

# Iowa Human Rights Research Conference

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Coe College

*Organized by the Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics  
and University of Iowa Center for Human Rights*

**9:00 Registration begins (Center for Health & Society Commons)**

**9:30 Welcome remarks (Cherry Auditorium)**

*Pres. David Hayes & Neal McNabb, Coe College*

**10:00 First Session**

Panel A (Stuart Hall 203)

"Human Rights Claims for Repatriation of Benin Kingdom Art," Rory Maricle, University of Iowa

"How Does the Legalization of the Sex Work Industry in Thailand Impact the Rights and Continued Economic Contribution of this Industry? A Comparison Between Thailand and New Zealand," Chanyanuch Butsayaturt, Luther College

*Discussants: Wendy Brame, Briar Cliff University & Kim Lanegran, Coe College*

Panel B (Stuart Hall 205)

"Township Rebellion: A Recontextualization of the 1982 Burma Citizenship Law," Austin Pitts, University of Iowa

"The Uyghur Muslim Genocide in China: Current Human Rights Abuses," Grace Riley, Drake University

*Discussants: Tracy Ciepiela, Hawkeye Community College & Jim Zaffiro, Central College*

Panel C (Via Zoom in CHS 337)

"A Subjective Evaluation of a Statistical Analysis of the Death Penalty from a Human Rights Perspective," Ethan Nakashima, Upper Iowa University

*Discussant: Jennifer Stone, University of Iowa & Marie Lechelt, Riverland Community College*

**10:45 Break & Poster Session**

Posters (CHS Anatomage Room)

“The FSLN and the Decay of Human Rights in Nicaragua,” Anghy Aragon, Luther College

“China’s Digital Authoritarianism: Pioneer of AI Surveillance State,” Chanyanuch Butsayaturt, Luther College

“Captive Labor Market: Addressing Iowa’s School-to-Prison Pipeline,” Zachary Palmer, University of Iowa

“The Right to Life After Disaster,” Lydia Swarney, Luther College

*Discussants: Laura Yost, Kirkwood Community College & Amy Weismann, University of Iowa*

**11:15 Plenary (Cherry Auditorium)**

Keynote, “From Passion to Action: What Happens When Young People are Given the Mic”  
*Angel Ramirez, Co-Founder & Exec. Director, Our Future; V.P., Advocates for Social Justice*  
*Harold Walehwa, Board Members, Advocates for Social Justice; University of Iowa*

**12:00 Lunch for registered attendees (Alumni House)**

**1:00 Second Session**

Panel A (Stuart Hall 203)

“Extremely Enhanced Interrogation: The Human Rights Abuses Carried Out by Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan after 9/11,” Benjamin Hampton, William Penn University

“A Case Against Banning the Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems,” Jazmine Guzman, Drake University

*Discussants: Hunter Clark, Drake University & Stephanie Patridge, University of Iowa*

Panel B (Stuart Hall 205)

“Reviewing Rights: A Comparative Study of the Strength of Judicial Review and the Protection of ‘First-Generation’ Rights in Four Western Democracies,” Ryan Westhoff, University of Iowa

“The Disparity of Immigration Policies in the European Union,” Emerson Drake, Central College

*Discussants: Suzie Pritchett, Drake University & David Yamanishi, Cornell College*

Panel C (CHS 337)

“WWII in the Netherlands: Significant Events in the Process of Stripping Human Rights from Jewish People,” Katja Bierman, William Penn University

“Health is a Human Right: Examining Current US Prison and Healthcare Policy,” Jackson Gadelmann, Luther College

*Discussants: Shilpashri Karbhari, Upper Iowa University & Jo Butterfield, University of Iowa*

**1:45 Break**

**2:15 Third Session**

Panel A (Stuart Hall 203)

“Examining Gender Roles and Their Impact on Behavior, Western and Eastern World,” Evelina Velijenco, Iowa Wesleyan University

“Women’s Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Kaitlyn Isom, Central College

*Discussants: Orçun Selçuk, Luther College & Adrien Wing, University of Iowa*

Panel B (Stuart Hall 205)

“Brown Skin, Brown Air, Brown Water: How Environmental Violence Has Decimated Black and Brown Communities Throughout the United States,” Georgia B Page, University of Iowa

“Abortion Rights: The Impacts of Abortion Restrictions and Poverty in Underrepresented Communities,” Gina Tran, University of Iowa (video essay available [here](#))

*Discussants: Yasemin Sari, University of Northern Iowa & Brooke Sherrard, William Penn University*

Panel C (CHS 337)

“Policy Change Proposal to Address Homelessness in Polk County, Iowa,” Madeline Hergott, Drake University

“School Resource Officers and Principals: Priorities Within Schools,” Emma Lassen, Coe College

*Discussants: Willa Casstevens, Buena Vista University & Deb DeLaet, Drake University*

**3:00 Closing Remarks (Cherry Auditorium)**