



# **CHALLENGING BORDERS**

International Human Rights Conference

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**April 30 - May 2, 2023**

Albion College

## **Challenging Borders International Human Rights Conference**

Welcome to the Challenging Borders Human Rights Conference! We are thrilled that you have joined us in Albion, Michigan and we are inspired by your commitment to increasing access to rights and justice. Over the next few days, we will exchange cutting-edge research, gain new skills, help prepare the next generation of human rights scholars, share strategies for integrating experiential and community-based learning into our courses, and build relationships that give rise to further cross-campus collaborations.

In the process, we will interrogate and challenge the borders between domestic and international human rights issues and between categories of rights within the human rights movement.

### **MORE ABOUT THE THEME:**

In many countries, including the United States, human rights is conceived in international terms with marginal attention directed to the ways that human rights issues manifest domestically in local communities. Yet human rights issues are all around us. They are in our neighborhoods and on our college campuses. There are benefits to considering human rights as a framework for addressing domestic challenges like systemic racism, labor exploitation, immigration, and environmental degradation. Additionally, many human rights challenges are transnational in scope. Refugees and migrants cross international borders when their rights are violated domestically. The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation disregard state sovereignty. In an increasingly interdependent world with a global economy, racial discrimination and sex and labor exploitation are global problems and the impacts of climate are disproportionately suffered by marginalized populations. Transnational problems require responses at both the domestic and international level.

At this conference, we highlight four thematic areas: 1) identity rights focusing on race and gender; 2) labor rights; 3) refugees and immigration; and 4) the environment and climate.

Human beings must possess the entire spectrum of human rights to lead a life of dignity. Political and civil rights are necessary for formulating and fulfilling economic, social and cultural (ESC) needs, while violations of ESC rights limit our ability to exercise our political and civil rights. Although governments and societies are required to protect them all, many privilege some rights over others. We challenge this practice.

## **The Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service**

The Gerald R. Ford Institute for Leadership in Public Policy and Service exists to enhance student awareness, understanding, and appreciation of life's public dimensions. It strives to develop leaders and engaged citizens who understand the competing and conflicting interests of our world and the ability to advocate for the greater good.

The Ford Institute provides students with the opportunity to pursue their passion for public policy and community leadership. Through a combination of curricular and co-curricular programming that emphasizes experiential learning, students learn how to advocate on issues important to them while performing the hard work of making their communities and the world a better place.

## **The Human Rights Lab**

The Albion Human Rights Lab is an interdisciplinary initiative that engages students and community members in generating solutions to human rights problems through research, policy, and advocacy.

The Human Rights Lab at Albion College strives to bridge the gap between theory and practice, showing how research and advocacy can be used to reduce inequality and increase access to rights and justice. The Lab prioritizes experiential learning and community building to engage students and community partners in generating solutions to human rights and social justice problems. It links the local with the global, ultimately revealing the interconnectedness of human rights.

We are so thankful for the financial support that made this event possible.

**Support for this project was provided by the Great Lakes Colleges Association as part of its Global Crossroads Initiative, made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.** Many hands and partners have worked together to create this gathering and we are thankful to them all and look forward to introducing them to you throughout the conference.

# PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## Optional Tours & Activities

- Environmental Justice tour of Albion with the Center for Sustainability and the Environment, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Limited spots available.
- A guided tour of A Global Outcry: Human Rights Around the World exhibition in the Martha Dickinson Gallery, *Bobbitt*, Gallery open 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM. Sign up in advance. Drop-ins also welcome
- A guided visit of the #OurAlbion photography exhibit, *Old Bank Building, Downtown Albion*, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

## Dinner on your own

Enjoy dinner downtown at one of our local restaurants.  
See the Know B4 you Go handout

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

## Conference Opening & Keynote Address

Katie Redford, The Equation Campaign, "The Revolution will not be Litigated: Movements for Human Rights and Climate Justice"  
*The Bohm Theater*

8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

## "Taste of Albion" Dessert Reception with Katie Redford

Co-sponsored by the Albion Human Rights Lab, Center for Sustainability and the Environment, Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Service and the Department of Political Science  
*Marriott Hotel*

