



GRINNELL COLLEGE

Peace and Conflict Studies Program

Peace and Conflict Studies Student Conference 2016

March 11–12



Friday, March 11

4:15–5:45 p.m. **Session 1**

The Body, Objectification, and Social Suffering

Rosenfield Center, Room 225

Grinnell College faculty respondent: Abram Lewis, assistant professor, gender, women's, and sexuality studies

- Vincent Benlloch '18, Grinnell College, "They Send Us Home After Turning Us Into Corpses: Disrupting Narratives of Gift and Commodity in the Illegal Organ Trade"
- Clara Moser, Skidmore College, "The Female Body as an Object in Mainstream Pornography"
- Jesus Villalobos '17, Grinnell College, "Bodies in Mourning: Coping and Trauma in the Post-Conflict Fiction of Claudia Hernandez"

7:30 p.m. **Conference Keynote**

Can We Predict Genocide and Mass Killings?

Ernesto Verdeja, University of Notre Dame, KROC Institute for International Peace Studies

Rosenfield Center, Room 101

9 p.m. **Pub Quiz Night with Ernesto Verdeja**

Lyle's Pub

Saturday, March 12

8:30–10 a.m. **Session 2**

Leaders, Parties, and Their Alternatives: Political Violence and Social Transformation

Rosenfield Center, Room 225

Faculty discussant: Ernesto Verdeja, associate professor of political science and peace studies, University of Notre Dame

- Susha Gillani '16, Grinnell College, "The Rise and Fall of the Far Right in the EU"
- Michael Cummings '18, Grinnell College, "B.R. Ambedkar's Legacy in India Today"
- Max Pilcher '18, Grinnell College, "Non-State Actor, Networks, and Nomads: An Interdisciplinary Study of Terrorist Group Organization"
- Maxwell Fenton '19, Grinnell College, "A Chechen Chill: Terror and Fragile Peace in Russia's Restive Southern Frontier"

10:15–11:45am **Session 3**

Communities, Identities, and Conflicts

Rosenfield Center, Room 225

Grinnell College faculty respondent: Todd Armstrong, professor, Russian

- Keegan Smith-Nichols, Antioch College, "The Road to Monteverde: Examining the Intersection of Intentional Communities and Ecotourism"

- Stuart Hoegh '17, Grinnell College, "Comparing Identity in Iowa to Identity in South Africa"
- Karol Sadkowski '16, Grinnell College, "Schools of the Borderland: Comparing Belarusian Identities in Poland and Belarus"

10:15–11:45am **Session 4**

Troubling Childhood: Violence and Rights

Rosenfield Center, Room 226

Grinnell College faculty respondent: Tess Kulstad, assistant professor, anthropology

- Betty Varland '18, Grinnell College, "Illuminating Generation Z"
- Mari Holmes '17, Grinnell College, "Human Rights Language as Eurocentric and Anti-Children's Rights"
- Jolena Zabel, Macalester College, "Untying the Knot: Understanding Child Marriage in Situations of Armed Conflict"

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. **Lunch and Invited Alumni Address**

A Grinnellian's Journey for Peace

Leonard Kurz '75, Forest Creatures Entertainment

Rosenfield Center, Room 101 (Open to the Public)

12:50–1:15 p.m. **Conference Journal Information Session**

Rosenfield Center, Room 101

1:30–3 p.m. **Session 5**

Sexual Violence in War and Peace

Rosenfield Center, Room 225

Grinnell College faculty respondent: Patrick Inglis, assistant professor, sociology

- Emily Ricker '18, Grinnell College, "Sexual Violence as a Tool of Combat"
- Will Stolarski, Macalester College, "Criminalizing Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict: Gendered Silence and International Law"
- Hannah Boggess '18, Grinnell College, "Abortion, the Church, and Poland: the Conscience Clause and the Power of Catholicism"

1:30–3 p.m. **Session 6**

National Policies of Exclusion and Their Consequences

Rosenfield Center, Room 226

Grinnell College faculty discussant: Gemma Sala, assistant professor, political science

- Nirabh Koirala '17, Grinnell College, "Myths in Nepali Politics and Ethnic Marginalization"
- Zoe Bowman, Macalester College, "Adapting to a Protracted Refugee Crisis: Analyzing the Humanitarian Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Jordan"
- Lucia Tonachel '18, Grinnell College, "Historic and Contemporary Marginalization in Australian Refugee Policy"

Conference Keynote Speaker

Ernesto Verdeja is associate professor of political science and peace studies and director of undergraduate peace studies at the University of Notre Dame. He is also executive director of the Institute for the Study of Genocide, a nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to promote research and policy analysis on the causes and prevention of genocide and political violence.

Verdeja received his Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in New York City. His research focuses on large-scale political violence (genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity), transitional justice, political reconciliation, war crimes trials, truth commissions, and reparations.

Verdeja is the author of *Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence* and co-editor of *Globalization, Social Movements, and Peacebuilding; Responding to Genocide: The Politics of International Action*; and *Genocide Matters: Ongoing Issues and Emerging Perspectives*.

Alumni Address Speaker

Leonard Merrill Kurz '75 was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and later moved to Rockland County, N.Y. He graduated from Grinnell College with a B.A. in history and from Stanford University with an M.A. in film and television production.

Kurz is the president and creative force of Forest Creatures Entertainment, a motion picture, television, and new media production company established in 1993. In 2007, Forest Creatures Entertainment produced *Kitka and Davka in Concert: Old and New World Jewish Music*, which has been broadcast extensively on the PBS network. Kurz is producer, director, and writer of *Free the Children* (feature length documentary, in production); producer, director, and writer of *Accused of Being Communist* (television documentary, in postproduction); a co-producer of *Maangamizi: The Ancient One*, the first film from Tanzania to be considered for an Academy Award; and is producer, director, and writer of *Early Misgivings*. He has been a script reader for Francis Ford Coppola.

Kurz serves as a director and officer of the Kurz Family Foundation. He played a significant role in establishing the two endowed professorships at Brooklyn College: the Herbert Kurz Chair in Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties and the Herbert Kurz Chair of Finance and Risk Management, as well as the program that assists black and Latino male Brooklyn College students. He was a founding director (U.S. board) of Free the Children, an international organization which has the unique mission of creating a global network of children helping children through education. He is also a generous supporter of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at Grinnell College.