



Human Rights Research Network



Third International Human Rights Film Festival

Fall 2009 Events Schedule



Democracy and Globalization:
Human Rights of Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers

Democracy and Globalization: *Human Rights of Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers*

The HRRN Film and Speakers series this year will focus on a variety of immigration and human rights issues, attempting to answer the overarching question “Can democracy be sustained in this era of globalization in which identities are fluid, time and space are compressed, and the notion of citizenship is challenged?” By focusing on the ways in which globalization produces political and economic migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, we will examine 1) the access migrants have to the benefits, and obligations, of citizenship; 2) how migrants define their own identities as well as shape the communities/nations in which they settle; and 3) the link between citizenship, democracy, and human rights. Through a series of films, colloquia, and readings we will broadly define migration in terms of global labor migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, families seeking reunification, and even internal migrants. We will then challenge the issue of nativists’ versus newcomers’ rights by asking, who has citizenship in the global civil

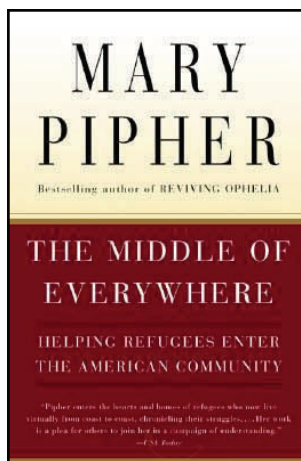
society? We will discuss immigrant incorporation, problems with their depiction by the media, how social institutions react to demographic changes, and the politics of migration in the US. We will observe the role of capitalism, ethnic conflict, and war in displacing populations. We will also examine the participation of migrant in the democratic process here and abroad.

The *Third International Human Rights Film Festival* will be augmented with a series of guest speakers and reading discussion groups. Building on the success of our previous two festivals, we will continue to screen films with face-to-face instruction, to establish ties between the film festival and existing courses, and to coordinate efforts, under the umbrella of the Center for Critical Inquiry and the Human Rights Research Network, among multiple groups engaged in these issues on campus. Between each screening we will bring scholars, students, and community leaders together to discuss four key themes linked to the films: 1) The Politics and Policing of Immigration in America; 2) Stuck in the System? Refugees, and Asylum Seekers; and, 3) Democracy’s Fourth Estate: Immigration, Globalization and the Media. Likewise, faculty and students will meet online for four monthly reading groups to discuss the selected readings.

READING SERIES

Join in the online book discussions at:
<http://www.uncg.edu/cci/HRRN/>

Suggested Reading for September: Pipher, Mary. 2002. The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community. Harcourt. Inc.



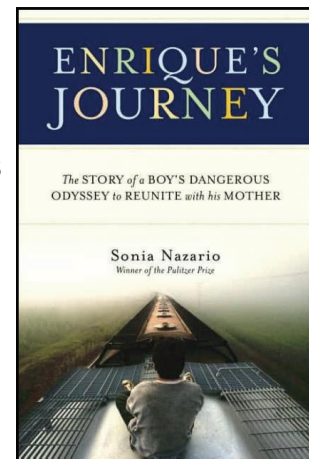
“Over the past decade, Mary Pipher has been a great source of wisdom, helping us to better understand our family members. Now she connects us with the newest members of the American family--

refugees. In cities all over the country, refugees arrive daily. Lost Boys from Sudan, survivors from Kosovo, families fleeing Afghanistan and Vietnam: they come with nothing but the desire to experience the American dream. Their endurance in the face of tragedy and their ability to hold on to the virtues of family, love, and joy are a lesson for Americans. Their stories will make you laugh and weep--and give you a deeper understanding of the wider world in which we live. The Middle of Everywhere moves beyond the headlines into the homes of refugees from around the world. Working as a cultural broker, teacher, and therapist, Mary Pipher has once again

opened our eyes--and our hearts--to those with whom we share the future.” <http://www.harcourtbooks.com/>

Suggested Reading for October: Nazario, Sonia. 2007. Enrique's Journey. Random House

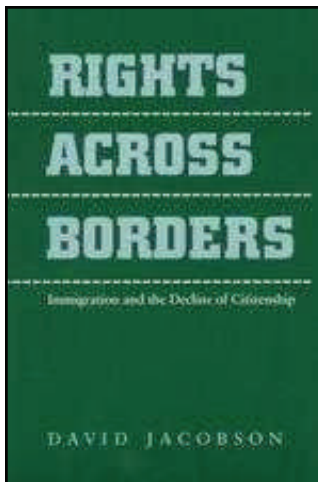
“When Enrique is five years old, his mother, Lourdes, too poor to feed her children, leaves Honduras to work in the United States. The move allows her to send money back home to Enrique so he can eat better and go to school past the third grade.



