

Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution

2018-2019 Report

Today's world is an unstable and uncertain place. The number of violent international conflicts is on the rise, and their consequences have a direct impact on Canada. Prospects for sustainable peace and development depend on improved capacities to make and build peace through effective mediation and other dispute resolution mechanisms.

Law has a role to play in this field, but its specific applications – and the associated necessary skills – are hardly taught or supported through opportunities for professional experience in context. The Neuberger-Jesin Professorship in International Conflict Resolution is unique in Canada in committing resources to help cultivate and equip a new generation of jurists to serve as international peacemakers and peacebuilders.

Through the vision and generosity of alumni Edie Neuberger ('81) and Norman Jesin ('81), the Faculty of Law is able to support young jurists who wish to make a difference by creating opportunities for them to gain relevant knowledge, skills, and experience. As the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor, my goal is to teach, shape, support, and inspire students, both in the classroom and in the field – where they may already make a difference.

Bringing the world to the classroom and the students to the world: the resources of the Neuberger-Jesin Professorship enable both rich educational development and practical effects. This adds enormous value for the students and other beneficiaries, such as external partners. In time, the cohorts will constitute a community of scholars and practitioners able to contribute better analyses, advice and assistance, and to pursue research and programs that improve the field itself while delivering benefits in specific situations. The use of law as an instrument for international peace and conflict resolution distinguishes this important work at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.

John Packer

Inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor



About Professor John Packer

In April 2018, Dean Adam Dodek appointed Professor John Packer, director of the Human Rights Education and Research Centre and an internationally recognized practitioner and scholar in the field, as the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor for a three-year term.

Professor Packer joined the Faculty of Law in 2014 from the United Nations where he was the constitutions and process design expert on the United Nation's Standby Team of Mediation Experts attached to the Department of Political Affairs. He brought 20 years' experience providing advice, counsel and assistance for scores of peace processes and political transitions around the world, with a focus on conflict prevention and resolution, diversity management, constitutional and legal reform, the protection of human rights and minorities, and international peace mediation. This included several years with the UN in Geneva for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Labour Organisation, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. From 1995 to 2004, he was senior legal adviser, and then the inaugural director, of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in The Hague, working across Central and Eastern Europe and throughout the former Soviet Union.

Professor Packer also previously held academic positions at the University of Essex, where he was director of the world-renowned Human Rights Centre, and at the Fletcher School, Tufts University. In addition, he held fellowships at Cambridge and Harvard, and has lectured at universities and professional institutions around the world.

Professor Packer sits on a number of boards and advisory bodies. In 2018-2019, in addition to his appointment as the Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution, Professor Packer received the following appointments:

- Named to the Council of Experts of the Democratic Progress Institute in London, England.
- Named Special Advisor on the Rohingya Crisis by Lloyd Axworthy, Chairman of the World Refugee Council (Summer 2018).
- Named to the advisory board of the Zurich-based Convivenza Foundation, dedicated to the international protection of minorities (Fall 2018).
- Named to the board of advisors of Genocide Watch, a Washington, DC-based NGO (Fall 2018).

Highlights

The inaugural year of the Neuberger-Jesin Professorship in International Conflict Resolution was highly productive in several areas, including student support, training and outreach. The remainder of this report presents the highlights of the 2018-2019 academic year. Among the many activities undertaken by Professor Packer, the following stand out as having defined the first year of the professorship:

- accompanying three students to overseas peace-making/peacebuilding, law-related activities (in Moldova, South Sudan, and the UN in Geneva).
- hosting an international symposium on the legal dimensions of the Rohingya genocide.
- hosting a public lecture by leading scholar-practitioner Dr. Andrea Bartoli.
- training 25 women peacemakers from 17 countries.
- contributing to upholding the international rule of law vis-à-vis the Rohingya genocide.

Teaching and student support

As the Neuberger-Jesin Professor, John Packer has made a point of attracting and engaging undergraduate and postgraduate students in his activities. In total, sixteen students from eight countries (and various levels of study – JD/LLM, LLM and PhD) benefitted from Professor Packer's support (see Appendix I for details):

- Three students conducted research under Professor Packer.
- Professor Packer supervised the theses of three doctoral students and six LLM students.
- He also supervised three directed research papers.

