).

Milli Lake, Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University, Comparative Law and Society Studies (CLASS) Fellow at the University of Washington, and an affiliated researcher with the International Law and Policy Institute in Oslo. She is also a law and human rights consultant and research assistant to the University of Washington's Voices from the Rwanda Tribunal project. Her research focuses on issues of human rights, transitional justice, rule of law, and state-building in weak, developing, and post-conflict states (predominantly in sub-Saharan Africa). She previously worked for the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association, where she was responsible for monitoring human rights developments in a range of countries, assessing compliance with international human rights law, conducting legal analyses of new and proposed legislation, and organizing conferences, workshops and trainings on a range of human rights issues. She has also held positions with Amnesty International and Transparency International.

Steven Landis, Postdoctoral Scholar at Arizona State University’s School of Politics and Global Studies and Visiting Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. His research includes issues of international relations, focused primarily on the intersection between environmental politics and intrastate conflict including applications of robust modeling methods for quantitative research. He is a member of the School of Politics and Global Studies’ contribution to the Foresight Initiative, an interdisciplinary research project that studies the relationship between climate change and political instability. This initiative received sponsorship by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). He also contributes to the Militarized Interstate Dispute (MID) Project 4.0, a research project that collects data on international conflicts short of war between two or more states. This project is part of the Correlates of War (COW) research project.

Devorah Manekin, Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. She was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Martin Buber Society of Fellow. Her research interests include political violence, conflict processes, and post-conflict transition and reconstruction, with a focus on the Middle East. In particular, her research focuses on the ways in which modern militaries produce, organize, and restrain the use of force and in the short and long-term political effects of military socialization and experience. She uses a variety of field methods to study these issues, from survey research to ethnography.

Sarah E. Mendelson, Senior Adviser and Director of the Human Rights Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and former Deputy Assistant Administrator, responsible for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prior to serving in the Obama administration, Dr.
Mendelson was director of the CSIS Human Rights and Security Initiative from 2007 to 2010 and a senior fellow with the CSIS Russia and Eurasia Program, which she joined in 2001. From 1999 to 2001, she was a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Her research has included work on public opinion in Russia on the war in Chechnya, military and police abuse, health issues, identity in the North Caucasus, as well as knowledge and experiences with human trafficking. She has also researched the links between trafficking in humans and peacekeeping operations and, along with a team of activists, helped shape the NATO trafficking policy adopted in 2004 and the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005. In 2007 and 2008, she led a working group on closing Guantánamo, the recommendations from which were reflected in President Obama’s Executive Orders signed January 22, 2009. She is the author of Changing Course: Ideas, Politics and the Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan (Princeton University Press), and co-edited The Power and Limits of NGOs: A Critical Look at Building Democracy in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (Columbia University Press).

Daniel Mahanty, Director, Office of Security and Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. In this position, he draws upon fifteen years of international experience in a variety of national security and human rights positions at the State Department to promote the alignment of U.S. security and human rights policies and practices globally. He is also Adjunct Associate Professor at Georgetown University and is a Colin L. Powell Fellow, a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the Truman National Security Project.

Will Moore, Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. Moore’s research focuses on violent political conflict. His early work addressed protest and rebellion, dissent and repression, the nexus of domestic and international conflict, and ethnic conflict. More recently, his research focuses on conflictual foreign policy behavior, forced migration, international relations methods, and political economy. He presently conducts studies that disaggregate national-attribute analyses of civil war and research on the probability that governments use torture. His plans include a project that continues his work on rational expectations models of conflictual foreign policy behavior. Both Moore’s Ill Treatment and Torture (ITT) Data Project and Intranational Political Interactions (IPI) Project have received funding from the National Science Foundation.

Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Arizona. Her research is motivated by work in the fields of international relations (intrastate conflict onset and termination) and comparative politics (authoritarian regimes, domestic political institutions). Specifically, she is interested in using formal and quantitative methods to examine how institutional variation among non-democracies systematically explains patterns of civil conflict occurrence. She has two ongoing data collection projects: one is concerned with collecting group-level data on political parties in post-Cold War sub-Saharan Africa, and the other addresses formal and informal bans on political parties around the world.

Victor Peskin, Associate Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. His research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of international relations, comparative politics, and human rights. His research seeks to understand the conflicts between international legal institutions and nation-states that have ensued with the expansion of international humanitarian and human rights law. He is particularly interested in the political and philosophical battles between international war crimes tribunals and states implicated in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Peskin is the author of International Justice in Rwanda and the Balkans: Virtual Trials and the Struggle for State Cooperation (Cambridge University Press), which was selected as a CHOICE 2008 Outstanding Academic Title. His research has been supported by the United States Institute of Peace, the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at UC San Diego, the Berkeley Center for African Studies, and the Human Rights Center at UC Berkeley.
Brian Root, Quantitative Analyst, Human Rights Watch. His interests include the use of diverse research methodologies and quantitative analysis in human rights research. Root is responsible for data analyses in Human Rights Watch reports. In addition to statistical analyses, he works with researchers and Program staff, providing guidance on quantitative data collection and training on statistics and research methodology. He has previously worked on research design and quantitative analysis for organizations such as the Columbia Group for Children in Adversity, Scholars at Risk Network, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and the UC Berkeley Human Rights Center. His analyses and reports on human rights abuses for organizations such as Human Rights Watch have been cited in domestic and international policy hearings. He has conducted field research with vulnerable populations in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, and post-Katrina New Orleans.

