



**S**leeping Under Bridges:  
*Economic and Social Rights in Canada and the U.S.*  
October 10 - 12, 2003



**“SLEEPING UNDER BRIDGES”: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS  
IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES**

**Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11, 2003  
545 O'Brian Hall, University at Buffalo Law School**

On October 10-12, the Baldy Center hosted a workshop focused on how Canada and the United States meet evolving international standards in economic and social rights, as set forth in the 1966 International Covenant. Papers were presented in areas such as trade union rights, homelessness, economic rights in American foreign policy, Aboriginal/Indian rights, welfare racism, and rights of the disabled and economic migrants.

The workshop's purpose was to draw attention to the abuses of economic human rights inherent in developed capitalist societies, especially the enduring problem of class distinctions. At the same time, by comparing the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe, the workshop intends to explore the differences among various Western societies in terms of their economic and social rights.

The workshop was hosted by the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy of the University at Buffalo and was funded by the Canadian Embassy and the Baldy Center, with the assistance of the Canadian-American Studies Committee of the University at Buffalo.

**Workshop Organizers**

**Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann, Ph.D., FRSC,**  
Canada Research Chair in Global Studies and  
Political Science, Global Studies Program  
Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo

**Claude Welch, Ph.D.**  
SUNY Distinguished Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University at Buffalo

**Workshop Participants**

**James Atleson**  
University at Buffalo Law School

**Peter Baehr**  
Professor of Human Rights  
(emeritus), Netherlands Institute  
for Human Rights (SIM), Utrecht  
University

**Willie Baptist**  
Education Director  
Kensington Welfare Rights  
Union, NUHHCE, ASFCME,  
AFL-CIO, Philadelphia

**Mary Bricker-Jenkins**  
Department of Social Work  
Temple University

**Barbara Wake Carroll**  
Department of Political Science  
McMaster University

**David P. Forsythe**  
Charles J. Mach Distinguished  
Professor of Political Science,  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

**Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann**  
Canada Research Chair in  
Global Studies and Political  
Science, Wilfrid Laurier  
University, Waterloo

**Virginia Leary**  
Distinguished Service Professor  
Emerita, University at Buffalo  
Law School

**Ken Neubeck**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Connecticut

**Mindy Noble**  
Attorney, Toronto

**Pauline Rosenbaum**  
Attorney, Toronto

**Vic Satzewich**  
Chair, Department of Sociology  
McMaster University, Hamilton

**David Weissbrodt**  
Fredrikson & Byron Professor of  
Law, University of Minnesota  
Law School

**Claude Welch**  
SUNY Distinguished Professor  
Department of Political Science,  
University at Buffalo

## PROGRAM

### Friday, October 10, 2003

#### Session One

Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann and Claude Welch  
*Introduction*

David Weissbrodt  
*International Law of Human Rights: A U.S. Perspective*

#### Session Two

Jack Donnelly  
*Economic and Social Rights as Human Rights: Explaining the American Reluctance*

David P. Forsythe  
*Foreign Policy and Socio-Economic Rights in International Relations*

#### Session Three

Mindy Noble and Pauline Rosenbaum  
*Rights for People with Disabilities*

Mary Bricker-Jenkins and Willie Baptist  
*From Sleeping Under to Marching Over Bridges: The Movement to End Poverty in the United States*

Kenneth J. Neubeck  
*Welfare Racism and Human Rights*

### Saturday, October 11, 2003

#### Session Four

James B. Atleson  
*International Labor Rights in North America*

Vic Satzewich  
*The Rights of Migrant Workers*

Virginia Leary  
*A Rights Based Approach to Health*

#### Session Five

Barbara Carroll  
*Sleeping Under Bridges: The Issue of Homelessness*

#### Session Six

Peter R. Baehr  
*The Netherlands: A Valhalla of Economic Rights?*