During the academic year, three of Professor Packer's students gained practical experience on the international scene:

- **October 1-3, 2018:** JD/LLL student Colin Sawatzky, who is fluent in Russian, accompanied Professor Packer to Chisinau, Moldova, for two-and-a-half days of meetings with Moldovan state institutions responsible for addressing issues and cases arising from inter-ethnic tensions, human rights (including minority rights), and good governance as a contribution to the prevention, management, or resolution of conflict within the country and beyond (see Appendix II for Colin Sawatzky's own published assessment).
- **November 28-30, 2018:** PhD candidate Jocelyn Kane accompanied Professor Packer to Geneva for the meetings of the 11th annual UN Forum on Minority Issues, which focused on the topic of statelessness, including as a cause or consequence of conflicts. In the margins of the formal conference, the two uOttawa scholars met with various victims, advocates, state authorities, international officials, and scholars.
- **May 20-24, 2019:** JD candidate Kate Cornish accompanied Professor Packer on a mission to Juba, South Sudan, to help conduct a seminar organized by the United Nations Mission to South Sudan on enhancing women's effective participation in the peace process.



Colin Sawatzky



John Packer and Jocelyn Kane



International staff of the Gender Unit and the Political Affairs Unit of the UN Mission in South Sudan, with Kate Cornish (left) and John Packer (right)

In addition to mentoring his own students at uOttawa, on November 14, 2018, Professor Packer welcomed to campus five young women leaders from conflict situations in Burma/Myanmar, Mexico, Nigeria, Syria, and Palestine/Israel at the request of the Nobel Women's Initiative. During this half-day seminar with the young leaders, he introduced them to international peace mediation concepts and encouraged their active participation and advocacy within their own contexts.

Speaking engagements and conferences

Due to his extensive expertise, Professor Packer has been highly solicited as a guest lecturer or speaker. During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Neuberger-Jesin Professor completed the following speaking engagements (please see Appendix III for details):

- Two days of lectures as a visiting professor for the Master of Advanced Studies of Mediation in Peace Processes program conducted through the Centre for Security Studies at ETH Zurich.
- Two days of lectures as a visiting professor at Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain.
- Speaker at 17 talks, panels, or conferences in 10 countries.

Symposium on the Legal Dimensions of the Rohingya Crisis

On August 25, 2018, Professor Packer hosted, with the support of students, the Symposium on the Legal Dimensions of the Rohingya Crisis. This event brought several international experts (notably from Canada and the United States) together with officials from Global Affairs Canada. The objective of the symposium was to reflect on the factual situation of the Rohingya crisis and to map its legal dimensions, with a view to contributing to an eventual strategy for international action, with upholding the international rules-based order as a key to conflict prevention and resolution. Among other benefits, the symposium clarified the significance and desirability of a prospective action to be brought before the International Court of Justice under the Genocide Convention.

Dr. Andrea Bartoli's public lecture

On April 24, 2019, Dr. Andrea Bartoli, dean of the Diplomatic Academy at Seton Hall University and renowned conflict resolution scholar-practitioner, delivered a public address entitled "Resolving Conflicts through Responsibility". His lecture drew on the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) initiative, which focuses on the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity and aspires to a global "Community of Commitment".

Taking advantage of Dr. Bartoli's presence in Ottawa, the Neuberger-Jesin Professor hosted an expert meeting on the Integrated Peace Building (IPB) initiative at the Faculty of Law. The meeting was led by Professor Vern Redekop (formerly of St. Paul University) and was attended by various scholars and practitioners, including from Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces. This event built on earlier meetings that elaborated elements of the IPB framework, notably the addition of "law" and a broader "normative" dimension as a distinct element for subsequent activities, including peace process design, training, advice, etc. The IPB framework has been shared and piloted in part, notably, with regard to the conflict on the Korean peninsula through the efforts of counterparts from George Mason University's renowned School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution.

Training

Immediately upon his appointment in April 2018, and building on his long and international engagement in gender and conflict work, Professor Packer contacted the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) for Women's Rights, Peace and Security and the global Women, Peace and Security (WPS) networks to help advance the more effective inclusion of women in peace-making and peace-building, and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace and conflict studies, and related activities.

