Professor Benjamin C. Carbonetti
Visiting Lecturer, Political Science and Human Rights
By Helen Samuels

Professor Carbonetti is expecting his Ph.D. in 2014 from the University of Connecticut, where he also received his M.A. in 2010. This is Professor Carbonetti’s third semester at Trinity College teaching both Political Science and Human Rights courses including Intro to International Relations, Intro to Human Rights, and International Human Rights Law.

He chose to study human rights because, “I was always interested in the developing world, the issues the people in those countries face, and the all-important questions of who is responsible for helping them improve their lives.” He credits his time at the University of Connecticut, an international center for human rights research, with connecting him with mentors and colleagues who helped him develop his passion for studying human rights. Professor Carbonetti is particularly focused on determining which factors improve human rights performance in developing countries. This includes developing more useful measures of those factors to help both local and international policy makers assess when and why countries are getting better or worse at fulfilling the human rights of their citizens. “I enjoy looking for patterns, if we can find critical patterns that affect the progression of state respect for human rights our scholarship can have a positive influence on the world,” he said.

Additionally, Professor Carbonetti currently works on human rights projects with his colleagues from the University of Connecticut. He works on the CIRI Human Rights Data Project, the largest human rights data set in existence, founded by Professors David L. Richards (UConn) and David Cingranelli (SUNY Binghamton). The data set gives annual scores to countries on their respect for 15 internationally recognized human rights from 1980 to the present. This data is used by institutions such as the World Bank, to assess a country’s reliability with international development loans and assistance. “Countries really pay attention to their scores, particularly if they are looking for help from the international community. It is hard to tell the effect of that, but they definitely are aware that we are watching, and I think that is a good thing.” Professor Carbonetti added that this project is one of the most influential human rights experiences for him because he has the opportunity to study human rights reports and stories from every country in the world, an enlightening and motivating experience. “It can be tough reading about the difficult and sometimes horrifying situations people around the world face, but it is something that, at the very least, someone needs to keep track of.”

Currently Professor Carbonetti is also working on interdisciplinary projects that link natural resources, state capacity, and human rights. He recently published a piece with several colleagues on fishery management in South East Asia which will appear in Marine Policy this spring. Finally, Professor Carbonetti is very passionate about teaching human rights. “I find the Human Rights students at Trinity to be so motivated and thoughtful, it really inspires me to keep doing this,” he said. While he’s passing on knowledge to his students he recognizes that teaching provides him with opportunities to discuss and hear from students, which provides him with alternative perspectives that can be useful for research and for becoming a better teacher. “I learn new things all the time in class. Students bring up situations I am not aware of, or approach an issue in a totally different way that sparks a new idea for how to teach Human Rights or how to research a topic. I can only hope I am as much help to the students as they are to me.”
On December 3rd at 7:30pm in Rittenberg Lounge, A Day in a Wheelchair Program will be hosting an open discussion about project feedback, disability rights, and creating an inclusive environment. Panel speakers include disability sport and UN expert Eli Wolff, A Day in a Wheelchair founder and 2013 Trinity grad Kristin Duquette, student leader Claudia Trafton 2016, student participant Mazin Khalil 2015, and moderator Brianna Scalesse 2016. The event will include a panel presentation, film highlights with interview responses, and open mic discussions.

ABOUT:

“A Day in a Wheelchair” places able-bodied students, staff, and faculty members in wheelchairs for a 12-hour period with the goal of promoting an empathetic understanding of disabled experiences in a college setting. By combining the wheelchair experience with a structured discussion of disability rights, members of the Trinity College community learn to act as ambassadors for peers, sports teams, Greek Life Organizations, etc., and help to promote a culture of understanding around disabilities from a critical human rights lens.

Mr. Jason Rojas, Director of Community Relations at the Center for Urban and Global Studies, and Connecticut State Representative, participated in “Day in a Wheelchair,” and was kind enough to share his experiences with us.

Spending the day in a wheelchair was a real eye opening experience for me. I faced many challenges, but the first challenge I faced was that my office building is not accessible to people in wheelchairs. To get to and from my office, I had to get up and carry the wheelchair up to the second floor – a luxury, I know, not afforded to people confined to one. As I went about my day, I came to appreciate how much work goes into getting around in one. While it is something I am sure one can get used to having to do, it was a real test of my arm strength and it took extra time to get to and from meetings – another challenge when you have as many meetings as I do. I also took the time to go over to the legislature where I serve as a State Representative. As I moved around, I came to realize that I had never noticed that none of the doors to our hearing rooms have automatic door openers. It was something I took for granted even though I enter and leave hearing rooms dozens of times a day. I received lots of extra attention from people not used to seeing me in a wheelchair, and after explaining what I was doing, they treated me like they normally do, which is really the goal of the day—appreciate and understand, but otherwise, respect people for who they are.
The International Institute of Connecticut, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian social service agency dedicated to the needs of immigrants, refugees and their families. Support is provided through direct professional services, counseling, advocacy and the advancement of fair and humane public policy. Our programs include Immigration and Naturalization Services, Refugee Resettlement and Social Services, Project Rescue: Anti Human Trafficking Project, ESL and Employment Assistance, Community Outreach & Education and Interpreter/Translator Services. (Spring 2014 Internships Opportunities in Bridgeport, Derby & Hartford Offices)

### Bilingual Case Aide / Translator
**Description:** The selected student will complete various tasks utilizing his/her language skills. This may include working with refugee case workers to interpret for refugee families, or may include translating official documents for immigration cases. Work will be in either the Bridgeport or Valley area. Own transportation and willingness to drive refugees to job specific destinations may be required.

