

The Faculty of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University
in co-operation with The John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University of Chicago,
and the Polish Studies Program of Loyola University of Chicago, USA presents :

The Tenth Annual Symposium

The World Is on Fire: Fleeing To Freedom or Survival?

October 11-12, 2015

July 2015 recorded the highest number of migrants entering the EU. For the first time, more than 100,000 migrants per month ran from violence, poverty, and political instability.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 137,000 refugees crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Europe from January to June 2015.

In July 2015, death tolls for refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea surpassed 2,000.

Sunday

October 11th, 2015

17:45—20:45

OPENING EVENT

The Documentary: "Europe or Die" - Italy's Mediterranean Mass Grave" (VICE News)

Introduction: Dr. Alia Nardini, Spring Hill University, Bologna, Italy

Discussion: Dr. Nardini and Dr. Marcin Kaldunski, Nicholas Copernicus University School of Law and Administration, Torun, Poland

Location: Academic Center of Culture and Arts "Od Nowa"
Ul. Gagarina 37A, Torun

Monday

October 12th, 2015

INTRODUCTION

Mr. John Kurowski, Kurowski Shultz LLC

Professor Arkadiusz Lach, Vice-Dean of the Faculty for International Relations and Informatization Nicolas Copernicus University School of Law and Administration

9:00—9:10

Professor Bozena McLees, Director of the Polish Studies Program, Loyola University of Chicago

Location: Main Library Conference Room,
Nicolas Copernicus University, Ul. Gagarina 13

FLEEING FOR FREEDOM: WHO, WHERE AND HOW

9:10—9:45

Dr. Michal Balcerzak, Member of the United Nation's Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and Assistant Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun, Poland.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP:

A MOST DIFFICULT PATH

9:45—10:15

Mr. Ramzi Harrabi, Founder and Director of the Intercultural Studies Center and the President of the Immigrants Council for the Province of Siracusa, Italy

10:15—10:30

MORNING BREAK

10:30—11:25

JAN NAWAZI, A MIGRANT'S STORY

A conversation with **Jan Nawzi** and **Dr. Todd Waller**

THE MEDITERRANEAN MIGRATION CRISIS:

- WHY PEOPLE FLEE
- WHAT THE EU SHOULD DO

11:25—12:25

Mr. Hugh Williamson, Director of the Europe & Central Asia division at Human Rights Watch, Berlin, Germany

A MOCK COMMISSION ON REFUGEE STATUS

&

PANEL DISCUSSION

12:25—1:00

The Faculty

**Dr. Michal
Balcerzak**

Associate Professor at the Chair for Human Rights, Faculty of Law and Administration, Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration, Torun. He obtained his Master's degree of Law in 2003 and his Ph.D. in 2007 from Nicolaus Copernicus. In 2004, he was awarded the Diploma of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Apart from his academic activities, Dr. Balcerzak was a legal advisor in the office of the Polish Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. In 2012 he was appointed an alternate member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. In 2014 he was elected by the UN Human Rights Council as a member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. He specializes in European and international human rights law, the international judiciary and the law of international organizations.

**Mr. Ramzi
Harrabi**

Ramzi Harrabi is a Tunisian artist, activist and lecturer. He is the founder and director of the Intercultural Studies Center and the President of the Immigrants Council for the Province of Siracusa, Italy. Ramzi also manages many projects related to integration and migration, as well as teaching intercultural communication, Arabic language and the history of Islam throughout Italy. Ramzi recently worked as a member of the Tunisian independent elections authority in Italy. His poems were awarded the Italian national prize (premio Maria Marino), and one of his paintings won the second prize at the European Tendari festival.

