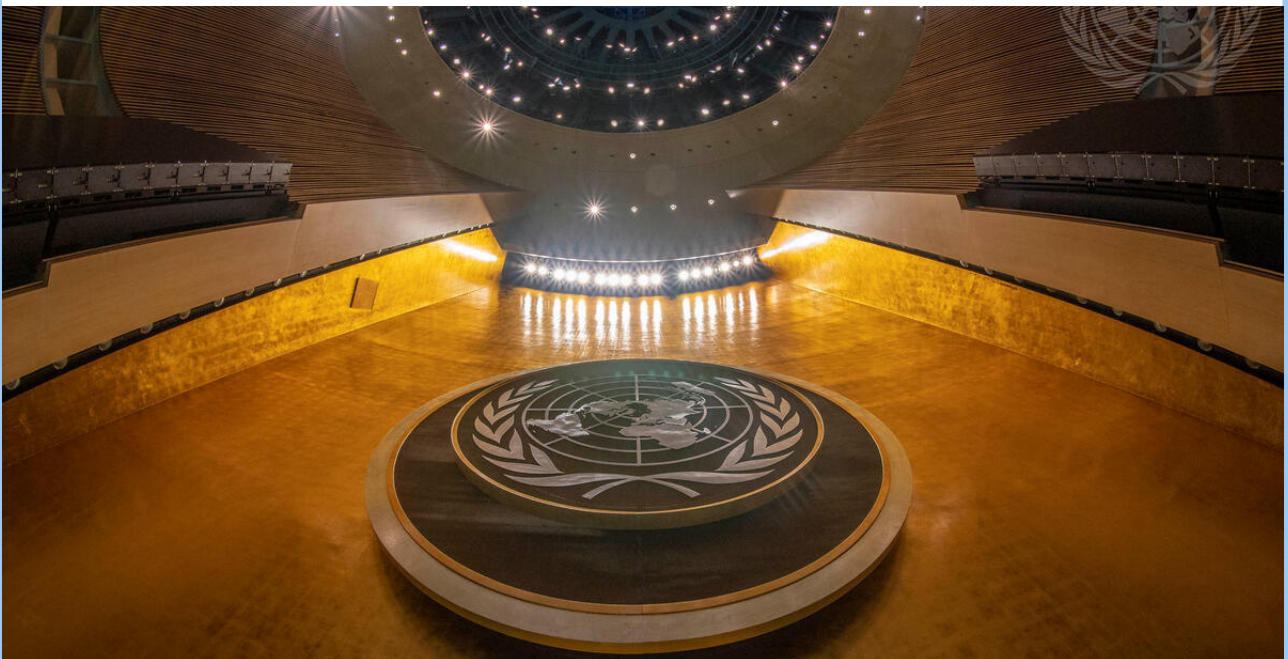


G-18 BRIEFING III

KAHANE OXY-AT-THE-UN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

ALL IN FAVOR TO ADJOURN? :(



CONTENT:

Opening

*Concluding
Class
Thoughts*

*Student
Impressions:
Meet the
Final Few*

*Community
Building
Events*

LOGGING OUT...

Last Monday morning meetings with our teams, final log-ins to our internship email addresses, and teary digital Zoom goodbyes filled our December as our internships and classes came to a close. Before we begin our preparation for our final semester, we are so excited to share with you this final edition of the G-18 Briefing. In it, we'll wrap up our coursework, giving some insight into our concluding class meetings and thoughts, introduce you to the remaining members of our incredible cohort, and shine a spotlight on a few community-building events. We hope you've enjoyed following us on this journey, and look forward to hearing from you next time as full-fledged Oxy-at-the-UN alumni (on and off LinkedIn!).

