

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW CONFERENCE:

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Balsillie School of International Affairs
Waterloo, Ontario
November 14th, 2017

EXTERNAL REPORT

Prepared By

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Provincial IHL Coordinator
Canadian Red Cross, Ontario



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Background

This conference was the first full-day IHL Conference organized in partnership between the Ontario International Humanitarian Law Unit of the Canadian Red Cross and the following partners: Balsillie School of International Affairs, Conrad Grebel University College, Wilfrid Laurier University and Project Ploughshares. This event was further made possible thanks to the contributions from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The organizing committee was assisted by the work of the International Humanitarian Law Working Group for Toronto (IHL WG – TOR) as well as some student volunteers from Balsillie School of International Affairs, who assisted with the pre-conference planning which included research, reading list and moderated question development, as well as event promotions and registration.

Objective

As part of the mandate of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and thus National Societies around the world, public engagement on humanitarian issues and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is an important objective. Through academic conferences, the Canadian Red Cross Society upholds this strategic objective by providing a space to engage the academic community in impartial discussions on IHL as it relates to contemporary issues.

The objective of the conference was not only to educate the public and bring awareness to the discussion surrounding IHL and the protection of people caught up in armed conflict, but also to engage academics and students alike in discussions on the application of IHL and the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in promoting and safe-guarding these laws.

The speakers that participated in the panel discussions during the conference offered their expertise on IHL including issues of distinction, humanitarian disarmament and other contemporary issues which deepened the attendee's understanding and also offered an opportunity to consider where we are today and things to consider as an international community moving forward.

There were 93 people in the audience who were made up of students (undergraduate, masters and PhD candidates) from many programs including Global Studies, Political Science, Peace and Conflict Studies, International Affairs, Conflict Analysis and Education to name a few prominent ones and from multiple academic institutions: Balsillie School of International Affairs, Conrad Grebel University College and Laurier University. The rest of the attendees were made up of professors and academics as well as professionals from other humanitarian organizations represented in the community.



The Conference

The conference was opened by Professor John Ravenhill, Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Professor Ravenhill welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks linking the importance of the discussions that were to unfold throughout the day and their immediate relevance to what is happening in the world today. He then introduced the first set of speakers which included of Mr. Jonathan Somer, Interim Senior Legal Advisor, IHL to the Canadian Red Cross; Ms. Sabrina Henry, Legal and Policy Officer for the Canadian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross; and Mr. Andrew Carswell, Senior Delegate for Canada at the International Committee of the Red Cross, who jointly provided an introduction to IHL and the linkages to the issues that were to be discussed throughout the day. Prior to the conclusion of this presentation, the speakers fielded questions from the audience. This was followed by a 15 minute break at which point, coffee, tea water and snacks were available just outside of the conference room.

Mr. Carswell as moderator introduced the first panel which was on “*Distinction*” and each of the speakers. The presentation by Dr. Edmund Pries, Assistant Professor, Global Studies, Religion and Culture and Social Entrepreneurship, Wilfrid Laurier University, was titled, “Are all Combatants Equal?” Professor Pries outlined the recent debate about the doctrine on the Moral Equality of Combatants (MEC) including a resurgence of voices proposing for a Moral Inequality of Combatants position. According to Pries, the question on the issue hinges on whether IHL can be successfully applied if a differential moral status (as per jus ad bellum evaluation) is asserted followed by a differentiated legal status vis a vis jus in bello. He maintained that there was and is both an implicit and explicit assumption of symmetry between rights according to jus in bello and jus ad bellum. The independence of jus in bello (IHL) from jus ad bellum must be insisted upon in order to protect the effective functionality of IHL – especially from parties asserting the inequality of combatants according to jus ad bellum determinations. Professor Pries concluded that the refusal to accept MEC as the legally necessary depiction of combatant moral status by some legal theorists, political leaders and military personnel, especially since the post 9/11 global conflict landscape, posed an ongoing threat to IHL. Dr. Timothy Donais, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University was the next speaker to present on “*UN Peace Operations and the Use of Force: Peacekeepers as Parties to the Conflict?*”. In his presentation, Professor Donais discussed the increasingly ambiguous position of UN peacekeepers under IHL. Most contemporary peacekeeping missions, he pointed out, operate under Chapter VII mandates which provide greater latitude for peacekeepers to use force in the name of peace (protecting civilians on one hand and countering violent extremism on the other). These developments have raised questions about the point at which UN peacekeepers cross the line from being impartial facilitators to being active parties to the conflict. Professor Donais concluded his presentation by explaining that the shift towards enforcement peacekeeping not only puts into question the UN’s commitment to impartiality as a fundamental principle of peacekeeping but also raises a host of legal questions about the extent to which peacekeepers should now be considered lawful combatants (and thereby lawful targets) under IHL. Dr. Sara Matthews, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University presented on “*Drones Warfare: Extra-judicial targeted killings and IHL*”. With reference to contemporary case studies, including the creation of a new “Algorithmic Warfare Cross-



