Activating Our Partnership; Harnessing our Strengths: Collaborative Research Agenda Setting and Funder Engagement

Progress Report
Collaboration Ventures
Submitted by Dina Refki & Sarah Rogerson

This proposal is developed jointly by a team of faculty members from the University at Albany and Albany Law School, in response to the Collaboration Venture Request for Proposals. We are seeking to develop a prioritized human rights research agenda that addresses the interests, leverages the expertise and harnesses the strengths that exist in our two institutions. The agenda will provide a framework to guide our collective research efforts in the area of human rights, and facilitate joint research partnerships in both institutions. We also seek to cultivate and engage funders in supporting the research agenda by leveraging opportunities for in-person presentations on the agenda to selected funders, and by inviting their support in advancing the agenda. The project is consistent with the Collaboration Venture Fund’s goals of expanding joint research opportunities and tapping into external funding by providing a concrete road map for joint research efforts.

The project’s goal is to expand joint research and educational efforts that are undertaken collaboratively and that leverage our collective strengths and respective expertise. The objectives of the project are to (a) jointly develop and prioritize a research agenda in the area of human rights; and (b) engage selected number of funders and invite to support advancing the agenda.

Here are activities completed so far:

1. Released a Call for Research Ideas (Exhibit A).
2. Received 10 research ideas from UAlbany and Albany Law School faculty (Exhibit B).
3. Developed an evaluation Instrument (Exhibit C)
4. Attempted to schedule meetings all summer with the Steering Committee but received no response.
5. We matched faculty proposals that did not have Albany Law collaborations with faculty from UAlbany and encouraged submitters with intersecting interests to collaborate (Exhibits D and E)
6. Sarah Rogerson, Dina Refki and Bige Avci met, reviewed the submissions, selected finalists and communicated with the Steering Committee (Exhibit F)
7. Graduate students at the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society identified potential foundations whose priorities intersect with the goals of the submitted proposals.

Next Steps
1. Announcement of Finalists
2. Scheduling of visits with funders.
Dear Colleagues:

We invite you to participate in an exciting initiative called: Activating Our Partnership, Harnessing our Strengths: Setting a Collaborative Human Rights Research Agenda and Engaging Funders. The goal of the initiative is to expand research and educational efforts that are undertaken collaboratively by the University at Albany and Albany Law School, and so leverage our collective strengths and respective expertise.

The objectives of the project are to (a) engage faculty members of the University at Albany and Albany Law School to develop a research team/network on Human Rights; (b) jointly develop and prioritize a human rights research agenda; and (c) engage a selected number of funders to request support in advancing the agenda.

This Call for Research Ideas is the first stage in developing a research agenda that reflects our collective interests and areas of expertise in human rights. A Steering Committee of faculty from both institutions will review and prioritize the research ideas and will facilitate the engagement of funders.

What research ideas will be considered?

Research ideas that are deemed viable according to this call will include all efforts that lead to scholarship embedded in Boyer's (1990) definition. We invite ideas that advance the public interest and that are rooted not only in discovery, but in implementation, application, integration and teaching (Boyer, 1990)[1]. We
specifically invite ideas that are applied, action-based and participatory, and that propose advancing human rights in a concrete and innovative manner.

Who should submit ideas?
Faculty from the University at Albany and Albany Law School are encouraged to submit research ideas. We particularly invite joint submissions by interdisciplinary teams from both institutions. As space is limited, collaborative submissions will be given increased attention in the prioritization phase.

Why you should submit ideas?
Submitting an idea in response to this call may provide your idea with an opportunity to be presented to relevant funders and, ultimately, the possibility of receiving funding. The Steering Committee will review all submissions and invite a select group of those who have submitted proposals to participate in a retreat where research ideas will be prioritized. Those researchers whose proposals are seen as most likely to receive funding will be invited to travel with our core team to potential funders to discuss their ideas further.

What fields are of interest?
This is a call for human rights-related interdisciplinary research ideas that are both domestic and global. Fields include, but are not limited to: health, mental health, immigration, labor, education, environmental justice, violence against women, criminal justice reform, civil rights, housing, homeland security, cyber security and corporate responsibility.

