



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

## AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

14-15 July 2011  
Washington, DC

### Thursday, July 14

4:45pm Registration

5:00 Reception

5:45 Film Screening: [“After Innocence”](#) Auditorium

7:15 Panel: Criminal Justice - Forensics and Human Rights

*After Innocence* chronicles the stories of eight wrongfully convicted and imprisoned individuals who were later exonerated, most through the testing of DNA evidence and one following the reexamination of eye witness testimony. The film highlights instances in which human fallibility have jeopardized the right to a fair trial, and emphasizes the expanding role science and scientific methodologies play in the administration of justice. Following the film, three expert panelists will participate in an interview-style discussion about the role of science in the criminal justice system.

Interviewees: **Joe S. Cecil**, Federal Judicial Center Division of Research  
**Sarah Chu**, The Innocence Project  
**Kenneth Melson**, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Interviewer: **Mark S. Frankel**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition thanks the  
**American Statistical Association**  
**Kean University, College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences**  
and  
**Sigma Xi**  
for their sponsorship of the reception

## Friday, July 15

8:30 am Registration

9:00 Welcome and Progress Report

*Auditorium*

**Mark S. Frankel**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program  
**Jessica M. Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

### Coalition Council Report

The Coalition Council met on July 14 to discuss progress in the Coalition's activities, and determine a process for determining the priorities and goals of the Coalition in the coming years. This report will focus on the steps that associations and individual scientists and engineers can take to contribute to the Coalition's Plan of Action 2012-2014.

**Clinton W. Anderson**, American Psychological Association

9:30 Opening Plenary

*Auditorium*

### Evaluating the US Human Rights Record: The Universal Periodic Review

In November 2010, the United States came before the UN Human Rights Council to report on its human rights record. The first time the US had participated in the Universal Periodic Review process, this event served as a catalyst for both government and the non-governmental community to measure progress, and identify shortfalls and barriers to the realization of human rights. This panel will address the process by which the US human rights record was assessed, the principal human rights concerns that were identified, the recommendations that emerged through that process, and the next steps to be taken in addressing the recommendations of the Human Rights Council.

Moderator: **Jessica M. Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Panelists: **Theresa Harris**, World Organization for Human Rights, USA  
**Suzanne Nossel**, State Department, Bureau of International Organization Affairs

11:00 Break

11:30 Sessions (concurrent)

### Article 12 (ICESCR): The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health

*Revelle*

"The United States has some of the worst health outcomes among high-income countries, including high infant mortality and low life expectancy rates, despite spending more than twice as much on health care as any other country" (Joint Submission to the UN Human Rights Council on Economic and Social Rights). During the 2010 Universal Periodic Review of the US, civil society organizations presented testimony emphasizing the racial discrepancies in healthcare access, including with regard to women's sexual

and reproductive health, they highlighted the need for scientifically accurate sexual education information and the importance of increasing the per capita number of physicians and nurses. The panelists will discuss these issues and their impact on the realization of the right to health in the United States.

Facilitator: **Paula Skedsvold**, Federation of Associations in Brain and Behavioral Sciences

Presenters: **Brook Kelly**, WORLD, U.S. Positive Women's Network  
**Andres Pumariega**, American Orthopsychiatric Association  
**Aram Schvey**, Center for Reproductive Rights

### **STEM Education: Diversity, Human Rights and New Curricula**

*Abelson-Haskins*

Inclusion and diversity in the classroom, “*de facto* racial segregation in public schools” and the achievement gap between racial and socioeconomic groups were all issues raised during the Universal Periodic Review in the context of the right to education, and are each issues of specific relevance in STEM education. This panel will address the disparities in access to education experienced by diverse groups in the United States generally, and the need to broaden access to an adequate STEM education in particular. The panel will also address the value of incorporating human rights concepts into STEM training as a means to attract and retain students through the application of science to issues of broad social significance.