**Minimum Requirements:** Proficiency in one or more additional language: Nepali, Hindi, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Arabic, etc.

### Employment Specialist / Job Readiness Coach
**Description:** Student will assist the Employment Specialist with employment services for recently resettled refugees. This may include facilitating job readiness workshops for refugees, assisting refugee clients seek and obtain employment, including resumés, application process, interviews. May also include identifying and cultivating relationships with potential employers. Work will be in either the Bridgeport or Valley area. Own transportation and willingness to drive refugees to job specific destinations may be required.

**Minimum Requirements:** Own transportation, languages helpful.

### Immigration & Naturalization Services
**Description:** The student will work side by side with an immigration specialist and will gain a broad understanding of family based immigration law and citizenship. Minimum of 2 days per week required.

**Minimum Requirements:** Language skills are helpful but not required (Spanish, Portuguese, French, etc).

### Anti-Human Trafficking Project Intern
**Description:** Human Trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. The selected intern will assist the project director in developing community resources and conducting outreach to help identify potential victims and educate community providers on human trafficking.

**Minimum Requirements:** Excellent verbal and written communication skills.

### Communication / Marketing / Social Media
**Description:** Student will work with program directors on various outreach efforts and fundraising activities, including marketing, development, event planning, social media and collecting data.

**Minimum Requirements:** Literacy in basic computer programs: Microsoft Office, Adobe, InDesign etc. More advanced knowledge of IT infrastructure and databases is highly attractive.

### Refugee Resettlement Assistant
**Description:** Help case managers with various aspects of case management plan, including helping refugee clients access social services, basic needs, health care, school & education, ESL, etc. Students will work with newly arrived families who had fled political persecution abroad and who have been accepted by the UNHCR and US State Department to be admitted as refugees. Students may be required to work from either the Bridgeport or Derby.

**Minimum Requirements:** Students with automobiles preferred. Language skills helpful but not required (French, Russian, Farsi, Arabic, Hindi, Nepali).

### Business Management Intern
**Job Summary:** Primary duties includes: job intake processing and tracking, translator and interpreter sourcing, job placement and scheduling, document formatting for notarization/certification, vendor bill payments, and client invoicing.

**Experience / Qualifications:** Required

### Survivors of Torture Volunteer—Bridgeport
**Job Summary:** With the victim services team, provide assistance to survivors of torture and their families in need of social services.

**Experience / Qualifications:** Maintain a small caseload of clients through which case management services are provided; Accompany clients on the students caseload and the caseload of SOT staff to medical, social service and other appointments in the community when appropriate; Contribute the creation of the HICNN resource database to support staff, interns and volunteers to make informed referrals for clients; Contribute to the development of training and group curriculum; Assist with the expansion of the Pro-Bono Network of Mental Health Providers; Assist in acquiring donations of material items.

For additional information, including how to apply, visit: [www.iiconn.org](http://www.iiconn.org)
**FOR MAJORS – IMPORTANT INFO**

**Major Requirements**
The individually tailored, interdisciplinary major in human rights studies consists of three core courses, two specialized electives, five general electives, and a senior thesis or project. No more than two courses may be double-counted towards another major or minor. Students must earn a minimum of C- in any given course to receive credit for the major. Declaration forms and instructions are available from the Human Rights Program director.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Senior project or thesis (one or two credits)—Majors must complete a one-credit senior project or thesis (HRST 497) or, to qualify for honors, a two-credit thesis/project. To receive honors in the major, students must earn at least an A- on the thesis and an A- average for all courses counted toward the major.

Please visit: Human Rights Major Requirements

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**FOR MINORS – IMPORTANT INFO**

**Minor Requirements**
The human rights minor provides an interdisciplinary overview of the key questions and concerns shaping the study of human rights. Students explore the complexities underlying civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, both in theory and practice. Drawing on a variety of perspectives and cases from around the world, including the United States, courses equip students to think comparatively and critically about a wide range of human rights issues. The minor consists of five courses (one introductory course, two core courses, two electives), and an integrating exercise. Courses must be drawn from at least three different disciplines, and students must earn a minimum of C- in any given course to receive credit for the minor.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Academic internship (1 credit) — The integrating exercise consists of a human rights internship, including an academic component. For detailed instructions, please contact the Human Rights Program director.

Please visit: Human Rights Minor Requirements

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**THE LAST DECADE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

2000: **ADOPTED:** Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict


2005: **ADOPTED:** Basic Principles & Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law

2006: **ADOPTED:** International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

2007: **ADOPTED:** UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly

2008: **ADOPTED:** First-ever resolution calling for a global moratorium of the use of the death penalty by the General Assembly

To see the full list, please visit: Amnesty International.

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**HUMAN RIGHTS COURSES: SPRING 2014**

HRST—125  Introduction to Human Rights

HRST—251 Marginalization and Migrations

INTS—307 Women’s Rights as Human Rights

THDN—373 Human Rights through Performance: Incarcerated

To see the full list of approved courses for the spring, click here.