How will ideas be evaluated?
Ideas will be evaluated based on their ability to advance the goals of this initiative, likelihood of receiving funding, urgency and ability to make a difference in the lives of people affected by the problem.
What should the submission include?

Response to this Call for Research Ideas should include the name of the person(s) submitting the idea, contact information and institutional affiliation, and the research idea. The idea should not exceed 250 words and should describe clearly the nature and extent of the problem, the reasons why it requires urgent attention, research questions, and outcomes. There is no limit on the number of ideas that can be submitted by one person/team.


Please submit your ideas no later than Monday, March 28, 2016 to:
Dina Refki & Sarah Rogerson
For further questions about this call, please email us at:
drefki@albany.edu and sroge@albanylaw.edu
or contact us at 518.442.5127 or 518.445.3246
Exhibit B
Research Proposals Submitted in Response to the Call

COLLABORATION VENTURES

Proposal 1: Unaccompanied Migrant Youth in New Destination Settings: An upstate assessment

Submitted by:
Joanna Dreby
Associate Professor of Sociology
University at Albany
In collaboration with:
Sarah Rogerson, Albany Law School and Dina Refki, Executive Director of CWGCS

Unaccompanied migrant youth are in the national spotlight. While there have long been minors arriving to the US without legal guardians, the numbers in DHS custody spiked ever since the summer of 2014. Legal scholars and practitioners have well documented the unique tensions between immigration law, children’s rights and child welfare in addressing the needs of this population. Yet a lack of systematic research makes it difficult for practitioners to develop appropriate interventions, particularly for those arriving to new destination settings outside of traditional immigration gateways like New York City.

We propose a collaborative project to develop a quantitative and ethnographic profile of the experiences of unaccompanied youth living in non-major metro areas. The collaboration will involve two related research endeavors.

First, we will develop a demographic profile of unaccompanied youth arriving in non-traditional destinations as compared to those arriving to metropolitan regions. We expect this will involve FOIA requests to DHS as researchers have found it difficult to obtain information on this population. Albany Law School will help prepare the FOIA requests while researchers at the University at Albany will prepare the demographic profile.

Second, we will develop an ethnographic profile of the post-release trajectories of unaccompanied youth upstate. We know from TRAC data that those with legal representation have vastly different resettlement and integration outcomes than do those without representation. Albany Law School will assist researchers at the University at Albany to identify a sample of youth with and without representation to follow over time as they navigate resettlement in new destination communities.

Proposal 2: A Culturally Responsive Re-entry Program For African American Males Post Incarceration

Irrespective of changes in sentencing guidelines and calls for reform in the judicial process, African Americans continue to be disproportionately represented within the judicial system (Pieterse, 2016). Moreover, given that the unemployment rate for Black Americans is much significantly higher than the general population, and the fact that unemployment is a significant
determinant of recidivism (Weiman, 2007), the need to attend to factors that impede employment for Black Americans post incarceration is urgently needed. As such the current proposal focuses on the development of a culturally responsive psychosocial intervention for African Americans post-incarceration. Although numerous reentry programs exist, few incorporate a specific focus on the impact of racism-related stress, and how the accompanying psychological trauma affects an individual’s ability to negotiate the reentry process. Furthermore, incorporating specific Afro-centric cultural elements within reentry programs has been posited to increase compliance and possibly reduce recidivism (Stepteau-Watson, Watson, & Lawrence, 2014). The current proposal therefore aims to employ a culturally responsive psychosocial intervention for African Americans post incarceration. The primary focus will be reentry to the work force, with specific elements including mental health (trauma and substance abuse), vocational counseling and career exploration, psycho-education and support groups focusing on urban stressors and anti-racism. Empirically supported strategies such as Motivational Interviewing, employment of Afro-centric models, and utilization of Participatory Action Research methodologies highlight the unique aspects of the current proposal. Potential collaborators include the Psychological Services Center (PSC) of the University at Albany – SUNY, the Center for Law and Justice, and Prison Families of New York.