Above: A detailed view of the General Assembly Hall. Courtesy of UN Photo/Cia Pak



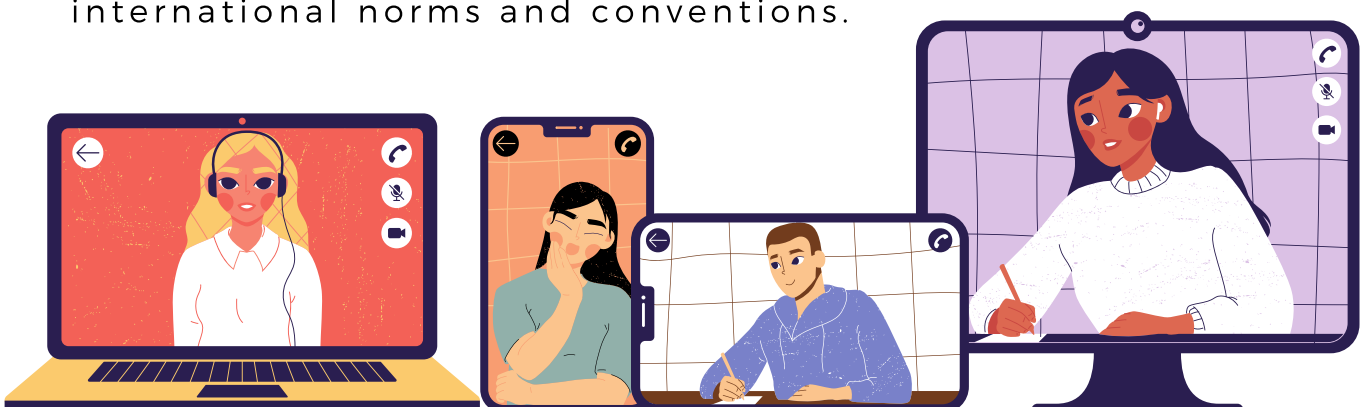
CLASS CONCLUSIONS & WRAP UP

DWA 401: (PROF. ROTHSCHILD) HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE UN: UNUSUAL ENTRY POINTS



The last few classes of Professor Rothschild's course included a deeper synthesis of everything we had covered in class thus far: exploration of the human rights system, as well as the attacks on the Human Rights Council (HRC), Special Rapporteurs, and especially activists and civil society organizations who make change happen on the ground. We've also analyzed some of the UN Member States' attacks on the human rights framework, and we've discussed the withdrawal of the US from the HRC. We've also analyzed the US' Commission on Unalienable Human Rights (2019) which attempted to create a hierarchy between human rights.

In a similar vein, we continued to examine the ways "sexuality" and "gender" are often sites where human rights are contested. One class examined how various religious fundamentalisms, with footholds in the UN system, twist the language of rights and use it in a discriminatory way against groups of people based on ideas about their gender or sexuality. Finally, we've looked at the examples illustrating that change indeed comes bottom-up: from grassroots organizing around the globe, to changes in local and national legislature, and then finally to change in international norms and conventions.





CLASS CONCLUSIONS & WRAP UP CONT.

DWA 402: (PROF. FOMERAND) THE UNITED NATIONS & CONFLICT PREVENTION



The final classes of Professor Fomerand's course added systemic prevention (how to utilize the web of international treaties and laws to guard against violence) to our previous discussions on operational and structural prevention. Using this lens, we looked at three topics: climate change and (over)population, transnational organized crime, and, but of course, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, we were challenged to analyze what connections we see among the various factors that lead to and exacerbate these issues as well as their threat to and ramifications on international peace and security. Additionally, we applied our understanding of UN siloing and (failed) multilateralism to consider the short and long-term impacts of these issues and how we saw them play out every day during our various internship sites.

Before a sad farewell over Zoom, Prof. Fomerand shared with us an important quote that we'll leave here for you to digest and think on:

"I offer the blunt assertion that the United Nations has no purposes -and can have none - of its own. It is, above all, a tool, and, like other tools, it has possibilities and limitations, but not purposes...Its members have purposes, changing and sometimes conflicting, that they would have it to serve, as have also its Secretary-General and other secretariat officials" - Inis Claude the Changing United Nations. NY: Random House 1968, p. xvii

Note from Jacques: Claude was wrong on only one point. We would have today a broader definition of what he had in mind with the term "members"...