To this end, from July 16-21, 2018, the Neuberger-Jesin Professor hosted on campus the inaugural Executive Seminar and Certification Course on Inclusive and Gender-Sensitive Mediation, bringing together 25 women peacemakers, from 17 countries, who have been on the frontlines of peacemaking, both nationally and in their communities. The week incorporated engagements with Global Affairs Canada and the Parliament of Canada, notably with the support of leading women senators headed by Mobina Jaffer, Canada's former Special Envoy to Sudan (see Appendix IV for an article published on the subject in the University of Ottawa *Gazette*).

Other noteworthy contributions to training included:

- **June 25, 2018:** contributed sessions to the 2018 UNITAR-IPI Fellowship Program in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy held outside Oslo, Norway – a renowned program of professional training for UN staff and senior officials of diplomatic missions and inter-governmental organizations.
- **September 6-7, 2018:** contributed sessions on “Preventive Diplomacy” and “Inclusive Peace Processes” at an inaugural training course held at the Turkish Diplomatic Academy in Ankara, for diplomatic representatives from ten countries that are members of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC). These sessions were given at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and on behalf of the OIC.
- **September 13, 2018:** contributed to the training of United Nations and other international staff on “Gender Dimensions of International Mediation” at the UN in New York, at the invitation of the UN.
- **February 27, 2019:** contributed a morning “Overview of International Mediation” as part of a two-day briefing of Canadian diplomats, held at the Canadian Foreign Service Institute in Gatineau, Quebec for a workshop entitled “Mediation: Formal and informal diplomacy in political or armed conflict situations”. This session was given at the invitation of Global Affairs Canada.

Professional practice

Aside from general contributions to policy developments and occasional contributions to challenges of practice (e.g. arising through Professor Packer’s global professional network), the following four engagements drew focused attention.

- In July 2018, Professor Packer was appointed by the Commonwealth Secretary-General to join the Commonwealth Observer Mission for the historic post-Mugabe elections in Zimbabwe. Professor Packer was specifically and uniquely selected to join the prestigious team led by the former president of Ghana as the team’s “conflict resolution expert” in light of anticipated election-related violence and potential for conflict – which became manifest in the immediate post-election period and has since persisted (see Appendix V for an article on the subject published on the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section webpage).



Commonwealth election observers Janet Love, from the Electoral Commission of South Africa, Sylvia Tamale, professor at the Makerere University Law School, and John Packer

- Professor Packer was invited by the United Nations to contribute his advice concerning the process of holding and concluding the South Sudan National Dialogue – notably with regard to improving the inclusiveness of the process (in particular of women and of political opposition) and of deciding upon an appropriate and effective means of conclusion that would ensure that the eventual outcomes would be incorporated within, and sustained by, the wider peace process.
- On October 1-3, 2018, Professor Packer visited Chisinau, Moldova, to meet with officials from government agencies and regional inter-governmental organizations to discuss and advance the effective protection of national minorities and ensure good governance as a contribution to conflict prevention and resolution.
- Throughout the year, Professor Packer actively engaged in efforts to address the ongoing Rohingya crisis and genocide. These activities include:
 - numerous diplomatic meetings, notably with ambassadors to Canada from affected or otherwise interested countries, such as Bangladesh, Turkey, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway.
 - organizing and hosting meetings of practitioners, scholars, victims’ representatives and others.
 - mobilizing political and legal action including judicial recourses and, simultaneously, political dialogues.
 - visiting refugees and sharing views regarding available courses of action. A notable example was a visit to Dhaka and the camps near Cox’s Bazar from July 7 to 12, 2018, pursuant to an invitation from the Government of Bangladesh. During this visit, Professor Packer met with the Foreign Minister and the Speaker of Parliament.
 - commenting in the popular media.



Nurul Islam, noted Rohingya elder, lawyer and founder of the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation, John Packer, Dr. Maung Zarni, leading Burman dissident, Michimi Muranushi, Japanese scholar on genocide, Michael Charney, Burma scholar at SOAS, University of London, and their guide.