References

Alex L. Pieterse, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Co-Director of Doctoral Training
Division of Counseling Psychology
University at Albany, State University of New York

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**Proposal 3: Reversing the Pipeline: A Holistic Program for Successful Transition out of Prison**

*Submitted by Karyn Loscocco, Department of Sociology kloscocco@albany.edu*

Reversing the Pipeline is a research-based initiative aimed at ensuring successful transitions from prison into stable employment. An interdisciplinary team of faculty and students will partner with Albany agencies to create programming responsive to client needs. The strategy is to 1) increase and improve the pool of job possibilities while 2) educating and supporting clients making the transition out of prison. Good jobs are essential to reintegration.
Research shows that employers are less likely to hire former inmates *even when they have the right credentials*, especially if they are black. Thus we gather data on attitudes and practices of local employers - educating them about inequalities and unconscious biases as needed. Research on the local job market ensures that skill building is pegged to good job possibilities. A mini “course” for those who were caught in the pipeline to prison is designed to improve self-confidence while providing skills and support. For example, we teach about social forces that led them to prison. We share common reasons employers give for passing people like them over - then prepare them to prove employers wrong. The course also introduces jobs they might not have considered.

Throughout the project we attend to how race-ethnicity, gender and class *combine* to create particular job opportunities and experiences, requiring different types of job preparation. To build a true partnership with clients and agencies, each step begins with a pilot to assess its usefulness.

We will follow a sample of participants over a two year period, documenting their experiences.

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**Proposal 4: Protecting the Rights of Health Consumers in Social Media**

Ricky Leung, PhD (SUNY-Albany School of Public Health)

**The problem**

Advent of Internet-based technology has called for a need to reconsider solutions that can protect health consumers when they obtain information online. While many health consumers now utilize social media to obtain information about health services and/or products—and use it to guide purchase decisions—there is no guarantee that the information obtained from social media is correct.

**Reasons why it need urgent attention**

Although existing laws and regulations such as the Consumer Bill of Rights have been adopted by health service and product suppliers, they have become obsolete to protect “Internet health consumers” adequately. For example, there is no clear guidelines how health product suppliers can use social media to market their products. Internet health consumers—as well as the society as a whole—can suffer from negative health outcomes and increased health burdens due to false information posted in social media platforms.

**Research Questions**

Several initial questions will direct our research:

1. On what basis do Internet health consumers use to evaluate information related to health in social media platforms?
2. When exchanging information in social media platforms, who may be beneficiaries and victims? Why?
3. How should policymakers revise existing laws/regulations to better protect Internet health consumers?

**Outcomes**

We plan to formulate an innovative conceptual framework to examine the above questions with empirical data. Hopefully the research can attract attention from a wide group of researchers (e.g. public health, business, communication), and lead to external grants from federal agencies or other grant foundations/organizations.
Proposal 5: Kinship Families

Submitted by:
Eunju Lee, Ph.D
School of Social Welfare
University at Albany, State University of New York
Phone: 518-442-5773
Email: elee@albany.edu

Gerard Wallace, Esq.
School of Social Welfare
University at Albany, State University of New York
Phone: 518-439-3066
Email: gwallace@albany.edu

Rose Mary Bailly, Esq.
Government Law Center
Albany Law School
Phone: 518-472-5858
Email: rbail@albanylaw.edu

Research Idea:

We propose an interdisciplinary project to promote the well-being and rights of kinship families, in furtherance of former Chief Judge Lippman's call for collaboration by lawyers and social workers.

Nationally, over 2.7 million children live with kin. Most have child welfare history but are not in foster care. In the recent NYS Kinship Navigator federal demonstration project, Wallace and Lee identified three critical needs of this group: training of child welfare agencies to provide appropriate services to kinship families; legal assistance for caregivers in custodial and child abuse/neglect proceedings; and general legal and social work assistance. Federal/state policy makers and family-focused foundations concerned with the well-being of poor and disproportionately minority children consider these needs critical to promoting kinship care as a better alternative to foster care.

The goal of this project is to develop educational tools to achieve that outcome: a child welfare agency training curriculum, including a manual and an assessment tool, to assist with placement options; a legal training curriculum for judges and attorneys; and a curriculum for a course offered jointly by the law school/school of social welfare. The project will also develop a handbook for pro se kin caregivers on custodial/guardianship and a model petition for custody/guardianship that can be completed online.

The team will work with child welfare, courts, academia, and the Kinship Navigator to promote these tools statewide and to track children's outcomes where utilized.