Lourdes promises Enrique she will return quickly. But she struggles in America. Years pass. He begs for his mother to come back. Without her, he becomes lonely and troubled.... After eleven years apart, he decides he will go find her. Enrique sets off alone from Tegucigalpa, with little more than a slip of paper bearing his mother's North Carolina telephone number. Without money, he will make the dangerous and illegal trek up the length of Mexico the only way he can--clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains. With gritty determination and a deep longing to be by his mother's side, Enrique travels through hostile, unknown worlds.”

<http://www.enriquesjourney.com/>

Suggested Reading for November:
Jacobson, David. 1997. *Rights Across Borders: Immigration and the Decline of Citizenship*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

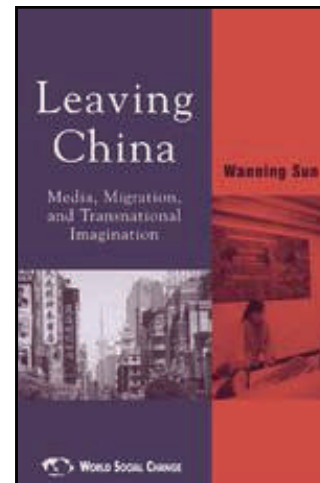


“This short but well-written book addresses a neglected aspect of the contemporary decline of the nation-state. It studies in depth the different criteria by which France, Germany, and the United

States distinguish between citizen and alien, from the political-territorial definition of the French to the ethno-cultural one of the Germans. The author notes that whatever the grounds, the ability of countries to set citizenship criteria is being undermined by the growth of transnational human rights, administered through courts and bodies like the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This change leads to new opportunities for civic engagement but also undermines national community.”

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

Suggested Reading for December: Sun, Wan-ning. 2002. *Leaving China: Media, Migration, and Transnational Imagination* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.



“Appadurai has asserted that it is mass mediation which distinguishes present-day migration from diasporas of the past: Those who wish to move, those who have moved, those who wish to return, and those who choose to stay rarely formulate their plans outside the sphere of radio and television, cassettes and videos, newsprint and telephone. For migrants, both the politics of adaptation to new environments and the stimulus to move or return are deeply affected by a mass-mediated imaginary that frequently transcends national space. (Appadurai 1996: 6) Sun Wanning’s book teases out the complex relationship between media and migration in its treatment of the construction of transnational subjectivities amongst the Chinese people, as a process facilitated by the “mobility of media images” and the “media images of mobility” (p. 216).” *Journal of Chinese Overseas* Volume 1, Number 1, May 2005

FILM SERIES

All films at 6:30 in Sullivan Science Building Room 101 unless otherwise indicated

Wednesday September 2: *The Lost Boys of Sudan* (TLC - DV1217 c.1)

Discussant: Sarah Wagner (Department of Anthropology)



"Lost Boys of Sudan is a feature-length documentary that follows two young refugees of Sudan's civil war through

their first year in America. As small boys, they lost their parents to war and walked hundreds of miles across hostile African desert. After a decade in a refugee camp, they are coming to the U.S. Their struggle to make new lives for themselves will force the audience to rethink what it means to be an American."

Official Movie Site:

<http://www.lostboysfilm.com/>

Wednesday September 16: *Made in LA*
Community Screening Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee

Discussants: Lori Khamala (American Friends Service Committee & Interfaith Immigration Coalition) and Stephen J. Sills (Department of Sociology)

"Made in L.A. an Emmy-winning documentary that follows the remarkable story of three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles sweatshops as they embark on a three-year



odyssey to win basic labor protections from trendy clothing retailer Forever 21. In intimate observational style, *Made in L.A.* reveals the impact of the struggle on each woman's life as they are gradually transformed by the experience. Compelling, humorous, deeply human, *Made in L.A.* is a story about immigration, the power of unity, and the courage it takes to find your voice."

Official Movie Site:

<http://www.madeinla.com/>

Wednesday September 30: *The Guestworker* (TLC DV7664 c.1)

Discussant: Stephen J. Sills (Department of Sociology)



“The Guest-worker tells the story of Don Candelario Gonzalez Moreno, a 66-year old Mexican farmer who has been coming to the U.S. since the

1960s as a farm laborer. He is some twenty to forty years older than all the thousands of Mexican men who work in today’s United States’ H2A Guest Worker program started in 1986. Despite his age, he continues to work long hours in tobacco, cucumber, and pepper fields, sweating and worrying – all for his family, particularly his ailing wife. He says he still wants to work “harder than all the others” as he did when he was a younger man, but now knows he just can’t. Yet he is asked back, year after year, because of his commitment to hard work, his “good attitude,” and his long-term service to Western Farms in North Carolina. With revealing insight, filmmakers Cynthia Hill and Charles Thompson embark on an intimate exploration of Cande during one particularly grueling season while delving into this little-known guest worker program now already twenty years in existence.”