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

8:00 AM

## Continental breakfast

*Science Atrium*

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

## Welcome & Introductions

*Science Atrium*

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM

## President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Ford and Human Rights

Carrie Walling, Albion College

Opportunities for Cross-Campus Collaboration  
Simon Gray, Great Lakes College Association  
*Science Atrium*

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

## Break

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Academic Panels**

**Panel 1: Intersectionality and the Environment, Norris 102**

- “Climate Change and Contemporary Forms of Slavery: Guidelines on Relevant International Standards,” Silvia Scarpa and Eleonora Lucia Cammarano, John Cabot University
- “The Environment is Sexist: Is Women’s Oppression Linked with Nature?” Naima Shifa and Zimo Ma, DePauw University
- “Reproductive Rights of Women in Climate Change Induced Conflict Situations” Jennifer Heaven Mike, Jemimah Pam, Jessica Jesutofummi Adejumoh and Mene Nuka-Gbarayeghe, American University in Nigeria and Covenant University of Nigeria

**Panel 2: Migration and Gender, Norris 100**

- “Women and Children on the Move: Transnational Migration Issues,” Dosinda G. Alvite and Sophia Rehn, Denison University
- “Relevance of Women’s Rights in Human Rights Debate: A Case Study of Selected Muslim Countries,” Shehzadi Zamurrad Awan, Amena Aamir, Fatima Aamir and Ayesha Butt, Forman Christian College
- “Bringing Dignity to the European Borders: A Collaboration between AUBG and the Activist Organization, ‘Europe Must Act’ to Support Refugee Rights and Mental Health,” Felix Diaz, Vlada Kolesnikova, Orena Ymerasi and Aelita Khusnutdinova, American University in Bulgaria

**12:15 PM - 1:45 PM Lunch, Upper Baldwin**

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Poster presenters set up posters in Science Atrium**

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Advocacy Training Workshop**

*Upper Baldwin*

Sean McBrearty, Clean Water Action, “Enbridge Line 5: The role and practice of activism in securing climate justice”

Learn how to use issue-based organizing strategies and communications to impact political and governmental outcomes. We will focus on the example of Enbridge Energy’s Line 5 pipeline, a 70-year-old crude oil pipeline that runs across the bottomlands of the Straits of Mackinac - the most vulnerable place in the Great Lakes for an oil spill. The pipeline has faced grassroots opposition from impacted residents and Tribal governments for a decade. Today, Enbridge is violating Tribal sovereignty by operating Line 5 through the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation in Wisconsin and operating Line 5 without a valid easement in Michigan. Come hear about this ongoing resistance movement and the lessons we have learned through a decade-long struggle for Indigenous rights and climate justice against one of the most powerful industries in the world.

**4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Break**

**Letterpress workshop** making protest posters for those who have pre-registered. Space is limited.

The Martha Dickinson Gallery will be open if you want to explore the prints exhibition, "**A Global Outcry: Human Rights Around the World.**"

*Bobbitt*

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Poster Session**

Poster presentation program will be provided onsite.  
*Science Atrium*

**5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**

**Break**

The Martha Dickinson Gallery will be open if you want to explore the prints exhibition, "**A Global Outcry: Human Rights Around the World.**"

*Bobbitt*

**5:45 PM – 6:15 PM**

**Letterpress workshop** making protest posters for those who have pre-registered. Space is limited.

**6:30 PM**

**Dinner and discussion**

Adam Vincent, United States Department of State, Institute for International Education (IIE), Scholar Rescue Fund  
*Upper Baldwin*

**8:30 PM**

**Optional Social Activity:** Bonfire, smores, yard games and more  
*Mitchell Towers Fire Pit*

**TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023**

**8:00 AM - 8:45 AM**

**Continental breakfast**

*Upper Baldwin*

**8:30 AM - 9:00 AM**

The Martha Dickinson Gallery will be open if you want to explore the prints exhibition, "**A Global Outcry: Human Rights Around the World.**"