Facilitator: **Felice Levine**, American Educational Research Association

Presenters: **Shirley M. Malcom**, AAAS Education and Human Resources Programs  
**Karen Kashmanian Oates**, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**Liz Sullivan**, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

1:00 Lunch

1:45 **Workshops (concurrent)**

### **Engaging Your Discipline in the UPR Process**

*Revelle*

Presenter: **Theresa Harris**, World Organization for Human Rights, USA

Following the Universal Periodic Review of the US human rights record, the UN Human Rights Council issued over 200 recommendations for how the US could improve compliance with its human rights obligations. This workshop will focus on the opportunities that exist and may be created for the scientific and engineering community to become involved in follow-up to this process and to work with government and civil society in the fulfillment of the UN recommendations.

### **The Right to Benefit from Science: Engaging Your Association in the UN Process**

*Abelson-Haskins*

As part of an ongoing UN process, over 25 scientific and engineering organizations have so far agreed to participate in a series of focus groups to define the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. Participants in this workshop will be given the information

necessary to engage their organization in this process, and the tools required to host a focus group of staff scientists and interested members.

Facilitator: **Jessica M. Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Presenters: **Clinton W. Anderson**, American Psychological Association  
**Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association

### 3:15 **Business Meetings (Concurrent)**

#### **Membership and Outreach**

*Abelson-Haskins*

Want to see a greater diversity of associations represented in the Coalition? Have innovative ideas for how to communicate with members about our on-going activities and achievements? Share your ideas for expanding Coalition membership and building a strong relationship with our existing members.

**David Proctor**, Chair, Membership and Outreach Committee

#### **Planning the January 2012 Coalition Meeting**

*Revelle*

What tools and topics would you like to learn about and discuss at the next Coalition meeting? Have your say on the agenda for the January 2012 Coalition meeting.

**Rob Albro**, American Anthropological Association

#### **New Members: How Can You Participate in the Coalition?**

*Room 207*

Interested in joining the Coalition but not sure how to involve yourself? Join us for a discussion of current Coalition activities and how you can contribute to new and ongoing projects.

**Jessica M. Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

4:00 Break

### 4:15 **Areas of Activity: Working Group Meetings (concurrent)**

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates are required to contribute to one of five working groups. Through these meetings, working groups will take stock of progress made and, together with new and potential members, will continue work toward their objectives for 2011.

#### **Welfare of Scientists**

*Room 207*

This working group is devoted to the protection and defense of scientists under threat and will work to increase the effectiveness of scientific organizations in defending the human rights of scientists.

Chair: **Brad Miller**, American Chemical Society

### **Science Ethics and Human Rights**

*Abelson-Haskins*

This working group is devoted to fostering appreciation among scientists and scientific associations of the relevance of human rights to ethical standards, the conduct of science, and human research protections.

Co-chairs: **Rob Albro**, American Anthropological Association  
**Doug Richardson**, Association of American Geographers

### **Service to the Scientific Community**

*Room 700*

This working group is devoted to building the commitment and capacity of scientific associations to contribute meaningfully to human rights issues and activities, including through the application of their discipline's tools and techniques.

Co-chairs: **Clinton Anderson**, American Psychological Association  
**Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association

### **Service to the Human Rights Community**

*Revelle*

This working group is devoted to bridging the scientific and human rights communities with the aim of encouraging and facilitating the greater engagement of scientists in efforts to advance human rights.

Co-chairs: **Brian Gran**, American Sociological Association  
**Susan Hinkins**, American Statistical Association  
**Amanda Sozer**, Affiliated Scientist

### **Education and Information Resources**

*Room 703*

This working group is devoted to producing a variety of accessible information materials for the promotion and support of collaboration between scientists and human rights practitioners.

Co-chairs: **Judith Blau**, Sociologists Without Borders  
**Amy Crumpton**, Affiliated Scientist  
**Jeffrey Toney**, Sigma Xi

5:45 **Closing Remarks**

*Auditorium*

6:00 **Meeting Adjourns**