Alan Zemel
Department of Communication, University at Albany

Nicolas Bencherki
Department of Communication, University at Albany

Human rights are not just principles of conduct; they are discursive achievements produced through various communicative practices by which we constitute our conduct as meaningful. This can be seen in communications regarding the events of January 30, 2016, when three UAlbany students reported being victims of a racially motivated assault while riding a city bus going to campus. In response to the alleged assault, university administrators released a series of email announcements sent to the UAlbany community. The news media reported on these events and individuals turned to online discussion forums to present their views. These communicative interactions present an opportunity to examine how communities of interest discursively constituted the “bus incident” as a changing landscape of human rights concerns.

By examining emails from University officials, published news accounts of the “bus incident,” and postings to ‘reddit’ (“Racism Charges in Bus Incident”, 2016), we propose to (1) document the emergence of competing and complementary versions of events and (2) examine these texts for how various individual and institutional identities and human rights concerns are made mutually relevant. Text-based communications offer a number of advantages in the ways they (1) provide enduring histories of their own production, and (2) are designed to instruct recipients in how they are to be read, (cf. Livingston, 1995; Watson, 2009; Zemel & Cakir, 2009). In using these data, we can investigate how human rights are advanced in the ways that individual and institutional conduct are discursively constituted and negotiated as human rights phenomena.

References

Proposal 7: Response to the Call for Research Ideas: UAlbany and ALS

Ray Bromley, Professor, Department of Geography and Planning, University at Albany, SUNY, Arts & Sciences 224, 1400 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12222
rbromley@albany.edu  Deskphone 518-442-4766  Mobile 518-605-7585

“Research Idea”
I am interested in the interface between Human Rights and Animal Rights, viewed both internationally and cross-culturally. Under what circumstances may animals be slaughtered, starved, experimented upon, neutered, eaten by humans, or fed to other animals? How do laws on these issues compare between countries, how are they applied in multicultural societies where some groups abhor the practices of other groups, and how are they applied when animals are shipped between countries? What ethical principles may apply in farming, especially in the care and slaughter of mammals? Under what circumstances should a government deny employment to persons, or money-making opportunities to persons and corporations, in order to protect the rights of animals or to enforce taboos and religious prohibitions?
In 2017 I will develop a study of the status of cattle and buffalo in India, including differences by sex, age and species. India has over 300 million bovines, and “cow protection” is a very contentious issue, raising major problems of religion, caste, economic development, and the implementation and enforcement of official regulations. I am interested to compare with other countries and international campaigns, for example:
Why is photography illegal in CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) in many parts of the U.S.?
How significant and effective are the international campaigns against the eating of dog-meat in China, Korea and other East Asian countries, and horse-meat in various European and Asian countries?
How is the Islamic prohibition of eating pork managed in countries with significant non-Muslim minorities?

Proposal 8: Project: Privacy-preserving Digital Forensics

Data stored in cyber devices and repositories (e.g., email archives) are usually sensitive and protected in a rigorous fashion (e.g., Amendment IV, HIPAA). Such data might be restricted to access in civil litigations, criminal investigations, corporate internal investigations and auditing due to data owners’ unwillingness, corporate policies and/or federal/state laws. Forensically analyzing such data may compromise individual and corporate privacy, or even incriminate the forensic examiners. To benefit both the forensic investigators and the sensitive data owners (e.g., victims, witnesses, suspects), this project will develop a Privacy-preserving Digital Forensics (PDF) toolkit, which could privately (with extremely limited access to the data) collect, analyze and store digital evidence as well as privately maintain evidence integrity and chain of custody, in different contexts, such as criminal investigations, civil litigations and auditing. The PDF toolkit will be integrated into the major digital forensic tools, e.g., FTK, EnCase and ProDiscover.
The research outcome will have huge technological, judicial and social impacts. It could greatly support the judicial systems by protecting civil litigants, victims, witnesses, law enforcements and auditors, and help ensure justice by investigating and analyzing more sensitive data which
are not available for examination due to privacy concerns. Meanwhile, with the PDF toolkit, the scope of search and data access articulated on the warrant and subpoena can be relaxed or minimized for digital forensics. In addition, auditing can be privately conducted on more medical/financial data to detect frauds (without privacy concerns) and then reduce the current huge Medicare expenditure in the US.

**Principal Investigator:**
Dr. Yuan Hong, Assistant Professor in Digital Forensics

**Institutional Affiliation:**
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University at Albany, SUNY

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Business Building 316, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222
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Homepage: http://www.albany.edu/faculty/hong/
CV is available at: http://www.albany.edu/faculty/hong/yh_vita.pdf

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**Proposal 9: Human Rights Research Idea 1**

**Jennifer Burrell, PhD**
Department of Anthropology

**Human Rights, Technology Innovation and Big Data**

This is a multi-sited, ethnographic research project that includes researchers based in three countries (US, Canada and the UK). It will be the first anthropological investigation of the uses of big data and digital humanitarian crisis tracking tools for the deployment of knowledge about violence and impending crises. Historically, social activism and state responses to mass atrocities have been slow to mobilize. However, digital technologies programmed to maximize user patterns, such as cell phones for social media, computers for on-line petitions, and satellite imagery and other remote sensing technologies have produced the modalities to communicate messages almost immediately. These technologies have implications for how new forms of publics envision their roles at the intersection of data science, legitimate action, and social justice. Based in three counties—Nigeria (Abuja), Mexico (Mexico City) and the USA (New York and Washington, DC)—and undertaken by three sets of scholars, this study on the “human rights technology revolution” examines the ways that technological modalities are transforming international legal and humanitarian efforts and social justice initiatives. The project will document the production of data and its role in the formation of new institutions and emerging governance projects, including scientific labs and courts. The goal is to ask how data that is procured from a range of sites become evidence for pre-emptive action; and, to provide ethnographic data on how technology and big data are functioning in the spheres of human rights and social justice.
Proposal 10: Framing Nonconsensual Pornography as Violence Against Women: Legal Representations, Citizen Beliefs, and the Moderating Role of Structural Patriarchy

Cynthia J. Najdowski, Ph.D.¹

University at Albany, State University of New York

Technological advances have created new avenues for the perpetration of sexual violence against women, primarily by men. The widespread availability of cameras has made it easier to take covert recordings of women’s intimate areas, and, whether explicit images are recorded with or without women’s consent, growing internet access has facilitated the nonconsensual dissemination of those images. Yet, laws have not kept pace with technology, and victims typically have no avenue by which to seek justice. The desire for and success of legal reform might be driven by how nonconsensual pornography is framed within society. To explore this, I propose an analysis of existing state laws and court decisions in cases relating to the government’s ability to intervene in nonconsensual pornography cases. The analysis would examine the extent to which the issue is framed as violence against women and yield an index of responsiveness to nonconsensual pornography. I also propose a survey to gauge whether citizens frame nonconsensual pornography as gender-based violence and support criminalization of that behavior. I would explore how structural features of society interact with patriarchal attitudes, valuations of men’s versus women’s basic human rights, attributions, perceptions of responsibility, and moral outrage. Results would inform the psychological literature aimed at understanding when citizens believe behaviors should be sanctioned, the literature focused on understanding reactions to violence against women, and the broader field of feminist criminology. Results would also have real-world implications as they will inform and guide policymakers as they navigate this rapidly changing area of law.

¹ Cynthia J. Najdowski is an Assistant Professor in the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice. She can be contacted by email at cnajdowski@albany.edu; by phone at 518-591-8786; or by mail at 135 Western Avenue, Draper Hall 219, Albany, NY 12222.
Exhibit C
Collaboration Ventures: Setting a Human Rights Research Agenda

Please complete an assessment sheet for each research idea

Applicant’s Name: ____________________________  Rater’s Initials: ____________________________

Decision

☐ Strongly Recommend  ☐ Recommend
☐ Recommend with Modifications  ☐ Do Not Recommend

Please consider the following rating criteria when evaluating the research idea

- The research proposal engages (or has a strong potential to engage) faculty members at UAlbany and Albany Law School to work collaboratively on filling knowledge gaps and/or advancing implementation, application and integration of knowledge.

  1  2  3  4  5

   Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Do not Agree  Strongly Disagree

- The problem addressed in the proposal is clearly a human rights issue on a domestic and/or international level.

  1  2  3  4  5

   Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Do not Agree  Strongly Disagree

- The research proposal addresses a timely, relevant, urgent and important human rights area that has not been sufficiently addressed by previous research.