Daniel Rothenberg, Professor of Practice in the School of Politics and Global Studies, Co-Director of the Center on the Future of War, the Lincoln Fellow for Ethics and International Human Rights Law as well as a 2015 Fellow at New America. His research focuses on human rights documentation and analysis, war and conflict, as well as transitional justice with a focus on genocide, truth commissions, and post-conflict reconstruction. From 2004 to 2010, he designed and managed human rights and rule of law projects in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Latin America. He is the author of *With These Hands* (University of California), *Testimonies* (International Human Rights Law Institute), *Memory of Silence: The Guatemalan Truth Commission Report* (Palgrave), and co-editor of *Drone Wars: Transforming Conflict, Law, and Policy* (Cambridge University Press).

Annie Shiel, Office of Security and Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, her portfolio includes the use of technology and data management for the reporting, documentation, analysis, and prevention of abuses by security forces, as well as atrocity prevention and early warning. Before coming to the State Department, she studied international development at McGill University, where she researched crowdsourced information by humanitarian and human rights actors working in conflict zones.

Kathryn Sikkink, Ryan Family Professor of Human Rights Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Sikkink works on international norms and institutions, transnational advocacy networks, the impact of human rights law and policies, and transitional justice. Sikkink has been a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina and a Guggenheim fellow. She is a member of the editorial board of the International Studies Quarterly, International Organization, and the American Political Science Review. She is the author of *The Justice Cascade: How Human Rights Prosecutions are Changing World Politics* (W.W. Norton; awarded the Robert F. Kennedy Center Book Award, and the WOLA/Duke University Award), the co-author of *Mixed Signals: U.S. Human Rights Policy and Latin America, Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press; awarded the Gragwemeyer Award for Ideas for Improving World Order, and the ISA Chadwick Alger Award for Best Book in the area of International Organizations), and the co-editor of *The Persistent Power of Human Rights: From Commitment to Compliance* (Cambridge University Press).

Cameron Thies, Director of the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. Thies came to ASU in 2013 from the University of Iowa, where he was previously the Harlan E. McGregor Faculty Fellow and Chair of the Department of Political Science. He conducts research in the areas of state-building in the developing world, interstate and civil conflict, international trade, and international relations theory. He is co-Editor-in-Chief of *Political Science Research and Methods*, the official journal of the European Political Science Association. He currently serves as Vice-President of the International Studies Association and was awarded its Ladd Hollist Service Award in 2013. Thies is the author of *The United States,
Israel, and the Search for International Order: Socializing States (Routledge Press) and co-author of Intra-Industry Trade: Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Political Economy (Stanford University Press).

Jennifer Tsai, Senior Access to Justice Advisor at the American Bar Association Role of Law Initiative. Tsai works on the design and implementation of assessment tools, research criteria, and methodologies on access to justice and legal empowerment, atrocity prevention, and human rights. She has led research teams and been the principal or co-author of a number of ABA ROLI publications, including the Access to Justice Assessment Tool: A Guide to Analyzing Access to Justice for Civil Society Organizations, related AJAT reports, and a technical guide on paralegal service delivery for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in West Africa. She has also worked on survey and protocol design, sampling methodologies, interviewer training and data collection and analysis as part of several atrocity documentation projects in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Syria. Additionally, she is coordinator of ABA ROLI’s Access to Justice and Human Rights thematic area. Prior to joining ABA ROLI, Tsai worked at domestic and international organizations on criminal justice and human rights, including the Vera Institute of Justice and the Beijing office of International Bridges to Justice. In addition, she practiced law in New York for 11 years, including six years as a public defender.

Reed Wood, Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. His research and teaching interests broadly include human rights, state repression, civil conflict, and conflict management. He teaches courses on international relations, political violence and human rights at ASU. His current research focuses on the strategic dimensions of state and non-state actor violence against civilians during civil wars and the process of strategic learning among states and insurgents during conflicts. He also co-manages the Political Terror Scale (PTS), an index of state violations of physical integrity rights.

Thorin Wright, Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University. His research focuses on international conflict and state repression, and the intersection of international conflict and domestic politics. He has published research on territorial conflict participation and state repression, the linkage between international territorial competition and defensive alliance effectiveness, and the factors that contribute to the durability of peacekeeping operations. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on international relations and international conflict, and is the principal investigator for the Sub-National Analysis of Repression Project.