

The 2014 PHRGE Institute



“Rethinking Education Reform:
A Human Rights Perspective”

**November 6-7, 2014
Northeastern University School of Law**

**Convened by
The Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)
at Northeastern University School of Law**

Welcome to the 2014 PHRGE Institute

“Rethinking Education Reform: The Human Rights Framework”

This year’s Institute will analyze and evaluate the combination of initiatives known as “public education reform” from a human rights perspective. It will do so with an eye toward identifying policies that will help promote and support the human right to education (alongside all other human rights) for all U.S. school children.

The 2014 Institute will focus on three themes: 1) The charter school movement and the broader trend toward the private provision of public education services; 2) The emergence of “no excuses/zero tolerance” discipline policies resulting in the exclusion of students from school, and; 3) The continued expansion of high-stakes testing as the principal means of motivating and measuring educational achievement in public schools, alongside related efforts to further standardize public school curricula.

As in past years, the Institute will be divided into two parts: (1) a series of panel presentations and a keynote address that will document and analyze the three pillars of education reform mentioned above; and 2) intensive, small-group work designed to generate concrete policy proposals consistent with the promotion of the human right to education. PHRGE’s continuing work on the right to education will include dissemination of the results of these policy discussions within the academic and educational advocacy communities.

Institute Organizing Committee

Martha Davis
Simon Fischer
Sonia Haerizadeh
Kevin Murray
Shelbey Wolfe

Faculty Co-Directors, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy

Professor Martha Davis
Professor Lucy Williams
Professor Margaret Woo

Thank you to our co-sponsors!

Citizens for Public Schools
Quality for Every Student (QUEST)
Northeastern University Law Journal
Northeastern University Honors Program
National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)
The Human Rights Caucus at Northeastern University School of Law



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2014 PHRGE INSTITUTE
RETHINKING EDUCATION REFORM:
A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Location: [Northeastern University School of Law, 65 Forsyth Street, Dockser Hall Rm. 240](#)

12:30-1:00 PM: Registration

1:00-1:30 PM: Welcome and Introductions

- Dean Jeremy Paul, Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL)
- Kevin Murray, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)

1:30-3:00 PM: Panel I - *Because It's Our Right: Human Rights and Education Advocacy*

- Moderator: Professor Martha Davis, Northeastern University School of Law
- Liz Sullivan, Human Right to Education Program Director, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)
- Professor Maria Hantzopoulos, Department of Education, Vassar College
- Sylvain Aubry, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

3:00-3:30 PM: Coffee break

3:30-5:00 PM: Panel II – *The Three Pillars of Education Reform*

- Moderator: Kathleen Boundy, Co-Director, Center for Law and Education
- Professor Susan Maze-Rothstein, Northeastern University School of Law
- Monty Neill, Executive Director, National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest)
- Leigh Dingerson, Consultant, Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University
- Gina Womack, Executive Director, Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children

Keynote Address, Thursday November 6, 2014

Location: [Northeastern University, 20 Leon Street, West Village F, Classroom 20](#) (First Level)

6:30 -7:00 PM: Reception, hors d'oeuvres and dessert served

7:00-8:30 PM: Keynote Address - "*When Discrimination is Called Civil Rights*"

- Welcome: Maura Kelly, Assistant Dean for Co-op and Professional Advancement, Northeastern University School of Law
- Introduction: Peggy Wiesenber, Northeastern University School of Law Class of 1975
- Speaker: Julian Vasquez Heilig, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Director of Doctorate in Educational Leadership, California State University Sacramento

Friday, November 7, 2014

Location: Northeastern University School of Law, 65 Forsyth Street, Dockser Hall

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration and Continental Breakfast, Dockser Hall (Second Floor Lounge)

9:00-9:30 AM: Introduction to the Day, Dockser 250
- Kevin Murray, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy

9:45-11:15 AM: Small Group Work Session I

- Track 1: *The charter school movement and the private provision of public education*
Location: Dockser 44 (Ground Floor)
Facilitators: Maura Kelly and Naeema Hernandez, Northeastern University School of Law
- Track 2: *"No excuses/zero tolerance" discipline policies and student exclusion*
Location: Dockser 32 (Ground Floor)
Facilitator: Kim Janey, Boston School Reform Project, Mass Advocates for Children
- Track 3: *High-stakes testing and curriculum standardization*
Location: Dockser 42 (Ground Floor)
Facilitator: Jessica Tang, Boston Teachers Union

11:15-12:00 PM: Plenary session check-in, Dockser Commons
- Facilitator: Kevin Murray, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy

12:00 –1:00 PM: Lunch, Dockser Commons

1:00-2:30 PM: Small Group Work Session II

- Track 1: *Charter school expansion*
Location: Dockser 44
Facilitators: Maura Kelly and Naeema Hernandez, Northeastern University School of Law
- Track 2: *"No excuses/zero tolerance" discipline policies and student exclusion*
Location: Dockser 32
Facilitator: Kim Janey, Boston School Reform Project, Mass Advocates for Children
- Track 3: *High-stakes testing and curriculum standardization*
Location: Dockser 46
Facilitator: Jessica Tang, Boston Teachers Union

2:30-2:45 PM: Coffee break, Dockser Hall (Second Floor)

2:45-4:00 PM: Group Presentations, Dockser 240
- Moderator: Kevin Murray, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy

4:00-4:30 PM: Closing and Evaluation, Dockser 240
- Moderator: Kevin Murray, Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy