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HHRRC POSTER SESSION PROGRAM

The Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC) seeks to use the assets of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to investigate global humanitarian and human rights injustices. The HHRRC is funded in part by the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCOE).

HHRRC projects are selected for support by the International Advisory Council of the HHRRC and can include research applied to humanitarian and human rights projects, training materials and equipment, and advising or subject matter expertise. The HHRRC also aims to support and encourage AAFS members to increase their engagement in applying contemporary forensic science to global humanitarian and human rights matters.

In addition to direct support for forensic studies, the HHRRC provides access to publications and educational materials to disseminate knowledge on the issues and applications of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles. The HHRRC assists projects by making laboratory and analysis equipment available to teams and laboratories and by connecting them with vendors and other resources. To strengthen the available pool of advisors, the HHRRC established a database of volunteers willing to assist and make a difference in global humanitarian and human rights issues.

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DEATH IN FLIGHT: EXPLORING MIGRATION-RELATED FATALITIES IN GREECE

Despoina E. Flouri,* Antonios Papadomanolakis, and Elena F. Kranioti | University of Crete, Greece
Christina Karydi and Konstantinos Moraitis | National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece
Sophia R. Mavroudas | Texas State University

Abstract: Case files of presumed and confirmed migration-related fatalities were collected from three Greek medicolegal departments. When available, demographic information, postmortem interval, and method of identification for each migration-related fatality were recorded. Geolocational mapping was attempted for recovery and depositional locations. An indicative profile was constructed to help distinguish between migrant and nonmigrant unknown remains.

INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND CLINICIANS (FORENSIC DOCTORS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS/PSYCHIATRISTS) ON TECHNIQUES FOR COLLECTING PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF TORTURE

Jean C. Fogno,* Hilaire Kamga, and Bruno Wembe | Mandela Center International

Abstract: The purpose of this Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center project is to organize a capacity-building workshop for human rights defenders and clinicians (forensic doctors and psychologists/psychiatrists) on techniques for collecting physical and psychological evidence of torture cases; techniques for monitoring, documenting, reporting, and redressing cases of torture; and the modalities for referring cases to international mechanisms for the fight against torture. Workshop participants are trained in monitoring, documentation, reporting, and prosecution, as well as techniques to collect physical and psychological evidence in torture cases to enable them to fully understand the value of these techniques.

TOWARD A MORE ACCURATE ENUMERATION OF MIGRANT MORTALITY ALONG THE UNITED STATES–MEXICO BORDER: A DEFINITION AND FIRST COUNT

Alberto Giordano,* Nicholas Herrmann, Molly Miranker, Molly A. Kaplan, Veronica Flores-Guillen, and Kate Spradley | Texas State University

Rachel Daniell | Pratt Institute

Jasmine Hernandez | The University of New Mexico

Heather Edgar | New Mexico Office of Medical Investigator & University of New Mexico

Cate E. Bird | International Committee of the Red Cross

Abstract: The Migrant Mortality Mapping Project (M3P2) is a National Science Foundation–sponsored initiative to create a web portal mapping the phenomenon of migrant deaths at the United States–Mexico border. This poster presents the criteria used to identify migrant deaths and a series of maps illustrating the extent of the phenomenon.

“THEY ARE OUR PARENTS”—THE IDENTIFICATION AND MAPPING OF MASS GRAVES RESULTING FROM OPERATION CONDOR IN PARAGUAY

Jacob A. Harris,* Adriana Sartorio, and Katelyn Bolhofner | Arizona State University

Rogelio Goiburú | Justice Ministry, Paraguay

Abstract: In the 1970s, a coordinated campaign of political repression—Operation Condor—resulted in thousands of individuals “disappearing” across South America. This poster provides an update on the implementation of advanced geophysical survey and Bayesian probability methods to locate and map unmarked mass graves of victims of Operation Condor in Paraguay.

CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE POTENTIAL OF STABLE ISOTOPES IN DECEASED MIGRANT IDENTIFICATION IN TANZANIA

Isaac Onoka* | University of Dodoma, Tanzania

Tiffany B. Fracchia | Vanderbilt University

Abstract: A 3-day workshop was held in Tanga, Tanzania, to discuss the humanitarian need for identification of deceased migrants. Isotope analysis is a proposed tool to provide information about geographic travel history and leads for identification. This poster presents outcomes of the workshop and capacity building for forensic isotope analysis in Tanzania.

HHRRC GRANTS PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The AAFS HHRRC seeks to use the assets of AAFS to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian or human rights projects requiring special forensic assistance.

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www.AAFS.org/research-insights-type-hhrrc/hhrrc-grants-proposal-submission-information



ADVOCATING FOR THE DEAD: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY PATH TOWARD RESTRUCTURING THE MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATION SYSTEM IN THE TEXAS BORDERLANDS

Courtney C. Siegert,* Molly A. Kaplan, Victoria M. Swenson, and Kate Spradley | Texas State University

Carina Marques | University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Nora Salinas, Vanessa Alaniz, Dina Nunez, and Eddie Canales | South Texas Human Rights Center

Cate E. Bird | International Committee of the Red Cross

Jason Wiersema | Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences

Abstract: Justices of the peace are the predominant medicolegal authority across the Texas Borderlands, but most are ill equipped to manage the overwhelming number of migrant deaths in their jurisdictions. This poster contextualizes the development of the Working Group to Develop Regional Identification Centers to improve migrant decedent identification.

RESTORING PERSONHOOD AND DIGNITY TO THE ANCESTORS IN THE EAST MARSHALL STREET WELL: COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH IN FORENSIC SCIENCE

Tal Simmons,* Baneshwar Singh, and Filipa Simão | Virginia Commonwealth University

Abstract: The descendant community set research goals for using DNA and anthropology to reassociate commingled remains from a 19th century anatomy pit, elucidating these individuals' ancestry, phenotype, health, and life history. They were adults and children, enslaved or paupers, whose graves were robbed and their remains used for dissection and surgical practice in a medical school.

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RESTORING THE VOICES OF THE FORGOTTEN: THE HUNAN LONGYUE PEACE AND PUBLIC WELFARE CENTER'S EFFORTS TO REUNITE WORLD WAR II NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY ARMY SOLDIERS WITH THEIR HOMETLAND AND FAMILIES IN CHINA

Chunlong Sun* and Hao Yu | Hunan LongYue Peace Charity Development Center

Derek Congram | Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

Lei Hou | University of Hong Kong, China

Abstract: The Hunan LongYue Peace and Public Welfare Center, a Chinese nongovernmental organization, is devoted to locating, identifying, and respectfully repatriating the remains of World War II National Revolutionary Army soldiers, honoring forgotten heroes and reuniting families separated by war. The Hunan LongYue Peace and Public Welfare Center reconnects legacies of bravery with their homeland, bridging past and present through work in remote regions.

HUMANITARIAN FORENSIC ACTION USING A HOLISTIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH

Victoria M. Swenson,* Courtney C. Siegert, Chloe P. McDanel, Ivanna Robledo, Abi Jose, Molly A. Kaplan, Kelsey Fox, Zoe Becker, and Kate Spradley | Texas State University

Carina Marques, Aracely Balderas, Gabriella Rios Bradley, Victoria Rosas, and Isabella Zapata | University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Amerika Garcia Grewal and Mike Garcia | Border Vigils (of Eagle Pass)

Nora Salinas, Vanessa Alaniz, Dina Nunez, and Eddie Canales | South Texas Human Rights Center

Mercedes Doretti | Equipo Argentina Antropología Forense

Cate E. Bird | International Committee of the Red Cross

Jason Wiersema | Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences

Abstract: Operation Identification (OpID) and collaborators held a 2-day mass fatality preparedness and community-building workshop in Eagle Pass, Texas. This poster presents the importance of local, federal, state, and international collaborations to collect postmortem data from unidentified human remains along the United States–Mexico border.

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