Testimonies, comments and publications

On November 7, 2018, at the invitation of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights of the Parliament of Canada, Professor Packer presented his “Remarks Regarding the Rohingya Genocide” which the Committee referred to in its eventual report.

Professor Packer has also initiated and maintained numerous public outreach and media engagements since taking up the professorship, including television and print-media interviews in Canada (CTV, *Radio-Canada*, *Globe and Mail*), Turkey (*Anadolu and YeniSafak*) and Bangladesh (*Prothom Alo*). Selected contributions include:

- “Need more proof of genocide in Myanmar? It’s being born right now”, op-ed in the National Post, May 29, 2018.
- “Time for int’l community to come forward for Rohingyas”, Prothom Alo (English online), July 13, 2018.
- “Decisive Action is Overdue to Protect the Rohingyas”, CIPS blog, 15 September 2018.
- “Genocide is an act of state, and demands a response by other states”, OpenGlobalRights blog, 24 April 2019.

In December 2018, the Zurich-based Foundation Convivenza published Professor Packer’s contribution “Approaches to Minorities in Comparative Constitutional Law and the Management of Diversity in Europe” in D. Thürer & R. Blindenbacher (eds.), *Embracing Differences - A Commitment for Minorities and Managing Diversity*, pp. 119-134.

Throughout the year, Professor Packer maintained his editorial roles for the following scholarly journals: the *Human Rights Law Journal* (Berlin: NP Engel), the *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights* (The Hague: Brill), *European Yearbook on Minorities Issues* (The Hague: Brill), and the *Canadian Yearbook of Human Rights* (Ottawa: HRREC-uOttawa).

Finally, Professor Packer maintains a Twitter account as the Neuberger-Jesin Professor (https://twitter.com/JP_Peacemaking).

Ongoing priorities for the 2019-2020 academic year

During his second year as the Neuberger-Jesin Professor, John Packer is focusing his efforts on:

- Developing a social media presence.
- Introducing a cornerstone course for upper year JD students.
- Hosting a high-profile speaker.
- Enriching the student experience by accompanying and placing more students in the field (for which some opportunities have been identified and are available, such as with UNITAR in Geneva and in a situational context vis-à-vis the Rohingya in Thailand).
- Convening follow-up symposia on previous topics.
- Maintaining or increasing media contributions.
- Attracting additional postgraduate students and tailoring a program that could fill an existing gap in Canada.

APPENDIX I – STUDENTS UNDER THE NEUBERGER-JESIN PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Applied Research

- Anne-Lise Bloch [Canada] (JD-L1) conducted research into the international legal standard of non-refoulement as a principle and as applied to the situation of the Rohingya (who have sought refuge in Bangladesh from their native Myanmar, but who face the ongoing risk of forcible repatriation – “refoulement”) which is a source of tension and prospective international conflict between Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- Urooj Zaman [Canada] (JD-L1) conducted research into UN Security Council references to, and content expressed or implied by, “transitions” or “political transitions” within resolutions adopted in the past ten years to be applied both in general, for peace-making or peace-building and, specifically, vis-à-vis the situations in South Sudan and Yemen.
- Aboubacar Dakuyo [Burkina Faso] (doctoral candidate in Law) conducted research comparing the Agreement for South Sudan adopted in 2015 with the Revised Agreement adopted in 2018 to identify textual and substantive changes with a view to informing the peace process in that country. Aboubacar’s doctoral thesis addresses transitional justice in the case of South Sudan – a matter that is intimately bound up in the fragile peace process and a matter on which Professor Packer has advised the UN.

Supervisions (relating directly or indirectly to the professorship)

Doctoral

- Veaceslav Balan [Moldova], “The Human Rights Based Approach to Development at the International, National and Local Levels” (commenced Fall 2018).
- Abu Saleh [Bangladesh], “The International Protection of the Rohingya and Accountability for Atrocity Crimes Against Them” (commenced Winter 2019).
- Agnes Barr-Klouman [Canada/Norway], “On the intersections between international law, space, and power vis-à-vis territory and sovereignty/authority” (member of her thesis committee; supervised by Professor Elizabeth Judge).