In 2008, Ramzi was among the finalists for the Euro-Med award, organized by the Anna Lindh Foundation, obtaining a special mention for promoting intercultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**Dr. Marcin
Kaldunski**

Assistant Professor of Law at the Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Torun, Poland. He has been engaged, in particular, in public international law as well as international economic law. He received his Ph.D. in law from Nicolaus Copernicus University in 2005. His Ph.D. thesis was also published as a monograph in 2006 entitled The Most Favoured Nation Clause. He has published several books on international law. Since 2005, along with Dr. Balcerzak, he has been one of the faculty coaches working with students who take part in the Jessup International Law moot court competitions. His teams won the Polish National competition in 2006 and 2007 and competed at the international level in Washington, D.C. both years. Also, since 2005 he has been conducting research at The Hague Academy of International Law and in the World Trade Organization. He is a member of the International Law Association. He teaches International Law at Nicolas Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Torun, Poland.

**Mr. John
Kurowski**

An American lawyer who has been engaged in the private practice of law in the United States for over 35 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in History from Loyola University of Chicago and attended the John Felice Rome Center in 1973-1974. He received his Juris Doctor from the St. Louis University School of Law. Mr. Kurowski has a broad legal background, having experience and interests in litigation, trials, local government and human rights. He is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Missouri and several federal district courts in the United States. He is the founder and now managing partner of the law firm of Kurowski Shultz, LLC. He is a member of the Congress of Fellows of the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg and the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of legal and other topics at programs throughout the United States. In 2006, he was invited to attend the Justice and Society program of the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2010, he served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the School of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. While teaching in Torun in 2006 he began this symposium in cooperation with the NCU law faculty. Loyola University of Chicago presented Mr. Kurowski with its John Felice Award in June, 2013 in recognition for his contribution to the John Felice Rome Center, as well as to business and his community.

**Prof. Arkadiusz
Lach**

The Vice Dean for International Cooperation and Informatization at the Nicolaus Copernicus School of Law and Administration in Torun where he also serves as a Researcher and Lecturer. He is a member of the advisory committee of the Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection on implementation of European Union law in the areas of freedom, security and justice in the context of protection of human rights (2008-2010)). He is considered an independent expert of the European Commission in the area of criminal law. is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review. He is the author of numerous books concerning criminal law and procedure and is a practicing Adwokat (attorney) in Poland.

**Mr. William
Mahoney**

An American lawyer. He is a partner and Co-Chairman today of the law firm of Segal, McCambridge, Singer and Mahoney, Ltd in Chicago. He has served in a leadership position for all 30 years of the firm's existence - a period that has seen the firm grow from a four lawyer Chicago firm to nearly 185 attorneys in seven cities. Mr. Mahoney is an Honors graduate of Loyola University of Chicago in Political Science and attended the John Felice Rome Center, Rome Italy as an undergraduate. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois. He is licensed to practice law in Illinois, Michigan and Texas. He is a member of the Chicago Council of Global Affairs (Director's Circle) and a member of the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He has completed both the Executive Leadership Program and Justice and Society Programs of the Aspen Institute. He was recently named Chairman of the Chicago Committee of Human Rights Watch. He is also a member of the Chairman's Circle of National Democratic Institute. Today, Mr. Mahoney manages some of the most complex litigation in the United States and is a frequently sought lecturer on a variety of legal subjects. Mr. Mahoney is also a regular participant and moderator at programs in Chicago on human rights and other topics of global interest. Mr. Mahoney regularly contributes to the planning of this symposium and appears for the fourth time this year, having previously presented in 2009 ("Genocide, Human Rights and International Justice: Past, Present and Future,"), 2011 ("The Arab Spring, and 2014, "Rwanda: Pathway to Genocide"

Dr. Alia

Nardini

Born in Milan, Italy, Dr. Nardini moved to England to study Philosophy and Politics at the University of York. She then returned to her home country and acquired a PhD in History, Institutions and International Relations of Non-European Countries at the University of Pisa in 2008, specializing in American politics and the history of the Republican Party. She regularly follows U.S. elections for Italian magazines and newspapers, has published various academic articles, and two books: one on war between morality and politics, and the second on American neoconservatism.