MEET THE FINAL FEW MEMBERS OF THE COHORT



AMY KANG

Hi, This semester, I worked for the SDG Integration team at UNDP as a policy research intern. My biggest project was providing support for the first publication of “Impact of Covid-19 on the SDGs,” helping identify gaps in the report and gathering quantitative data. I am thrilled that this study reached a wide audience, and I hope that policymakers and country offices take the findings into consideration when moving forward with their post-pandemic recovery plans.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

Read Amy's Report Here:

[Impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs](#)



OLIVIA SHINNERS

Hello! My name is Olivia Shinnars and I am currently interning with UNDP's HIV, Health and Development (HHD) team. I have been supporting the launch of the COVID-19 Law Lab, a repository of laws that countries have implemented in response to the pandemic. The database is envisaged as a tool for analysis to ensure that laws protect the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, and that they adhere to international human rights standards. It has been critical to use lessons learned from the HIV pandemic to inform coronavirus pandemic responses, and I am thrilled to work with a team committed to this initiative!





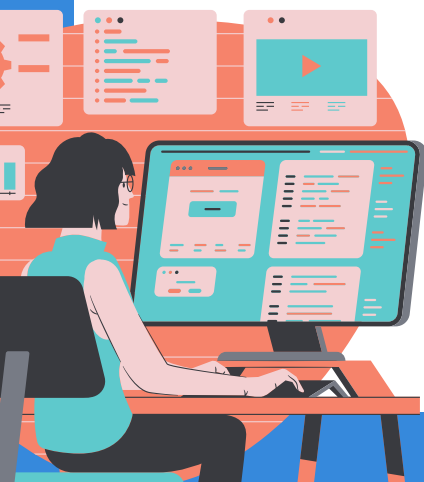
ASHLEY AULESTIA

Hi! My name is Ashley Aulestia and I work for the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica. As an intern in the legal committee, I've been the point person for multiple resolution negotiations regarding the COVID-19 Special Session, Peacebuilding Architecture Review, and Sustainable Fisheries and the Law of the Sea. Beyond the Sixth Committee, I've covered Security Council meetings, informal consultations, and Group of Friends meetings. This experience has exposed me to so much! I feel I have a solid understanding of different country positions on certain issues, I'm comfortable with the UN lingo, and I've rediscovered the art of patience as there are so so many steps that must occur before achieving a substantive outcome. I hope to finish my internship strong and am excited for the opportunities to come.



EMMA HARWOOD

Hello everyone! My name is Emma Harwood and I am a Diplomacy and World Affairs Major interning with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. My day to day responsibilities mainly include attending meetings and preparing brief reports tailored to UNHCR's interests. I have monitored meetings all over the UN system around topics relating to climate change, global refugee crises, and conflict prevention, among other key issues. I have also contributed to long-term projects, such as a comprehensive summary of the Third Committee in its 75th session and an analytical database of UN peacekeeping and special political missions. What I find to be most fascinating about my experience interning at UNHCR is the ways in which it has altered and expanded my career trajectory. As someone who was primarily interested in researching refugee crises in the Middle East and North Africa, interning at a global agency has allowed me to to develop new interests that complement my existing ones.

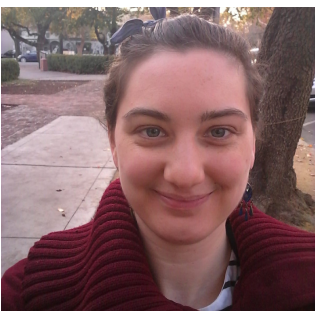


MEET THE GUATEMALA MISSION INTERNS



DARLA CHAVEZ CHAVEZ

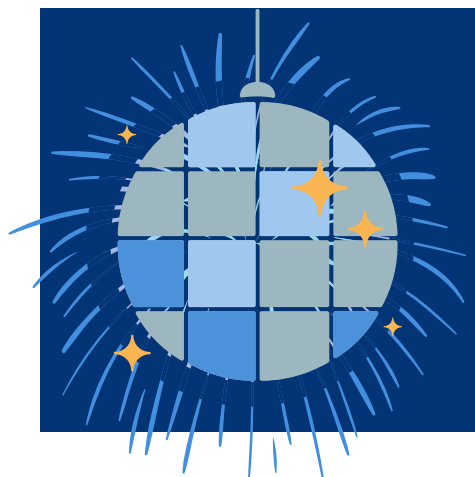
Hi there! This past semester I interned for the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the UN. My work centered around the UN's Third Committee, which focuses on human rights and social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. I was able to sit in on Third Committee meetings, and analyze as well as report on the different stances of countries in regard to different issues. I also wrote reports on the information provided by special rapporteurs on issues such as migration and the impact of COVID-19 on human rights around the world. Getting to better understand the inner workings of the UN was very fascinating, especially after having learned about the UN throughout my academic journey at Oxy. I am excited to see how this experience will inform my future professional endeavors.