LLM

- Ebenezer Orumwense [Nigeria], “Non-Compliance to International Humanitarian Law Standards: The ‘War’ Against Boko Haram” (supervised through academic year; successfully completed May 2019).
- Victoria Antkowiak [France], Les limites du statut juridique des forces de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies, dans le respect du droit international humanitaire et de la protection internationale des droits de l’homme, lors de leur déploiement en cas de crise internationale (supervised through academic year; successfully completed September 2019).
- Astrid Akakpo [France], L’efficacité et la mise en oeuvre du droit international de la santé, du droit à l’intégrité physique et du Droit International envers les femmes victimes de violences sexuelles constitutives de crimes internationaux (Étude de Cas du Soudan du Sud) (supervised through academic year; successfully completed September 2019).
- Hortense Arany [France], “The Cultural Rights of the Rohingya” (supervised through academic year; in progress with completion expected December 2019).

- Suckchain Singh [India], “Is the Persecution of the Rohingya in Myanmar a Threat to International Peace and Security?” (supervised through academic year; in progress with completion expected Spring 2020).
- Murray Snider [Canada], “The Fragmented Approach to Cultural Property in International Law and the Failure of Treaties Surrounding its Protection and Trade” (supervised through year; in progress [part-time] with completion expected Spring 2020).

Directed Research Papers (JDs, LLL and LLM)

- Kate Cornish [Canada], “Women’s Participation in the South Sudan National Dialogue” (supervised spring 2019; in progress with completion expected Fall 2019).
- Dahlia James [Canada], “The Case of the Rohingya under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” (supervised spring 2019; completed October 2019).
- Colin Sawatzky [Canada] (JD/LLL – National Programme), La Constitution moldave et l’autonomie gagaouze (successfully completed Spring 2019).
- Murray Snider [Canada] (LLM), “The Protection of Cultural Property in Periods of Armed Conflict and the Interrelationship Between International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law” (successfully completed Spring 2019).

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

- Urooj Zaman [Canada] (JD–1L), “Seeking Solutions to the Rohingya Genocide” (successfully completed and presented Spring 2019); under this program, the student benefited from a \$1,000 bursary.

APPENDIX II – COLIN SAWATZKY, JD/LLL 2019, REFLECTS ON VISIT TO MOLDOVA, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE NEUBERGER-JESIN PROFESSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In October 2018, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to accompany John Packer, director of the University of Ottawa’s Human Rights Research and Education Centre, to Chişinău – capital of the Republic of Moldova – to assist and participate in an OSCE-supported training course to improve the effective protection of national minority rights. Moldova has faced challenges since independence and struggles with social issues that impede its economic development. One of these challenges is tension between national minority groups and the central government. The training course was a much-needed way to encourage and help equip the responsible authorities to achieve full respect for minority rights and further social harmony and cohesion.

Sandwiched between Ukraine and Romania, Moldova contains two distinct entities that have a contentious relationship with the central authorities – one is de-facto independent Transnistria in the east and the other is ethnically Turkic Gagauzia in the south, which operates with some autonomy. Having previously researched these two regions for my MA thesis, it was a wonderful opportunity to finally visit the country and see first-hand the situation and dynamics on the ground. I was also able to accompany OSCE officials to Gagauzia and participate in a conference on issues regarding the autonomy arrangement with the Moldovan central government, where I witnessed visible tensions and realized the importance of conflict prevention and reconciliation.

It was invaluable to meet and speak with the participants and understand what problems exist with the constitutional arrangement, in order to solve them and allow all Moldovan residents to enjoy their rights and participate fully in society without conflict. Constitutional design is an important part of conflict prevention/ resolution and in protecting rights of national minorities. Improving the relationship between Gagauzia and the central government would also encourage settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and help Moldova to move forward economically, as it remains one of the poorest countries in Europe.

I am incorporating these and other findings into a major paper under Director Packer’s supervision as part of my JD/LLL degree. The insight gained from this trip allowed me to apply my knowledge and interests to a real and pressing situation, and overall was a wonderful experience. I was able to meet many different local actors and hear from them directly about the situation, and the contacts established are a huge benefit to both my academic research and career aspirations in international law.