Functional Team” (Project Maven) by the Trump Administration, Professor Matthews considered how the category of combatant vs. non-combatant is constituted via algorithmic technologies of killing and the practice of “pattern of life analysis” used to target terror suspects, in the context of IHL. Throughout the presentation, Professor Matthews drew on Achille Mbembe’s (2003) concept of necropolitics – the institutionalized right to kill and to allocate the lived status of non-life to certain social and political subjects. At the conclusion of this panel, the moderator opened the floor to questions from the audience. This was followed by a 45 minute lunch break. Lunch consisted of a choice of sandwiches or wraps as well as a choice of salads and desserts. An assortment of non-alcoholic beverages was also made available.

Once lunch was over, Sabrina Henry welcomed everyone back from the break to introduce the second panel, “*Humanitarian Disarmament*” as moderator. Mr. Paul Hannon, Executive Director, Mines Action Canada, was the first to speak on this panel with his presentation entitled, “*From Landmines to Nuclear Weapons: How Humanitarian Disarmament Contributes to IHL*”. Mr. Hannon provided an overview of the evolution of the concept of humanitarian disarmament and the efforts to strengthen and add to existing IHL through treaties and conventions on landmines, cluster munitions, nuclear and autonomous weapons. He concluded by pointing out that these international legal developments have created new energy and attention on IHL. The second speaker on this panel was Mr. Ken Epps, Senior Policy Advisor, Arms Trade Treaty, Project Ploughshares who presented on the, “*Arms Trade Treaty: Controlling Arms Exports*”. Mr. Epps addressed the recent efforts to better control irresponsible and unscrupulous arms exports that continue to cause so much human suffering around the world. While there remains much work to be done to curb certain practices, he argued that the level of scrutiny over the end-use of arms exports has reached unprecedented levels in recent years and arms exporting countries have been facing increased scrutiny about instances in which there is a clear risk that arms exports might be misused. Mr. Epps concluded his presentation by explaining that while the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in December 2014 was a rare diplomatic victory for the international community that explicitly pointed to the reduction of human suffering as a core objective, that effective treaty implementation remains an urgent challenge. Mr. Jonathan Somer was the last speaker to present on this panel with his discussion on the, “*Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban and Non-State Armed Groups*”. Pointing out the 20 year anniversary of the Ottawa Treaty to ban anti-personnel landmines, Mr. Somer spoke about it’s relevance to non-state armed groups. He explained how in spite of efforts to include Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) in the anti-personnel landmine ban treaty as ‘parties to conflict’, the treaty in the end only addressed states. He went on to describe an innovative approach towards including NSAGs in the anti-personnel landmine ban treaty, the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment (DoC). The DoC is a treaty-like instrument open for signature by NSAGs whereby they pledge to comply with the anti-personnel landmine ban treaty, agree to external monitoring and work towards its implementation. At the conclusion of the discussion, attendees were invited to pose questions to the speakers after which the conference paused for a 15 minute break where light refreshments were provided.