*Bobbitt*

**8:45 AM - 9:00 AM**

**Break**

**9:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Pedagogy Roundtable:** Human Rights and Experiential Learning (recommended for faculty, all welcome)  
*Bobbitt Auditorium*

Carrie Walling, Albion College  
Michele Leiby, College of Wooster  
Isis Nusair, Denison University  
Adeel Khalid, Forman Christian College  
Jodi Kovach, Kenyon College

### **Albion Human Rights Lab workshop**

(recommended for undergraduate students, all welcome)  
*Upper Baldwin*

Kara Anderson, Albion College  
Egshiglen Batjargal, Albion College  
Kevie Lamour, Albion College  
Karsen Mellado, Albion College

This interactive workshop will encourage participants to reflect on the human rights issues in their local communities and what they can do to make a difference. Attendees will be given the tools necessary to advocate for the social justice issues closest to them and walk away feeling empowered to enact positive change. The Human Rights Lab is run by undergraduate students at Albion College and engages students and community members in generating solutions to human rights and social justice problems through research, policy, and advocacy. Open to all attendees. Recommended for undergraduate students.

**10:45 AM - 11:00 AM**      **Break**

**10:45 AM - 12:15 PM**      **Academic Panels 3 and 4**

#### **Panel 3: The Interdependence of Human Rights, *Norris 102***

- “The Global Health Crisis and the Birth of a New Dictatorship: Human Rights Violations and Conflicts in East Africa,” Milkessa Gemechu, Albion College
- “Globalization and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,” Aziz El Hassani, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane
- “Human Rights of Dalits in Nepal: From a Hindu Kingdom to Democracy,” Azim A. Khan, School for International Training

#### **Panel 4: Human Rights Stories, *Norris 100***

- “The Politically-Dead: An Exploration of People-Making and its Impact on Human Rights,” Jessie Gorovitz, London School of Economics and Political Science
- “Geography of Police Repression and Regulation of Street-Based Transgender Sex Workers in Lahore,” Shermeen Bano, Forman Christian College
- “Justice Gambit: The ICC’s Impact on Civil War Violence,” Jacqueline McAllister, Kenyon College
- “The Work of the Artist and the Creativity of Labor in Aguas de Estuario, by Velia Vidal: Neoliberal Intersections,” Diego Bustos, Earlham College

**12:30 PM - 1:45 PM**      **Lunch, *Upper Baldwin***

**2:00 PM - 2:45 PM**      **Reflections on Scholarly Engagement and Justice**  
Dominick Quinney, Albion College, “The Importance of Self in Research”  
Jess Roberts, Albion College, “ On Story-Telling”  
*Norris 101*

**2:45 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Break**

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

**The Arts, Social Action, Advocacy and Change**  
Science Atrium

Mama Sōl Music, spoken word artist

Spoken word artist Mama Sōl illustrates the power of the arts as a tool for activism. Motivating and assisting others is her life's work. Sōl electrifies audiences, urging them to see beyond their circumstances, to choose solutions over excuses. Counteracting the negativity often associated with hip-hop, Sōl uses her extraordinary gift and passion for words to encourage others towards self-love, uplifting perspectives, and greater purpose.

**4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Break**

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

**Building Future Collaborations Planning Session**  
*Norris 101*

**6:00 PM**

**Closing Dinner and Conference Wrap Up**  
*Upper Baldwin*

**8:00 PM**

**Ukweli, Human Rights Film Screening**  
*Bobbitt Auditorium*

Meet the film-maker, Mike Ramsdell

Funded by the gracious support of GOOGLE, and partnering with thought leaders in the region, UKWELI is a film that works to help change the narrative and celebrate the beauty in Congo. Patrice Lumumba said, "The story of Africa will be written by Africans: UKWELI (TRUTH) is the story of 3 artists in the Democratic Republic of Congo who are doing just that by protesting the prevailing media narrative of war, conflict and rape - and using their artistic voices to reclaim their nations narrative and present a more complete perspective of their country, their culture and their truth. This timely documentary illustrates the power of art as a voice and conduit for change.