  1  2  3  4  5

   Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Do not Agree  Strongly Disagree

- The research proposal provides well-articulated research objectives and project design. Findings will make contributions to the research literature.

  1  2  3  4  5

   Strongly Agree  Agree  Neutral  Do not Agree  Strongly Disagree
• To the best of my knowledge, I believe there is a likelihood that funders/sponsors would be interested in advancing this human rights issue.
Exhibit D
Matching of UAlbany & Albany Law Faculty (Sample Emails)

From: Refki, Dina H
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 12:21 PM
To: Loscocco, Karyn <kloscocco@albany.edu>; 'AFarl@albany.law.edu' <AFarl@albany.law.edu>; Pieterse, Alex <apieterse@albany.edu>
Cc: sroge@albanylaw.edu; Avci, Bilge <bavci@albany.edu>
Subject: Collaboration Ventures

Dear Karen, Alex and Anthony:

Thank you Karen and Alex for submitting the proposal below in response to the Call for Research that we issued as part of the Collaboration Ventures.

Dear Karen & Alex:

We reviewed the proposals and realized how your vision and goals beautifully intersect. We wondered if you would be willing to join forces and strengthen your effort. The beneficiaries of your work will be further enriched from a collaborative and joint effort. We also wondered if you would be interested in expanding the team. We believe Anthony would bring so much strengths to the team. He is Distinguished professor of Jurisprudence at Albany Law. He is a renowned scholar in the area. http://www.albanylaw.edu/faculty/pages/faculty-listing.aspx?ind=Farley,%20Anthony%20Paul

Dear Anthony:

We wondered if you would be interested in joining the team. Karen is a Professor of Sociology at UAlbany http://www.albany.edu/sociology/Karyn-Loscocco.php and Alex is a Professor at the Division of Counseling Psychology. http://www.albany.edu/counseling_psych/apieterse.php.

We truly hope that you will all explore this possible collaboration and are confident that your partnership will conceive incredibly powerful outcomes. We have included the abstracts for the two proposals below.

At this point, we have completed the first stage of the review process. We are currently finalizing a list of possible foundations/sponsors who would be interested in supporting the human rights agenda developed through this effort. We will announce the finalists on Friday, September 9, 2016. Once finalists are announced, we will move forward with arranging visits with funders/sponsors to encourage their support in advancing the agenda.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have in the meantime. We wish you the best in forging a wonderful cross discipline, cross university collaboration.
Dear Colleagues:

It gives us pleasure to introduce you to each other.

- Antony Hayes: Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Information Systems; Assistant Professor, Albany Law School
- Christian Sundquist: Director of Faculty Research and Scholarship, Professor of Law, Albany Law School
- Yuan Hong: Assistant Professor in Digital Forensics, University at Albany
  http://www.albany.edu/faculty/hong/

We are making this introduction because we believe that you have interests that intersect, and you may wish to explore joining forces to advance your mutual interests.

Yuan submitted a research proposal in response to a call for research ideas we issued as part of the Collaboration Venture initiative. This initiative encourages collaboration between faculty members at the University at Albany and Albany Law School. The abstract is enclosed below. When the Committee reviewed the proposal, we thought of making an introduction and help you all explore the intersections you have and consider whether a collaboration on this and other projects would be of interest.

At this point, we have completed the first stage of the review process. We are currently finalizing a list of possible foundations/sponsors who would be interested in supporting the human rights agenda developed through this effort. We will announce the finalists on Friday, September 9, 2016. Once finalists are announced, we will move forward with arranging visits with funders/sponsors to encourage their support in advancing the agenda.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have in the meantime. We wish you the best in forging a wonderful cross discipline, cross university collaboration. Please keep us posted.

Dear Colleagues:

It gives us pleasure to introduce you to each other.

- Rob Heverly, Associate Professor of Law, Albany Law School
We are making this introduction because we believe that you have interests that intersect, and you may wish to explore joining forces to advance your mutual interests.

