

**COUNTRY CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND ASYLUM DECISION-MAKING**

Claudio Grossman Hall | Yuma Building | Washington College of Law

**Workshop Agenda**

Day 1: Thursday, January 12		
8:30am – 9:00am		<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
9:00am – 9:15am		<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Eric Hershberg Jayesh Rathod
9:15am – 10:45am		<b>Challenges to Deeper Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration on Asylum Representation</b> Lenni Benson Elizabeth Keyes Kimberly Gauderman Cristina Muñiz de la Peña Blaine Bookey Ian Philabaum Moderator: Jayesh Rathod
10:45am – 11:00am	<b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>	<b>Break</b>
11:00am – 12:15pm		<b>Country Conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras: The State of Research (Part 1)</b> José Miguel Cruz – gangs and insecurity Alexander Segovia – state and community responses to violence Ricardo Barrientos – state capacity and drivers of migration Mauricio Gaborit – returned migrants and reintegration Moderator: Clare Ribando Seelke
12:15pm – 12:45pm		<b>Lunch Presentation</b> <b>Structural Challenges Facing Central American Asylum Seekers</b> Stephen Manning
12:45pm – 1:30pm		<b>Lunch / Break</b>
1:30pm – 2:45pm		<b>Country Conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras: The State of Research (Part 2)</b> Elizabeth Kennedy – family violence Steven Dudley – forced recruitment Cecilia Menjívar – gender-based persecution Robert Brenneman – religion Moderator: Eric Hershberg
2:45pm – 3:00pm		<b>Transition to Private Sessions</b>
3:00pm – 4:15pm		<b>Evolving Jurisprudence and Current Evidentiary Needs</b> Denise Gilman – key case developments



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		Jennifer Podkul – family violence Stephen Manning – political opinion Sabrineh Ardalan – religion Blaine Bookey – gender-based persecution Dree Collopy – family/household characteristics Moderator: Amanda Frost
4:15pm – 5:15pm		<b>Grounds for Persecution</b> Breakout Session 1

<b>Group 1: Family Violence YT14</b>	<b>Group 2: Political Opinion/Religion YT15</b>
Discussion Facilitators	
Elizabeth Kennedy Manuela Orjuela-Grimm Alan Shapiro Jennifer Podkul	José Miguel Cruz Robert Brenneman Sabrineh Ardalan Stephen Manning

5:15pm		<b>Day Two Preview and Adjourn</b> Dennis Stinchcomb
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6:00pm		<b>Reception</b> Claudio Grossman Hall
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<b>Day 2: Friday, January 13</b>		
9:00am – 9:30am		<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
9:30am – 9:45am	<b>PRIVATE</b>	<b>Overview of Day Two</b> Jayesh Rathod
9:45am – 10:45pm		<b>Discussion from Breakout Session 1</b>
10:45am – 11:45pm		<b>Grounds for Persecution</b> Breakout Session 2

<b>Group 3: Gender-Based Persecution YT14</b>	<b>Group 4: Family/Head of Household-Based PSGs YT15</b>
Discussion Facilitators	
Cecilia Menjívar Mauricio Gaborit Blaine Bookey Andrea Parra	Elizabeth Kennedy Ernesto Castañeda Cristina Muñiz de la Peña Dree Collopy

11:45pm – 12:00pm		<b>Break</b>
12:00pm – 1:15pm		<b>Lunch Presentation</b> <b>Evolving U.S. Policy and Drivers of Migration from the Northern Triangle</b> Eric Hershberg
1:15pm – 2:15pm		<b>Discussion from Breakout Session 2</b>
2:15pm – 3:15pm		<b>Scholarly Community Working Groups</b>

<b>Group 1:</b> <b>Law</b> Claudio Grossman Hall	<b>Group 2:</b> <b>Social Science: Country Conditions</b> YT14	<b>Group 3:</b> <b>Social/Behavioral Science: Psychosocial Health</b> YT15
<b>Discussion Facilitators</b>		
Jayesh Rathod Anita Sinha	Eric Hershberg	Alan Shapiro Cristina Muñiz de la Peña

3:15pm – 3:30pm	<b>PRIVATE</b>	<b>Break</b>
3:30pm – 4:45pm		<b>Anticipating Change: Challenges on the Horizon</b> Ricardo Barrientos – implications of shifts in immigration policy for Central American citizens and governments Galya Ruffer – ensuring due process of law for irregular entry of asylum seekers across southwest border Karen Musalo – marshalling information and resources to support asylum claims and track outcomes Karolina Walters – potential avenues for impact litigation Juliet Stumpf – other interventions for systemic reform Moderator: Eve Stotland
4:45pm – 5:00pm		<b>Closing</b>

### Workshop Speakers and Discussion Facilitators

Sabrineh Ardalan, Harvard Law School  
Ricardo Barrientos, Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales  
Lenni Benson, New York Law School  
Blaine Bookey, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, UC Hastings College of the Law  
Robert Brenneman, St. Michael's College  
Ernesto Castañeda, American University  
Dree Collopy, Benach Collopy LLP  
José Miguel Cruz, Florida International University  
Steven Dudley, American University  
Amanda Frost, American University Washington College of Law  
Mauricio Gaborit, Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas  
Kimberly Gauderman, University of New Mexico  
Denise Gilman, University of Texas Law School  
Eric Hershberg, American University  
Elizabeth Kennedy, San Diego State University  
Elizabeth Keyes, University of Baltimore Law School  
Stephen Manning, Immigrant Law Group PC  
Cecilia Menjívar, University of Kansas  
Cristina Muñoz de la Peña, Terra Firma  
Karen Musalo, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, UC Hastings College of the Law  
Manuela Orjuela-Grimm, Columbia University  
Andrea Parra, American University Washington College of Law  
Ian Philabaum, Innovation Law Lab  
Jennifer Podkul, Kids in Need of Defense  
Jayesh Rathod, American University Washington College of Law  
Galya Ruffer, Northwestern University  
Clare Ribando Seelke, Congressional Research Service  
Alex Segovia, Instituto Centroamericano de Investigaciones para el Desarrollo y el Cambio Social  
Alan Shapiro, Terra Firma  
Anita Sinha, American University Washington College of Law  
Dennis Stinchcomb, American University  
Eve Stotland, The Door  
Juliet Stumpf, Lewis & Clark Law School  
Karolina Walters, American Immigration Council