MADISON TAGGART

Hi, my name is Madison! I interned for the Guatemala Mission to the UN with a focus on the Peacebuilding Commission and the General Assembly's 4th Committee which deals with decolonization and special political matters. While I have learned that the three pillars of the UN are intertwined, my particular area of interest remains peace and conflict. I am looking forward to using what I have learned about the UN in the future and perhaps even work for the UN one day.

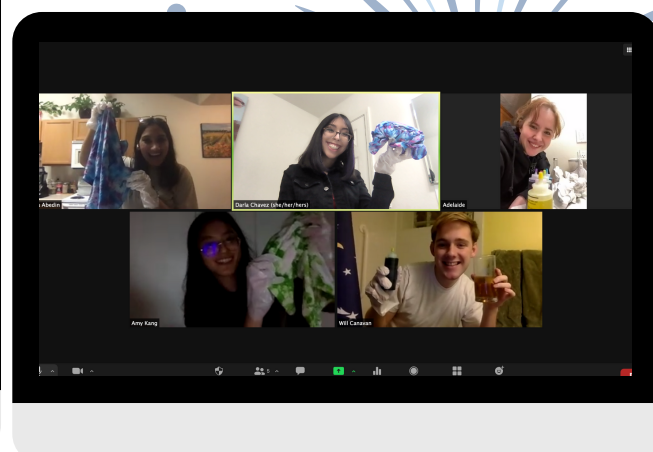
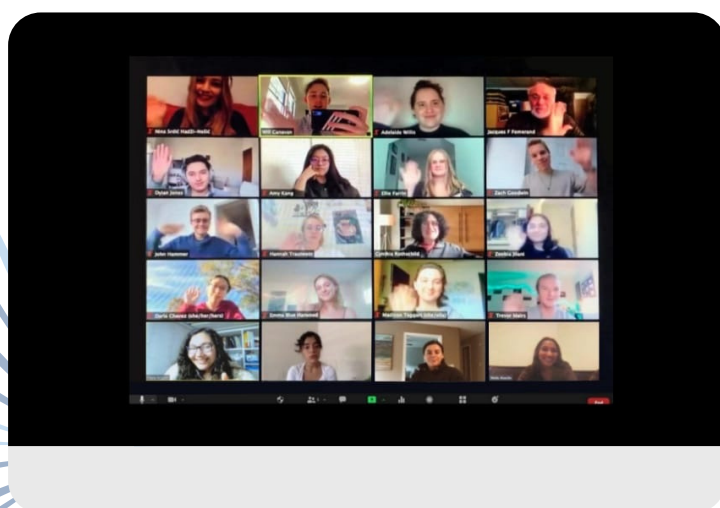




LAST BUT NOT LEAST, COHORT WRAP UP!



Throughout the UN semester, the G-18 definitely worked hard. During the semester we found ways to connect remotely, to share experiences and ideas, and to support one another. With this in mind, in order to celebrate the wrap up of the program, we decided to do a tie-dye event and a wrap-up party! Getting to personalize our shirts was a fun way to let our creativity shine through. We also showcased our new designs in our last class, which was a fun twist to our usual outfits. During our wrap up party, we were able to reflect on all that we accomplished throughout the semester and got to discuss what we hope for this upcoming semester. Although the UN program may be over, our time as the G-18 will forever be in our memories!



Final Thoughts:

Overall, this has been a wonderful, challenging semester through which we gained a lot of knowledge we will use for years to come! Thank you for following along and don't hesitate to reach out to any one of us if you have any questions! We're happy to help the next cohort thrive :)

Thanks for Reading! Don't forget to follow us on Instagram @OxyattheUN