Colin Sawatzky

JD/LLL 2019

APPENDIX III – SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS DETAILS

- On June 1, 2018, at the invitation of the National Assembly of the French Republic, Professor Packer chaired and contributed to a panel on applicable international law as part of “An International Conference on the Situations of Rohingya People in Myanmar and Bangladesh”.
- On June 14, 2018, at the invitation of the World Refugee Council, Professor Packer addressed the “Workshop on Massive Displacements in Ongoing Conflicts: Myanmar and South Sudan” held at the International Peace Institute in New York.
- On June 30, 2018, at the request of the Hon Lloyd Axworthy and HE George Papandreou (former Prime Minister of Greece), Professor Packer addressed the World Refugee Council meeting held in Rhodes, Greece, with a principal address entitled “Reflections on Massive Displacements: The Case of the Rohingya”.
- On August 22-24, 2018, Professor Packer delivered a lecture entitled “Towards a Possible Right to Decentralisation and a Duty to Accommodate Legal Diversity” as part of the bi-annual conference of the global Commission on Legal Pluralism, held at the University of Ottawa, and he contributed to the attendant symposium for 40 doctoral candidates from around the world.
- On September 7-8, 2018, Professor Packer contributed to the conference entitled “Renewing Rights in Times of Transition: Celebrating 70 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, the Annual Conference of the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI), held at the University of Edinburgh.
- On October 17-18, 2018, at the invitation of UN Women, Professor Packer contributed to a conference entitled “Realizing the Rights of Roma Women in Ukraine”, held in Kyiv, Ukraine, coupled with informal meetings to discuss how improvements in the realization of women’s human rights can contribute to improved inter-ethnic relations and peace and stability in Ukraine (and elsewhere).
- On October 26, 2018, at the invitation of Canada Research Chair Professor Ito Ping of the Munk School at the University of Toronto, Professor Packer delivered the opening keynote address, entitled “Some Reflections on the Human Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers: Problems and Prospects” for the concluding conference of the SSHRC-funded partnership on Gender, Migration and the Work of Care.
- On October 29-30, 2018, Professor Packer was invited to deliver two days of lectures as a visiting professor on the topics of “International Peace Mediation”, “Norms in International Peace Mediation”, and “Peace Process Design” for the innovative professional program “Masters of Advanced Studies of Mediation in Peace Processes”, conducted through the Centre for Security Studies at ETH Zurich (the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich – ranked sixth best university in the world by the QS World University Rankings, and second in Europe behind Oxford University).
- On November 19, 2018, at the invitation of the Canadian International Council, Professor Packer contributed to a panel on “The Rohingya Crisis: Options for Canadian Foreign Policy” held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, located in Winnipeg.
- On November 22-23, 2018, at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry of Poland, Professor Packer addressed the 7th Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy on “Innovative Approaches to Conflict Prevention”.

- On November 29, 2018, at the invitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Professor Packer contributed to a session on “Root Causes of Statelessness” of the 11th UN Forum on Minority Issues, held at the UN in Geneva with over 600 participants from around the world, on the topic of statelessness and notably the problematical security-related aspects (as epitomized by the long persistent case of the Rohingyas – the world’s largest de facto stateless population).
- On December 3-4, 2018, Professor Packer was invited to deliver two days of lectures as a visiting professor, and to conduct student performance evaluations, on the topic of “International Peace Mediation” for final year students of the highly regarded International Relations program at Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain (ranked the second-best private university in Spain).
- On December 7-8, 2018, at the request of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Professor Packer contributed to the conference on “Self-Determination and Conflict Prevention and Resolution” held at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University.
- On December 18, 2018, at the invitation of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Professor Packer contributed to and addressed a day-long expert consultation on the situation in Myanmar regarding democratization, the peace process and related issues.
- On January 29, 2019, Professor Packer addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Ukrainian National Federation of Canada (UNFC – Ottawa-Gatineau Branch); he was invited to recount his experiences and insights on his contributions in the 1990s to mid-2000s with regard notably to negotiation and adoption of the first post-Soviet Constitution of Ukraine (1996) and of the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (1998).
- On February 8, 2019, Professor Packer addressed “The International Conference on Protection and Accountability in Burma” held at Barnard College, Columbia University, with a speech entitled “Using the Genocide Convention as an Instrument of Effective Protection and Justice”.
- On April 8-9, 2019, at the invitation of the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and the Alliance of Iraqi Minorities Network, Professor Packer contributed to the conference on “Inclusive Citizenship through Education” held in Erbil, Iraq, as a contribution to peace and stability in northern Iraq (notably under the Kurdish Regional Government) and the wider region.