Official Movie Site:

<http://www.theguestworker.com/>

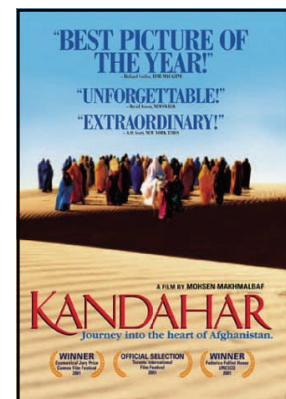
Thursday October 15: *Kandahar* (TLC VH11255 c.1)

NOTE: This showing will be in held in the Petty Science Building Room 136

Co-Sponsored by the International Studies Program Asian Studies Film Series

Discussant: Jeff Jones, Department of History and Lloyd International Honors College

“Winner of the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival, KANDAHAR is inspired by the true story of a woman’s attempt to enter Afghanistan to reach her sister living in the Taliban-



controlled city of Kandahar. Nafas, a female journalist born in Afghanistan who fled the country as a teenager, receives a letter from her sister, who, overcome with grief over being maimed by a landmine and her despair over the systemic oppression of women, has vowed that she will commit suicide at the time of the next solar eclipse, which is only three days away. Nafas must race against time and disguise herself by wearing the traditional head-to-toe covering of the burka. Since it is illegal for women to travel alone, she must seek help from various Afghan characters to find her way to Kandahar.”

<http://reframecollection.org/films/film?id=997>

Wednesday October 28: *The Visitor* (TLC - DV6896 c.1)

Discussant: Sarah Wagner (Department of Anthropology)



“Walter Vale is a widower who teaches economics at a Connecticut university. He lives alone and is no longer motivated by his work. In New York to present a paper at a conference, he goes to the apartment that he has not

visited in some time, but has kept since his wife was alive, only to discover a young couple living there. Despite their great cultural differences, Walter befriends Tarek, a Syrian citizen and drummer, and gradually builds a friendship with Esi, his girlfriend from Senegal. One day, when returning from Central Park with Walter, Tarek is arrested for jumping a stuck subway turnstile, despite the fact that he had paid. The police discover he does not have legal papers and transfer him to an immigrant detention center in Queens. Feeling responsible for and connected to Tarek, Walter decides to stay in New York to help and support him. Not hearing from her son, Tarek's mother arrives from Michigan to find out why, and she and Walter support one another while they attempt to free Tarek.” *Official Movie Site:* <http://www.thevisitorfilm.com/>

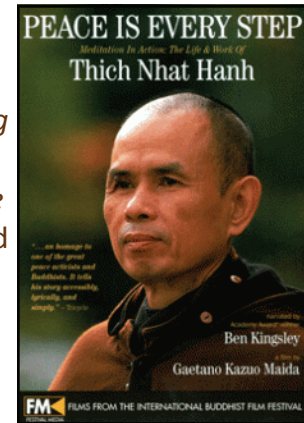
Wednesday November 3, *Peace Is Every Step* (TLC_DV4944 c.1)

NOTE: This showing will be in held in the Petty Science Building Room 136

Co-Sponsored by the International Studies Program Asian Studies Film Series

Discussant: Greg Grieve (Department of Religious Studies)

“Leading Vietnamese Zen teacher and author of many books (including the bestsellers *Being Peace, Living Buddha/Living Christ, The Miracle of Mindfulness* and *Peace Is Every Step*), Thich Nhat Hanh has had a profound impact on contemporary



thinking and, importantly, social action. His efforts to achieve an early peaceful end to the American war in Vietnam earned him a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and a forty-year exile from his homeland. *Peace Is Every Step* is an intimate and direct portrait of of a monk who has lived through war and fought back with meditation, love and grace under fire, testimony to the faith that simple practices and insights drawn from (but not by any means limited to) the Buddhist meditative tradition can help change conditions for the better: on a personal level, in the family, in the community, in a nation and in the world.” <http://www.amazon.com/>

**Wednesday November 18: *Beijing Bicycle*
VH10616 c.1**

**Co-Sponsored by the International Studies
Program Asian Studies Film Series**

*Discussants: James Anderson (Department
of History) and Susan Walcott (Department
of Geography)*