The last panel of the day was moderated by Ms. Rachel Reist, Undergraduate Officer & Internship Coordinator for Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College. Mr. Andrew



Carswell was the first to present on “*Reconciling IHL with counter-terrorism*”. Mr. Carswell examined disincentives for the IHL compliance of non-state armed groups created by the combination of an IHL framework that recognizes lawful acts of war in armed conflict, and a domestic legal framework that criminalizes those same acts. He then discussed the challenge of ensuring accountability for those groups in situations where the State mechanisms through which compliance is normally ensured are broken. As a possible remedy he examined the role that States may play in ensuring the respect of the armed groups they support, whether financially or militarily. He also raised the challenging issue of determining membership in an armed group for the purpose of targeting. Changing the lens of the discussion, Carswell then discussed the challenges of ensuring IHL compliance by States prosecuting armed conflicts against armed groups, including finding the appropriate balance between military necessity and humanitarian considerations in the conduct of hostilities, and reconciling differences between the language of military operations and the language of IHL. Lastly, he briefly examined the debate over the scope of the battlefield in armed conflict, and whether members of an armed group effectively take the battlefield with them when they leave the territory of a State on which an armed conflict is taking place. In ICRC's opinion they do not, but the issue remains contentious with some States. This presentation was followed by Dr. Alexandra R. Harrington, Lead Counsel, Peace, Justice & Accountability Programme, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law. Dr. Harrington presented on the topic, “*Recognizing the Child: the Rights of Children in Conflict and Violence*”. Through this discussion she examined the collective rights of children in conflict/violence, rather than examining specific aspects of childhood (i.e. Education, family integrity), in order to fashion a methodology of conceiving children and childhood in law, that provides meaning for children, parents and society. Unfortunately, one of the speakers on the panel, Ms. Sarah Murray, PhD candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University, fell ill and was unable to present on her topic of, “*Employing International Humanitarian Law: Disability Experiences in Syria and South Sudan*”. This however, allowed for a longer question and answer period at the end of this panel and to end the conference at 5:00pm instead of 5:30pm. Our last speaker on this panel was Professor Lowell Ewert, Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College and concluded the presentations for the conference with his paper, “*Why IHL Matters: A Peace Studies Perspective*”. Professor Ewert focused on the relationship of IHL to peace and discussed the notion of whether IHL makes peace more likely or simply functions as a legal tool to justify violence and destruction. He went on to outline why traditional peace studies programs are often marked by a negative view of IHL and how this perspective inadvertently undermines one important, although insufficient by itself, tool of international law in creating and sustaining peace.

The conference closed with final remarks from Ms. Svetlana Ageeva, Advisor IHL, Ontario, Canadian Red Cross. Ms. Ageeva highlighted some important key points from the conference and took this time to thank the guest speakers, partners and organizing committee. At this point the instructions for accessing Sli.do to complete the online feedback form, was presented and attention was paid to the hard copy in the attendee's packages. Lastly, everyone was invited to the informal reception held just outside of the conference room immediately following the conference. Many attendees joined the reception where light refreshments were served and took advantage of the time to network and engage with the speakers, organizing committee and one another.



Annex 1 – Event Poster

CONFERENCE

International Humanitarian Law
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November 14, 2017

Balsillie School of International Affairs
Room 1-42
67 Erb Street West
Waterloo, ON | N2L 6C2

9:00am - 5:30pm

Join us as we explore the role that International Humanitarian Law (IHL) plays in dealing with contemporary challenges to the protection of people during periods of armed conflict. This conference will bring together experts from the field of IHL including academics, practitioners and representatives from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

For more information, please email: IHLconference@redcross.ca
To register, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/IHLBalsillie>



Annex 2 – Agenda

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 Room 1-42 | Balsillie School of International Affairs | 67 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON | November 14th, 2017

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08:30 – 09:00	Registration & Refreshments	
09:05 – 09:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks	John Ravenhill, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs
09:15 – 10:45	International Humanitarian Law 101	Jonathan Somer, Interim Senior Legal Advisor, IHL, Canadian Red Cross Andrew Carswell, Senior Delegate, International Committee of the Red Cross Sabrina Henry, Legal and Policy Officer, Canadian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadian Delegation
10:45 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:05	Panel 1: Distinction <i>Are all Combatants Equal?</i> <i>UN Peace Operations and Use of Force: Peacekeepers as Parties to the Conflict?</i> <i>Drones Warfare: Extra-judicial targeted killings and IHL</i>	Moderator: Andrew Carswell, Senior Delegate to Canada, International Committee of the Red Cross Dr. Edmund Pries, Assistant Professor, Global Studies, Religion and Culture and Social Entrepreneurship, Wilfrid Laurier University Dr. Timothy Donais, Associate Professor, Department of Global Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University Dr. Sara Matthews, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University
12:05 – 12:35	Question and Answer Period	
12:35 – 13:35	Lunch	