APPENDIX IV – WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS CONVENE AT UOTTAWA

Posted on Friday, August 3, 2018

By Kelly Haggart

During a tranquil summer week on the uOttawa campus, 25 remarkable women worked with their usual energy and passion on bringing peace to the world's most conflict-ravaged places. They had overcome hurdles to make the trip from two dozen countries, including Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Colombia and South Sudan.

The women were taking part in a trail-blazing seminar and certificate course on gendered and inclusive mediation offered for the first time by the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). The event was hosted by uOttawa's Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the invitation of director John Packer and funded by the Canadian government.



Women Peacebuilders

Experts at peacemaking

From July 16 to 21, the peacebuilders shared experiences, learned how to engage even more effectively in peace processes and firmed up their global support network.

"This is a unique group of extremely courageous women," said Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, co-founder and executive director of ICAN. "They have negotiated with the Taliban and with extremists. They have mediated ceasefires.

"On the frontlines of local conflicts, women are taking care of children and providing humanitarian assistance — they know intimately what is going on. These women are not experts at making war, but they are the experts at making peace.

"It is essential that women are around the table when peace is being negotiated — it is their future being decided. Being violent shouldn't be the only ticket to the talks."

Promoting women's participation

Packer, the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution in the Faculty of Law, observed that peace processes typically exclude women and their perspectives, which undermines the likelihood of a lasting peace.

ICAN cites research showing that peace is 54% more durable when women are involved in negotiating it. As part of its Better Peace Initiative, the group has developed a how-to guide aimed at promoting women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution.

“Women peacemakers in conflict situations do one of the most dangerous jobs in the world,” Packer said. “These women are bucking social norms to be involved — and this is life-threatening stuff. The men have militias or other forms of support. But many of these women have no protection whatsoever and often become the targets of radical groups.”

‘An amazing opportunity’

For participants, the course was a rare chance to gather with peers engaged in similar struggles and to enrich their knowledge of a “gold standard” of peace process practice. Graduate students who took part as note-takers “had an amazing opportunity to hear first-person accounts of things they otherwise would just have read about,” Packer said. (He is now co-creating a law course on international conflict resolution with Professor Ellen Zweibel, to be offered in summer 2019.)

Packer noted the value of the ICAN gathering for Ottawa-based NGOs and desk officers at Global Affairs Canada, who met the women on the margins of the workshop. The women also visited Parliament at the invitation of Senator Mobina Jaffer, chair of the ICAN board. She extols this pioneering global network of women peacebuilders: “We could write books about every woman. It is an honour just to be able to observe what they do.”

APPENDIX V - NEUBERGER-JESIN PROFESSOR JOHN PACKER PARTICIPATES IN HISTORIC COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP FOR ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS

Posted on Monday, August 20, 2018

Neuberger-Jesin Professor John Packer visited Zimbabwe for two-and-a-half weeks in July-August as one of only two Canadian members of The Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) for Zimbabwe’s historic post-Mugabe general elections.

Zimbabwe withdrew from the Commonwealth in 2003, but in 2018 it expressed an interest in re-joining the association, and requested that the Commonwealth observe its general elections, which took place on July 30. The Commonwealth Secretary-General created a 24-member team of observers, led by John Dramani Mahama, the former president of Ghana. The observation group’s report on the elections will contribute to the Secretary-General’s informal assessment of whether Zimbabwe should be re-admitted to the Commonwealth.