"Beijing Bicycle revolves around a seventeen-year-old boy Guei (Cui) from the countryside who came to Beijing to seek work. He finds a job with a courier company, which assigns him a brand-

new bicycle. After it is stolen one day, the stubborn Guei goes on a search for his missing bicycle. At the other end of the city, Jian (Li) is a schoolboy who buys Guei's stolen bicycle from a second-hand market. When Guei's search brings the two boys together, more than the ownership of the bicycle is brought into question. The film explores the theme of youth as well as several social issues, including class, youth delinquency, theft, and rural-urban socio-economic divisions and change." *Official Movie Site:* <http://www.sonyclassics.com/beijing/index-poped.html>

DISCUSSION SERIES

All discussions start at 6:30 pm in the **Sullivan Science Building Room 101** unless otherwise indicated. Discussants will have a short (5-10 min) informational presentation and/or position statement on the current issues facing migrants today. We will then open the forum for Q&A.

Wednesday October 14: *The Politics and Policing of Immigration in America*

Discussants: Rep. Paul Luebke (Dem NC & Department of Sociology); Rebecca Headen & Katherine Parker (ACLU of NC); Lori Khamala (American Friends Service Committee & Interfaith Immigration Coalition); Dr. Mark R. Sills (Executive Director FaithAction International House);

- As of 2008, the State of North Carolina will no longer admit community college students who lack documentation of their status.
- In 2007, the State of North Carolina passed a law requiring proof of citizenship status in order to apply for a drivers license; shortly thereafter law enforcement across the state began "random" license check points, often with officers who are deputized as US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents present..
- Last year more than 3200 individuals were processed for deportation by



the seven NC counties participating in the 287G program. While designed to remove the most dangerous immigrant criminals, the majority (56%) of those facing deportation were apprehended for traffic violations.

- Comprehensive immigration reform (including regularization of status for millions, an overhaul of the H1A system for guest worker visas, and other issues) has been a key topic of the national political debate.

This discussion will bring together scholars, politicians, and local activists to focus on these and other political issues facing local migrant communities:

Wednesday November 11: *Stuck in the System? Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

Discussants: Sarah Ivory (Greensboro Director, Church World Service Greensboro); Sochealy Sin (Lutheran Family Services); Myra Hayes (Guilford County Schools).

The refugee and asylum channel is one of three means by which aliens can legally immigrate to the United States. These individuals are aliens who are unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin or nationality because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a social group, or political opinion. Government assistance for housing, healthcare, English training, and jobs skills development for displaced people has been dwindling. Moreover, refugees today are expected to be self-sufficient and employed within 90 to 180

days of resettlement.

There is some evidence that the recession has been

tougher for refugees trying

to get jobs than for the native population. This discussion will focus on the difficulties faced by relocation and resettlement agencies in assisting refugees and asylum seekers and helping them become integrated into their local communities.



Monday November 16 All-Campus Read Speaker Sonia Nazario, author *Enrique's Journey*

Sponsored by the English Department, Lloyd International Honors College, Housing and Residential Life, the UNCG Graduate Student Association, and Friends of the Library.

Sonia Nazario has spent 20 years reporting and writing about social issues, most recently as a projects reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. Her stories have tackled some of this country's most intractable problems: hunger, drug addiction, immigration. She has won numerous national journalism and book awards. In 2003, her story of a Honduran boy's struggle to find his mother in the U.S., entitled "Enrique's Journey," won more than a dozen awards, among them the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, the George Polk Award for International



Reporting, the Grand Prize of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award for Overall Excellence. She is

now at work on her second book. She began her career at the *Wall Street Journal*, where she reported from four bureaus: New York, Atlanta, Miami, and Los Angeles. In 1993, she joined the *Los Angeles Times*. She is a graduate of Williams College and has a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

- **1 pm to 3 pm Student Talk:** *Cone Ballroom in the Elliot University Center*
- **7 pm to 10 pm Community Talk:** *Science Building Auditorium*

Wednesday December 2: Democracy's Fourth Estate: Globalization, Immigration and the Media

Discussants: Jordan Green (Yes! Weekly); Tina Firesheets (News & Record); Adolfo Briceno (Que Pasa); and Rosemary Roberts (English – Journalism), Stephen J Sills (Department of Sociology)

On Sunday, September 9, 2007, just two days before the anniversary of 9/ 11, The *Greensboro News and Record* offered a large photograph of a Muslim wearing a burqa. The image was enhanced with fire behind her and blood pooling below. Above this striking photograph were the words, "A New Face of Terror." The media through its choice of images, news stories, sensational writing style, and editorial stance has great power to socialize, to distract, to politicize, to inform, and even to misinform. The media provides the venue for the debate on global migration, but also plays a part in shaping this discourse. This final discussion in our series will bring together local journalists and scholars to discuss the depiction of neo-liberal globalization and international migration in the local press.