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13:35 – 14:40	<p>Panel 2: Humanitarian Disarmament</p> <p><i>From Landmines to Nuclear Weapons How Humanitarian Disarmament Contributes to IHL</i></p> <p><i>Arms Trade Treaty: Controlling Arms Exports</i></p> <p><i>Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban and Non-State Armed Groups</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Sabrina Henry, Legal and Policy Officer, Canadian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadian Delegation</p> <p>Paul Hannon, Executive Director, Mines Action Canada</p> <p>Ken Epps, Senior Policy Advisor, Arms Trade Treaty, Project Ploughshares</p> <p>Jonathan Somer, Interim Senior Legal Advisor, IHL, Canadian Red Cross</p>
14:40 – 15:10	Question and Answer Period	
15:10 – 15:25	Break	
15:25 – 16:50	<p>Panel 3: Contemporary Issues</p> <p><i>Reconciling IHL with counter-terrorism</i></p> <p><i>Recognizing the Child: the Rights of Children in Conflict and Violence</i></p> <p><i>Employing International Humanitarian Law: Disability Experiences in Syria and South Sudan</i></p> <p><i>Why IHL Matters: A Peace Studies Perspective</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Rachel Reist, Undergraduate Officer & Internship Coordinator for Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College</p> <p>Andrew Carswell, Senior Delegate, International Committee of the Red Cross</p> <p>Dr. Alexandra R. Harrington, Lead Counsel, Peace, Justice & Accountability Programme, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law</p> <p>Sarah Murray, PhD candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University</p> <p>Lowell Ewert, Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College</p>
16:50 – 17:15	Question and Answer Period	
17:15 – 17:30	Closing Remarks	Svetlana Ageeva, Advisor IHL, Ontario, Canadian Red Cross
17:30 – 18:30	Reception	



Annex 3 – Speaker Biographies

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Speaker Biographies

John Ravenhill

Dr John Ravenhill is Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs, on secondment from his position as Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. Before taking up this appointment four years ago, he was the Head of the School of Politics and International Relations in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Ravenhill has published 24 books and over 190 journal articles and book chapters. He is one of the editors of the *Review of International Political Economy*, the number two ranked journal in the field of International Relations (by citation counts). He was the founding editor of the Cambridge University Press book series, *Cambridge Asia-Pacific Studies*, and is on the editorial boards of more than 10 journals.

He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia in 2009, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs in 2016. In 2016, he also received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Political Economy section of the International Studies Association, the principal international association in the profession.

He has been a Visiting Professor in the International Organizations MBA program at the University of Geneva, at the International University of Japan, at the University of California, Berkeley, and was the National Trade Unions Congress Professor of International Economic Relations at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Dr. Ravenhill has been an advisor to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Australian government.

Jonathan Somer

Jonathan Somer is interim Senior Legal Adviser with the Canadian Red Cross. In 2013, Jonathan founded Persona Grata Consulting, advising humanitarian organisations on IHL and strategic development. From 2008-2013, Jonathan was Legal Advisor and Programme Coordinator on children and armed conflict with Geneva Call, an international NGO that engages armed non-State actors towards respect for international humanitarian norms. Previously, he worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and as consultant with among others the United Nations, the Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research Programme of Harvard University, and the International Law Department of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jonathan was awarded the 2007 Henri Dunant Prize for excellence in IHL scholarship. He sits on several experts groups related to armed non-state actors, and is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies* and the *IHL Companion*. He holds a B.A from the University of Western Ontario, a J.D. from the University of British Columbia, and an L.L.M from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.