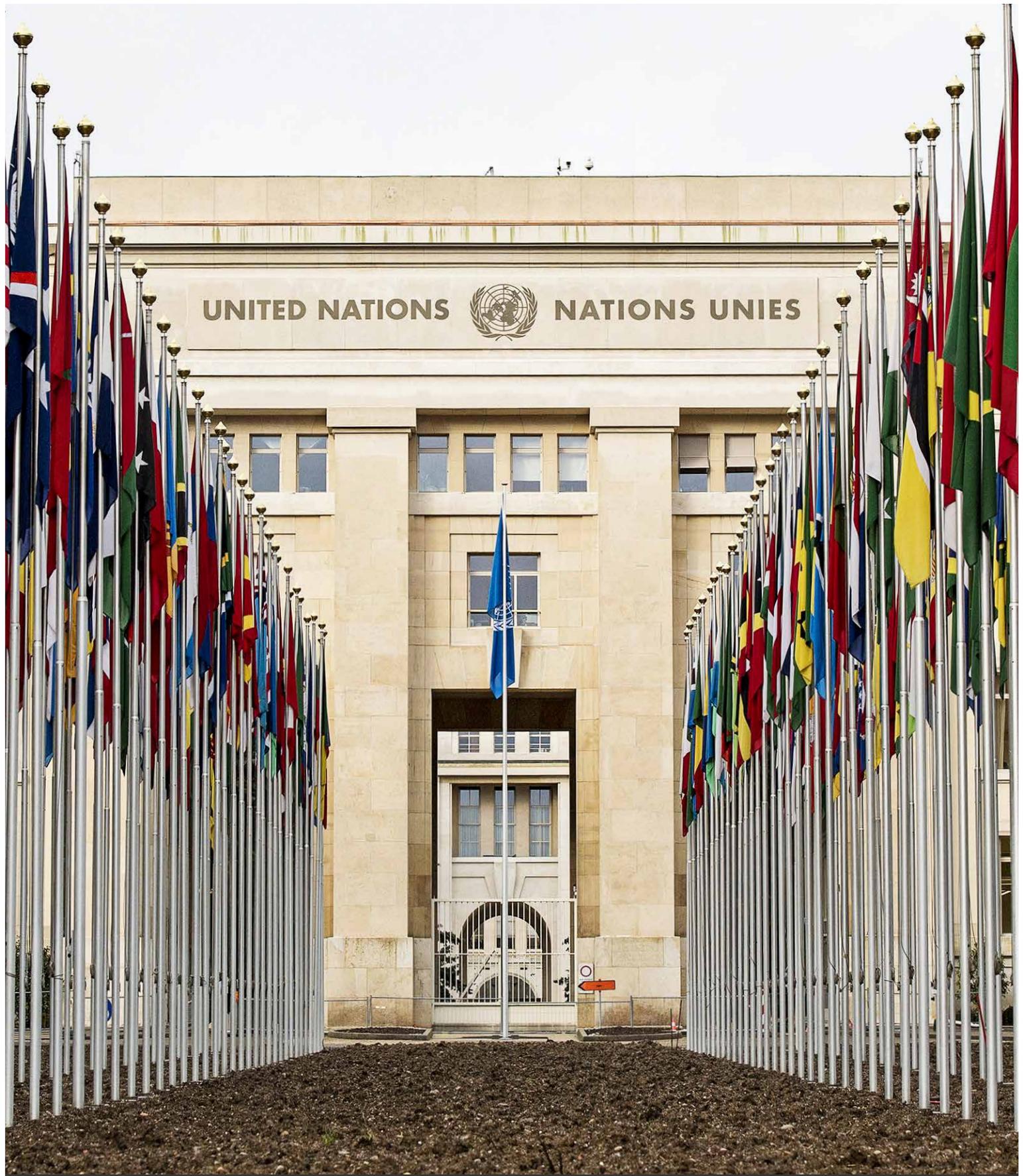
Professor Packer was invited to join the observer group because of his considerable expertise in international conflict resolution. Earlier this year he was appointed as the inaugural Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution at the University of Ottawa, a professorship created thanks to a generous gift by spouses Edie Neuberger and Norm Jesin, who attended the Faculty of Law, Common Law Section together and graduated in 1981.

The results of Zimbabwe’s elections were announced on August 2. However, the result of the presidential election (in favour of incumbent interim-President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who succeeded Robert Mugabe in November of 2017 after the latter’s turbulent forced resignation) has been contested by challenger Nelson Chamisa with the matter now before Zimbabwe’s Constitutional Court.



John Packer with election officers in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

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