

# CARDOZO

Since the 1994 genocide, Rwanda has struggled to promote unity and reconciliation in order to create a stable society and lasting peace. Eradicating genocide ideology has become a mainstay of the government's efforts. Genocide ideology is broadly defined and has different meanings in law and in popular discourse. The Rwandan Minister of Justice has described genocide ideology as a spirit, and a recent criminal bill defines it almost as broadly. The closely related laws on discrimination, sectarianism (divisionism) and hate speech likewise seek to punish individuals found guilty of fuelling conflicts among Rwandans or sowing division among them.

These laws seek to abolish genocide ideology, and hence prevent a future genocide, by creating a Rwandan identity that overcomes the ethnic categories of the past (Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa). To achieve these goals, the laws have been both broadly and strictly interpreted to promote a specific narrative of Rwandan history. Speaking outside of the official narrative could find one in violation of the law. The judicial mechanisms established to punish alleged *genocidaires* contribute to this narrative.

The power of the law to shape collective and individual identities raises important and complex issues. Some wonder whether the government's suppression of discussion about ethnicity helps forge a new Rwandan identity, or veils other policy objectives, while others believe it is the only way forward. This conference seeks to explore the interplay of law and identity in Rwanda and the role each plays in reconciliation.

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## THE QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

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What role can and should the law play in shaping individual and collective identity?

What role does cultural and national identity play in reconciliation?

Is it justified for the law to place limits on historical debate?

Can such restrictions fuel future conflict rather than diminish its likelihood?

When are governments justified in limiting freedom of speech in the interests of other societal interests or values?

What role can domestic and international criminal law play in building identities and fostering reconciliation?

**Ultimately, the conference aims to explore with relevant stakeholders the current legal, political, and social climate in Rwanda in order to assist Rwanda in its quest for lasting peace and stability.**

Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law  
Jacob Burns Institute of Advanced Legal Studies  
Yeshiva University • Brookdale Center  
55 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10003

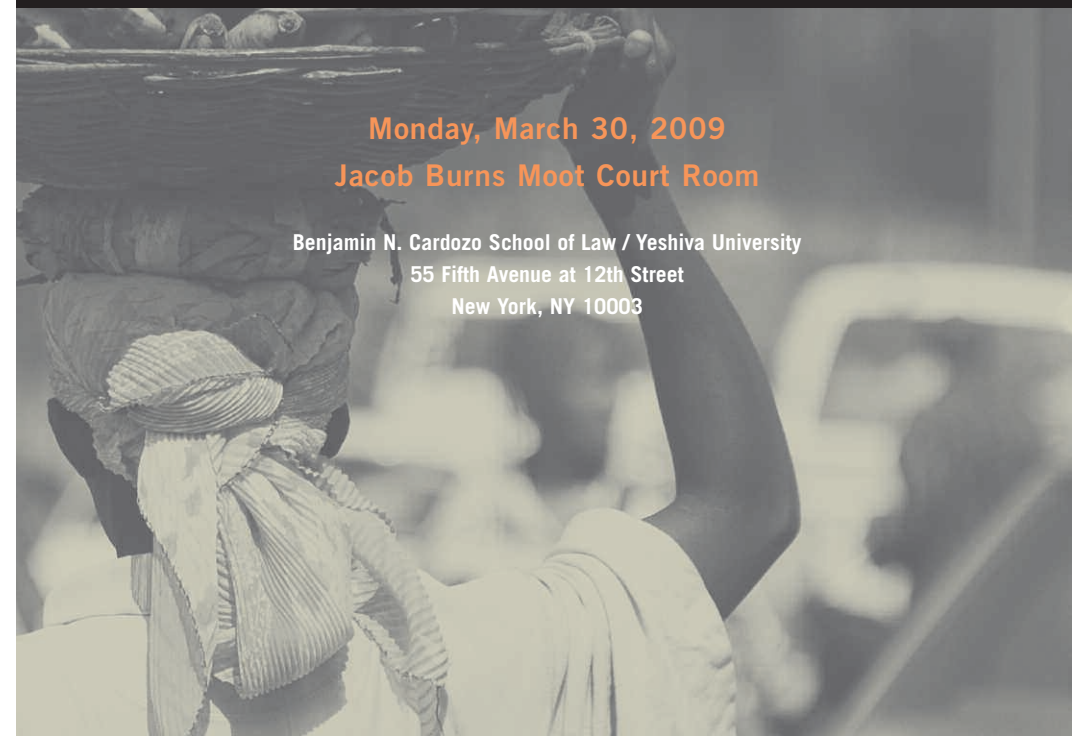
PROGRAM IN HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES  
BENJAMIN N. CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW

Invites you to attend

## Healing the Wounds: Speech, Identity, and Reconciliation in Rwanda

Monday, March 30, 2009  
Jacob Burns Moot Court Room

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law / Yeshiva University  
55 Fifth Avenue at 12th Street  
New York, NY 10003



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**8:45 a.m.**                      **INTRODUCTION**

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**SHERI P. ROSENBERG**                      Director, Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies  
Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

**JOSEPH NSENGIMANA**                      Rwandan Ambassador to the United Nations

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**PANEL I**                                      **THE CHALLENGE OF RECONCILIATION AFTER IDENTITY-BASED CONFLICT**  
**9:30-11:15 a.m.**

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**DR. YAEL DANIELI**                      Director, Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children, New York, NY

**MARK DRUMBL**                              Washington and Lee University School of Law

**JACQUELINE MUREKATETE**                      Miracle Corners of the World, Rwandan Survivor

**CATHARINE NEWBURY**                      Smith College

**HARVEY WEINSTEIN**                      University of California, Berkeley

**Moderator:**  
**JENS MEIERHENRICH**                      Harvard University

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**PANEL II**                                      **FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE LEGISLATION OF MEMORY**  
**11:30 a.m.– 12:45 p.m.**

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**THARCISSE KARUGARAMA**                      Justice Minister of Rwanda (invited)

**FRANK LARUE**                              UN Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

**PETER MOLNAR**                              Central European University

**LARS WALDORF**                              University of London

**Moderator:**  
**C. EDWIN BAKER**                              University of Pennsylvania Law School

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**LUNCH – Please register in advance**

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**PANEL III**                                      **CONSTRUCTING POST-GENOCIDE IDENTITY IN RWANDA**  
**3:00-4:15 p.m.**

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**NIGEL ELTRINGHAM**                      University of Sussex

**LEE ANN FUJII**                              George Washington University

**JEAN PAUL KIMONYO**                      Rwandan Scholar, Independent Consultant, Author

**TIMOTHY LONGMAN**                      Vassar College

**Moderator:**  
**DR. JOYCE APSEL**                              New York University

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**PANEL IV**                                      **THE WAY FORWARD**  
**4:30-6:00 p.m.**

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**GEORGETTE GANON**                      Human Rights Watch, Tribute to Alison Des Forges

**SCOTT STRAUS**                              University of Wisconsin, Madison

**NOEL TWAGIRAMUNGU**                      PhD Candidate, Fletcher School, Tufts University

**JUSTINE UVUZA**                              Former Rwandan Ministry of Gender and Women in Development,  
PhD Candidate, Newcastle University

**Moderator:**  
**SHERI P. ROSENBERG**                      Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

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**RECEPTION**

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**Conference Partners**

University of London, The Centre for International Human Rights,  
Institute of Commonwealth Studies

Institute for the Study of Genocide

**Conference Registration And CLE**

Registration is free, but you must reserve in advance. The conference is offered for Continuing Legal Education credits. Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law is a NYS Accredited CLE provider. Cardozo has been approved for 4 professional practice credit hours.

**Please Register by March 27, 2009**

When registering, please indicate your name, affiliation, address, phone number, email address, whether you will attend the lunch, and whether you are applying for CLE credits.

Please Note: There is a \$15 fee per person for lunch.

To attend, please send a check made payable to Cardozo School of Law to the address below.

**Register by email to: [pghrs2009conference@gmail.com](mailto:pghrs2009conference@gmail.com)**

**Or send registration to:**

**Professor Sheri Rosenberg**  
**Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law**  
**55 Fifth Avenue, Room 935**  
**New York, NY 10003**

**For conference updates, please visit the Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies website at:**

<http://www.cardozo.yu.edu/pghrs>