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Speaker Biographies

Andrew J. Carswell

Based in Ottawa since 2015, Andrew Carswell currently serves as the senior delegate to Canada for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Between 2011 and 2015, Andrew was ICRC's senior delegate to the U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces, advising Combatant Commands, deploying operational units and advanced military colleges regarding ICRC's field interaction with armed forces and the international legal framework governing military operations. Between 2009 and 2011 he served as advisor for the ICRC's Unit for Relations with Arms Carriers in Geneva, where he supported twenty five armed forces delegates worldwide regarding their efforts to implement the law of armed conflict at the national level; and between 2006 and 2009 he was based in Pretoria as Regional Delegate to the Armed Forces of Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. He has served on ICRC operations in Jordan regarding Syria, Afghanistan, Rwanda, South Sudan, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, amongst others. Prior to his career with the ICRC, he served as an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces Office of the Judge Advocate General (2000-05), where he specialized in military prosecutions, international law and legal training. He was deployed to the NATO chain of command as a divisional legal advisor in Bosnia (2002) and served as third in command of the Canadian Military Prosecution Service (2003-05). Before joining the military, he was a criminal prosecutor in the city of Calgary, Canada (1997-2000). He performed his articles of clerkship at the Court of Appeal of Alberta (1996-97), and remains a member of the Alberta Law Society. He has authored publications on the law of armed conflict.

A Canadian national, Andrew holds a Master's degree with distinction in the international law of armed conflict from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, in addition to a law degree from Cardiff University and an undergraduate degree in politics and history from McGill University.

Sabrina Henry

Sabrina Henry is currently the Legal and Policy Officer with the Canadian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadian Delegation. Prior to that, Ms. Henry was an Associate in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2016, she was awarded the Henry Dunant Research Prize for her thesis which critically analyses the concepts of "continuous combat function" and "direct participation in hostilities" of a variety of actors implicated in both international and non-international armed conflicts. Ms. Henry holds a bachelor degree in International Relations and Public Affairs, a master degree in International and Transnational law, as well as an LL.M. from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.



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Speaker Biographies

Edmund Pries

Edmund is Assistant Professor of Global Studies, Social Entrepreneurship and Religion and Culture and Program Coordinator of the Social Entrepreneurship Option at Wilfrid Laurier University where his teaching is centered in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies (including: Disarmament, International Humanitarian Law), Religion and Social Innovation/Entrepreneurship. His research focuses on religion and peace/conflict and on social contracts derived from citizenship oaths and military enlistment oaths. He also researches and writes on pedagogy. In addition to various articles, he recently co-edited the book *Peace Studies between Tradition and Innovation* (2015). He is on the Board of Peace and Conflict Studies Association of Canada and the former co-chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Association.

Timothy Donais

Timothy Donais is an associate professor in the Department of Global Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, where he teaches in the field of peace and conflict studies. His current research focuses on peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding, and security sector reform, and he has conducted field research in Bosnia, Haiti, and Afghanistan. He is the author of *Peacebuilding and Local Ownership: Post-Conflict Consensus-Building* (Routledge, 2012), *The Political Economy of Peacebuilding in Post-Dayton Bosnia* (Routledge, 2005), and the editor of *Local Ownership and Security Sector Reform* (Lit Verlag, 2008), in addition to authoring some two dozen journal articles and book chapters. He is also Chair of the Peace and Conflict Studies Association of Canada (PACS-Can).

Sara Matthews

Sara's research is interdisciplinary and considers the social dynamics of violence, war and conflict. One of her interests is the relationship between war, visual culture and nation building, a focus that she explores in a current curatorial project entitled "Surveillance and Nation Building in Canada: 1945-2011". Her latest study, "The Cultural Life of Drones," considers social responses to technologies of military surveillance and mechanized killing such as drone warfare. Along with Dr. Dina Georgis at the University of Toronto, she directs the SSHRC funded Research Creation Project "Surveillant Subjectivities: Digital Youth Cultures, Art and Affect".