Dr. Nardini teaches Political Science and History at the Spring Hill Italy Center in Bologna, and coordinates the internships and undergraduate research programs. In the past, Dr. Nardini researched environmental issues with the National Trust in the United Kingdom, and with the World Wildlife Fund in Brindisi, Italy, where she was deeply involved in the Torre Guaceto Marine Reserve area, dealing with conservation issues, immigration and service learning projects.

In addition she co-directs the Puglia social justice immersion trip at Spring Hill. Her current interests continue to focus on the history and politics of the United States, transatlantic relations and human rights promotion in American foreign policy and just war theory.

Mr. Jan

Nawazi

Jan left Afghanistan as a child, fleeing war and Taliban repression. He lived with his mother and brothers and sisters in Pakistan, working as a child as a shoemaker. At age 13, he left home for Iran. After working in Iran for 3 years, he made his way overland to Turkey, took a raft to Greece, and a ferry to Italy, arriving and applying for asylum in Italy at age 18. He has now lived in Bologna for 8 years where he today owns and runs a pizzeria "Kabulogna." He speaks regularly about his experiences as a refugee and immigrant and participates in outreach and advocacy on behalf of the Hazara community in Afghanistan. He has collaborated with UNHCR, Emergency, Amnesty International, and Spring Hill College (Bologna) among other organizations.

**Ms. Bozena
Nowicka McLees**

A Polish language and literature instructor at Loyola University Chicago. She earned her M.A. in Polish Language and Literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Ms. McLees is experienced in teaching and developing Polish language, literature and culture curriculum. She has taught at the University of Illinois and Harper College.

Ms. McLees has focused on connecting the evolving academic programs in Poland with the existing network of schools, educational institutions and Polish American organizations in Chicago to promote interest and understanding of Polish culture and the acquisition and maintenance of heritage language skills. She collaborated with Poland's State Commission in establishing the Certification of Proficiency Exam in Polish as a Foreign Language in Chicago.

In 2008 Ms. McLees was appointed a Director of Interdisciplinary Polish Studies at Loyola University to continue developing an academic program that gives students opportunity to study Polish language, history and culture both in Chicago and in Poland. She is a founding member of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation and the organizer of the 2014 Karski Conference at Loyola University.

**Mr. Todd
Waller**

The Director of the Spring Hill College Italy Center in Bologna, Italy. Prior to that he was the Dean of Students at the John Felice Loyola Rome Center. Dr. Waller is the former Director of the Center for Democratic Studies and Constitutional Development (CCSDD) at the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center. From 2001 to 2005 he directed the Balkan based Youth Organizing Institute, which focused on conflict resolution programs for college students attending from across the Balkans. He has taught service learning courses and coordinated international service projects at a number of universities, including the University of Pennsylvania, University of Denver, Regis University, and Fordham University. He has directed two documentary films in Bosnia Herzegovina. He received his doctorate from the University College in London in 2011. His doctoral dissertation was titled: Mother Teresa wore Birkenstocks: an analysis of self and spiritual growth from former volunteers who walked in the shoes of the Missionaries of Charity. Dr. Waller resides in Bologna with his wife and two sons.

**Mr. Hugh
Williamson**

The director of the Europe & Central Asia division of Human Rights Watch (HRW), he oversees the organization's work in western and eastern Europe, the Balkans, Turkey, Central Asia, the south Caucasus, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. He oversees issues including migration and discrimination in Europe, torture and other abuses under authoritarian rule in Central Asia, and impunity and the rule of law in Russia.

Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Williamson worked for 11 years as a correspondent for the Manila and Berlin bureaus of the Financial Times. He served as the Europe news editor during the 2008-2009 financial crisis and most recently as the paper's deputy foreign editor. He has written and commented in the international media, including on the BBC and CNN, on European politics, development issues the international political economy, business ethics, corporate responsibility, and the politics of the human rights movement. Williamson has worked for other non-governmental organizations, including a labor rights group in Hong Kong. He has degrees from Manchester University and the London School of Economics.