Leung submitted a research proposal in response to a call for research ideas we issued as part of the Collaboration Venture initiative. His proposal can be found at the end of this message. The Collaboration Venture initiative encourages collaboration between faculty members at the University at Albany and Albany Law School. When the Committee reviewed the proposal, we thought of making an introduction and help you all explore the intersections you have and consider whether a collaboration on this and other projects would be of interest – irrespective of whether this proposal is ultimately selected.

At this point, we have completed the first stage of the review process. We are currently finalizing a list of possible foundations/sponsors who would be interested in supporting the human rights agenda developed through this effort. We will announce the finalists on Friday, September 9, 2016. Once finalists are announced, we will move forward with arranging visits with funders/sponsors to encourage their support in advancing the agenda.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have in the meantime. We wish you the best in forging a wonderful cross discipline, cross university collaboration. Please keep us posted.
From: Refki, Dina H
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2016 12:44 PM
To: sroge@albanylaw.edu; Ingram, Matthew <mingram@albany.edu>; Alaei, Kamiar <kalaei@albany.edu>; Alaei, Arash <aalaei@albany.edu>; Peter Halewood <phalewood@gmail.com>; dyoun@albanylaw.edu; AFarl@albany.law.edu
Cc: Faerman, Sue R <sfaerman@albany.edu>; Avci, Bilge <bavci@albany.edu>
Subject: Collaboration Ventures

Dear Steering Committee Members:

Hope this message finds you well. In response to our Call for Human Rights Research Ideas, we received 10 ideas from a wide range of departments. We are attaching a document that compiles all ideas received.

Per our Collaboration Ventures proposal, we promised to review the proposals and create a human rights research agenda that we will then take to potential funders.

We are also attaching an evaluation instrument that will help you evaluate these ideas individually. We are hoping that you will be able to finalize this phase by June 10, when all semester-related demands are behind us.

We will then meet to discuss those ideas, refine them, formulate teams when none exist, and determine our funding cultivation plans.

Please let us know if this sounds like a good plan for you. Thank you so much.
Dear Steering Committee Members:

Hope this message finds you well and having a good start of the Fall semester.

Since we could not get a meeting scheduled with the Steering Committee members for the Collaboration Ventures effort, we, Sarah Rogerson, Dina Refki and Bilge Avci met to discuss the 10 research ideas that were submitted in response to the Call for Research Ideas. Attached are the Research ideas we received in response to the Call.

- First, to make sure that the proposals meet the standard of collaboration between Albany Law School and UAlbany, we identified partners for proposals that had only PIs from one institution. We emailed the PIs and the potential partners encouraging them to discuss their mutual interests and collaborate on the proposal.

- Second, we realized that two proposals target alleviating the problem of post incarceration re-entry and successful transitions out of prison, so we emailed the PIs encouraging them to collaborate on addressing the problem jointly.

- Third, we identified 3 proposals that met the following criteria:
  - The research proposal engages (or has a strong potential to engage) faculty members at UAlbany and Albany Law School to work collaboratively on filling knowledge gaps and/or advancing implementation, application and integration of knowledge.
  - The problem addressed in the proposal is clearly a human rights issue on a domestic and/or international level.
  - The research proposal addresses a timely, relevant, urgent and important human rights area that has not been sufficiently addressed by previous research.
  - The research proposal provides well-articulated research objectives and project design. Findings will make contributions to the research literature.
  - There is a likelihood that funders/sponsors would be interested in advancing this human rights issue.

  These proposals are:
  1. Culturally-Responsive Re-entry Program for African American Males Post Incarceration (in collaboration with) Revering the Pipeline: A Holistic Program for Successful Transition out of Prison
  2. Kinship Families
  3. Privacy-Preserving Digital Forensics

- We also identified 6 proposals that fell short of one or more of these criteria. These proposals are:

  1. Protecting the Rights of Health Consumers in Social Media
Another project was submitted by Joanna Derby, Sarah Rogerson and Dina Refki entitled: Unaccompanied Migrant Youth in New Destination Settings: An Upstate Assessment. We believe that it met the criteria identified above, but we did not feel in a position to make a decision on it because of the potential conflict of interest. As such, we would like the committee members to vote on whether or not to include it in the group of finalists – bringing the number up from three to four.

Next step in this process is the identification of funders sponsors and scheduling of visits to advance the agenda.

Please let us know your thoughts. Thanks so much.

Best,
Dina, Sarah & Bilge