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Speaker Biographies

Cesar Jaramillo

Cesar Jaramillo is executive director at Project Ploughshares. His work has focused on such program areas as nuclear disarmament, outer space security and conventional weapons control. Cesar has participated in various multilateral disarmament processes as an international civil society representative, and has given guest lectures and presentations at academic institutions in Canada and abroad. An occasional columnist on matters of disarmament and international security, Cesar graduated from the University of Waterloo with an MA in global governance and has bachelor's degrees in honours political science and in journalism.

Paul Hannon

Paul Hannon is the Executive Director of Mines Action Canada (MAC), the Canadian member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), which was the co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. MAC is a founding member of the international Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), launched in 2003, and is also the Canadian member of the CMC. The CMC was nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. In 2011 he led the process to merge the CMC and ICBL.

Mines Action Canada (MAC) is an international leader working to eliminate the serious humanitarian, environmental and development consequences of indiscriminate weapons including landmines, cluster munitions, and autonomous weapons. Paul became the Executive Director of Mines Action Canada in July 1998 and represents MAC on the ICBL-CMC's Governance Board of which he is the Vice-Chair. He is also a member of the Monitoring and Research Committee which oversees the research and production of the annual Landmine Monitor report and its sister publication the annual Cluster Munition Monitor report.

In 2012 Mines Action Canada along with eight other organizations co-founded the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots. The Campaign now has members in 28 countries. Paul is a member of the Campaign's Steering Committee.

Paul brought to the campaign 15 years of experience with the Canadian development sector including working and consulting with Africa Emergency Aid, AlterNET Communications, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, International Development Research Centre, Mozambique Task Force, Oxfam Canada, the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Fund (CCIC) and Partnership Africa Canada. He has also worked for the federal government and one of Canada's major financial institutions.

Paul was born in Guelph, Ontario and is a graduate of Carleton University in Ottawa. He resides in Ottawa. In 2002 he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



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Speaker Biographies

Kenn Epps

Ken Epps is a senior policy advisor on the Arms Trade Treaty at Project Ploughshares. He worked for Ploughshares from 1986 to 2014, and conducted research and policy analysis on issues related to small arms and light weapons, the international arms trade, and Canada's military industry and he maintains a unique database on Canadian military production and exports.

For 20 years Ken was the contributing editor of Project Ploughshares' Armed Conflicts Report. Kenneth has participated as NGO advisor on Canadian delegations to United Nations conferences on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and since 1999 he has been the Project Ploughshares representative on the international NGO Steering Committee promoting a global Arms Trade Treaty.

Rachel Reist

Rachel Reist is the Undergraduate Officer & Internship Coordinator for Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel University College affiliated with the University of Waterloo. The PACS program focuses on creating peaceful societies where the causes of war are kept in check, its impact is limited, and a return to peace afterwards is more likely. Within this context, Rachel advises students in their academics and internships as they explore how issues of nonviolence, trauma healing, restorative justice, human rights and international development relate to war and peace.

Rachel has spent over ten years advocating for social justice both locally and internationally. In 2013 she worked with School of the Americas Watch, a nonviolent anti-militarization movement that seeks to critique and hold accountable those who violate the laws of war and operate with impunity across Latin America because of military training at the SOA/WHINSEC. She continued to serve on the SOA Watch Council from 2014-2017 as the representative for Canada, and as Council Chair for 2016. Her academic and field work experiences have made her an advocate for issues around International Humanitarian Law and the intersection between law and violence. Rachel holds a Master of Peace and Conflict Studies degree from the University of Waterloo.

Alexandra R. Harrington

Dr. Harrington, J.D., LL.M., DCL, is Lead Counsel, Cross-cutting Program on Governance, Institutions & Accountability, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL).
<http://www.cisdsl.org/index.php>



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Sarah Murray

Sarah Murray is a doctoral candidate at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and Wilfrid Laurier University. Her areas of expertise are international human rights, global governance, and disability rights. Her current research focuses on international disability rights and the implementation and effectiveness of governance instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Lowell Ewert

Lowell Ewert, J.D., LL.M., has served as Director of the Peace and Conflict Studies program at the University of Waterloo for 20 years and previously worked for 11 years in international development. As a relief and development practitioner, he was directly involved in carrying out humanitarian projects in Lebanon in the mid-1980's during the civil war while living there with his wife, as well as living and working development projects in Jordan, Kazakstan, Guatemala, Nicaragua and providing oversight or consulting on projects in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Nicaragua, Indonesia and Egypt.

Svetlana Ageeva

Svetlana Ageeva has worked for the Canadian Red Cross Society since 2003. She holds the position of Advisor, International Humanitarian Law and leads the work of the International Humanitarian Law Unit in Ontario. Svetlana and her team work closely with various partners in promoting knowledge of, respect for and implementation of the rules of International Humanitarian Law by organising regular academic conferences and Exploring Humanitarian Law trainings for education professionals. Svetlana completed her BComm at the Moscow State University, her Masters Degree in International Development at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She recently completed her MBA at McMaster University. Prior to joining Canadian Red Cross Svetlana worked for the Delegation of the European Commission in Southern Africa (Pretoria) in 1998 - 2003.



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Annex 4 – Moderated Questions

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Moderated Questions

Panel 1: Distinction

Questions

1. How can you enforce the Laws of Distinction in gorilla / militia warfare?
2. What policies are in place to hold peacekeepers accountable, if they are parties to the conflict?
3. How can we protect children, like Omar Khadr, in times of arm conflict?

Panel 2: Humanitarian Disarmament

Questions

1. What regulations exist under IHL for the use of drone warfare?
2. How can new technologies (such as drones and autonomous vehicles) support civilians in times of armed conflict? How might they hinder support?

Panel 3: Contemporary Issues

Questions

1. How is IHL applied in societies that are still in the process of transiting from a conflict? Can you provide us with some concrete examples?
2. It has recently come to light that Syria was responsible for the deadly chemical attack in Syria.
3. What are some of the various strategies or mechanisms that national authorities can adapt to obtain information of missing persons from those who are afraid of speaking out.



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Annex 5 – Pre-Reading List

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International Humanitarian Law

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PRE-CONFERENCE READING LIST

- Title** Convention on the Rights of the Child
Author United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
LINK <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/crc.pdf>
- Title** A tool to tackle armed violence: Effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty will reduce illegal and irresponsible arms transfers
Author Kenneth Epps
LINK http://ploughshares.ca/pl_publications/a%E2%80%88tool-to-tackle-armed-violence/
- Title** Extraterritorial targeting by means of armed drones: Some legal implications
Author Jelena Pejic
LINK <https://www.icrc.org/en/international-review/article/extraterritorial-targeting-means-armed-drones-some-legal-implications>
- Title** Understanding the Arms Trade Treaty from a Humanitarian Perspective
Author International Committee of the Red Cross
LINK <https://shop.icrc.org/understanding-the-arms-trade-treaty-from-a-humanitarian-perspective-2628.html?store=default>
- Title** Binding Non-State Armed Groups to International Humanitarian Law: Geneva Call and the Ban of Anti-personnel mines: Lessons from Sudan
Author Stefanie Herr
LINK https://www.hsfk.de/fileadmin/HSFK/hsfk_downloads/pri195.pdf.pdf
- Title** 2015 Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
Author United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
LINK https://www.un.org/qa/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/31/19&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC
- Title** Terrorism and International Humanitarian Law
Author François Bugnion
LINK <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02681300408523004>



Annex 6 – Photos



Breakfast refreshments prior to the Conference



Opening Remarks by John Ravenhill, Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs





Conference Attendees



Conference Attendees





Overflow Room



Overflow Room: Dana Rushak, Program Associate (Intern), Ontario IHL Unit, Canadian Red Cross and Balsillie School Volunteers



Balsillie School Volunteers and Canadian Red Cross Ontario IHL Unit Program Associate

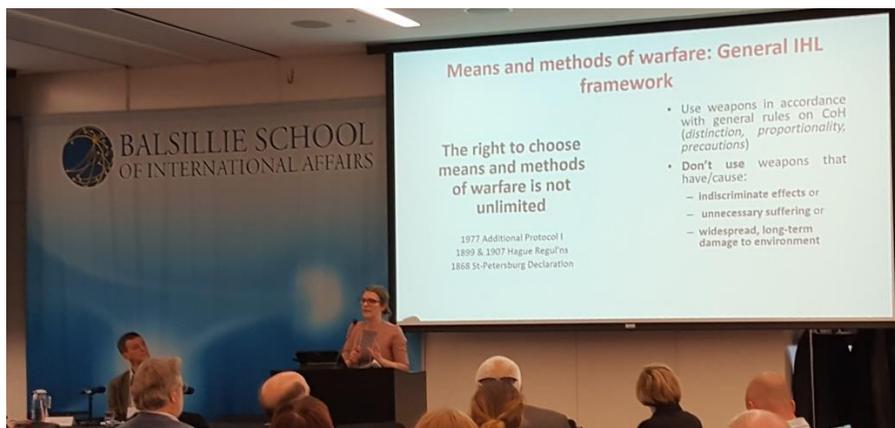




International Humanitarian Law 101: Andrew Carswell, Senior Delegate, International Committee of the Red Cross



International Humanitarian Law 101: Jonathan Somer, Interim Senior Legal Advisor, IHL, Canadian Red Cross



International Humanitarian Law 101: Sabrina Henry, Legal and Policy Officer, Canadian Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, Canadian Delegation





Questions from the Attendees



Questions from the Attendees





Panel 1: Distinction

(from left to right) Dr. Sara Matthews, Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University; Dr. Timothy Donais, Associate Professor, Department of Global Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University; Dr. Edmund Pries, Assistant Professor, Global Studies, Religion and Culture and Social Entrepreneurship, Wilfrid Laurier University



Panel 2: Humanitarian Disarmament

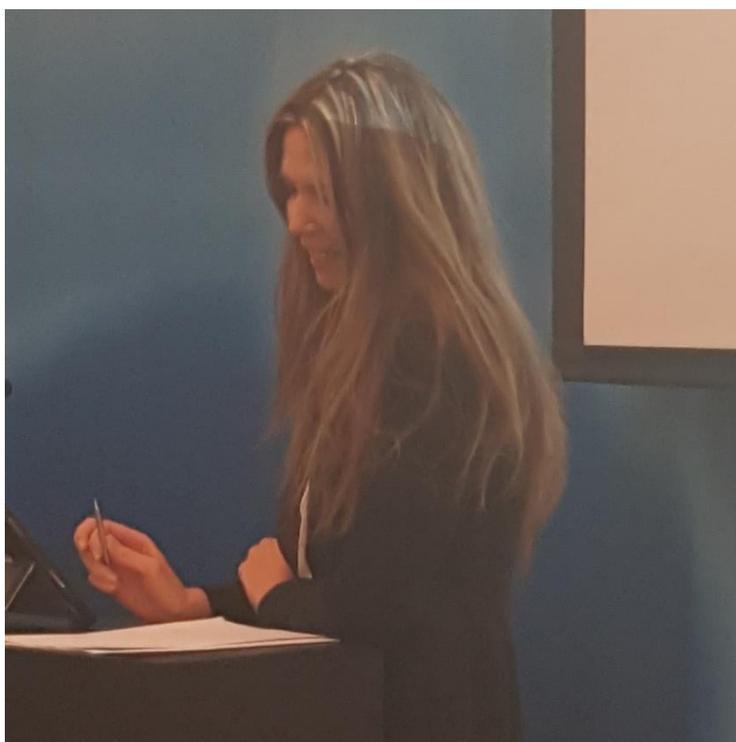
(from left to right) Jonathan Somer, Canadian Red Cross, Ken Epps, Senior Policy Advisor, Arms Trade Treaty, Project Ploughshares; Paul Hannon, Executive Director, Mines Action Canada; Moderator: Sabrina Henry, Canadian Red Cross





Panel 3: Contemporary Issues

(from left to right) Lowell Ewert, Associate Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo University; Dr. Alexandra R. Harrington, Lead Counsel, Peace, Justice & Accountability Programme, Centre for International Sustainable Development Law; Andrew Carswell, International Committee of the Red Cross



Closing Remarks by Svetlana Ageeva, Advisor IHL, Ontario, Canadian Red Cross

