The Human Right to Science

Project Description

Introduction: The human right to science is articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Professor Mikel Mancisidor, Vice Chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, is drafting a General Comment on the human right to science. The General Comment, which the CESCR Committee is expected to adopt in 2020, will elaborate on this right that will reduce discrimination in learning and doing science, promote access to science, prevent harm from science, and promote international cooperation among scientists. This General Comment may fundamentally change how individuals learn about science, pursue scientific educations, and how scientists do research and disseminate their findings.

Purposes: The project will achieve three purposes: (1) hold an on-campus public panel organized to foster student learning and education; (2) welcome visiting scholars who will address issues related to teaching and learning; and (3) hold inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations to create student learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment.

The proposed project will hold a public panel on the human right to science, which will consist of Professor Mancisidor, Dr. France A. Córdova, and Dr. Rush Holt. Professor Mancisidor is the author of the draft UN General Comment on the Human Right to Science. Dr. Córdova is the Director of the National Science Foundation, the U.S. government agency that supports fundamental research and education in all fields of science and engineering. Dr. Holt is the CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), an international non-profit organization that seeks to advance science globally and promote scientific education.

This public panel will offer learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment by hosting a discussion of how the human right to science will potentially shape landscapes of doing science and science education, as well as raise questions for scientists, policy makers, and laypeople about the future. One objective of the panel is to identify ways the human right to science can foster student learning and education through reducing discrimination and promoting collaborations. Members of this panel will discuss how the human right to science will reach these objectives, as well as what other factors are necessary to success. All university members will be welcome to this public panel. Time will be provided for Questions and Answers. This panel will be recorded, then posted online to disseminate publicly information about how the human right to science can foster student learning and education.

On day two, the proposed project will hold a working conference where Professor Mancisidor will address issues related to teaching and learning arising from the human right to science. To this working conference will be invited experts from across the University’s academic units whose scholarship intersects with education, learning, science, and human rights. This working conference will prompt inter- and trans-disciplinary discussions about the human right to science and its benefits as participants provide input into the General Comment and identify research and education opportunities the human right to science presents.

On days three and four, a series of workshops will foster inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations that create student learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment. These meetings will be held to “workshop” the General Comment with groups of graduate and undergraduate students. These workshops, which will transcend traditional classroom experiences, will offer opportunities for students to gain hands-on experiences of learning how their educations can shape international laws and advance human rights.

Rationale: The rationale of the project is composed of three parts. First, as mentioned, the human right to science is a potential game changer. Second, the time is right to hold this project. The CESCR is expected to publish its General Comment on the human right to science in 2020. Third, Case Western Reserve University is the perfect university to hold this project. The University has a long history of scholarship devoted to learning, education, science, and human rights. Members of the Case Western Reserve community can have powerful impacts on the General Comment and implementation of the human right to science. All human rights, especially the human right to science, benefit from multiple disciplinary
perspectives. Our University possesses strengths across all disciplines, from engineering and technology to humanities to natural sciences and mathematics to social sciences to the professions. A key example is the CWRU Science and Human Rights Coalition (SHRC; Bill Lenart is founder and Director), the first graduate student-led and run coalition in the United States that focuses on science and human rights. SHRC members will play key roles in planning and facilitating the project.

Project’s scope: The scope of the project consists of a public panel, a working conference, and two workshops. In addition, participants will enjoy opportunities to share ideas and insights over meals.

Why a grant?: This project is requesting a Nord grant for three reasons. With Nord support, this project has potential to influence educations, careers, and lives of students who may go on to shape laws, policies, and practices surrounding education and learning of generations to come. Second, the project seeks to encourage inter- and trans-disciplinary scholarship that fosters innovative learning. Third, Sociology Department support is not available.

Impacts on students’ learning: The proposed project will have three impacts on students’ learning. First, the various events of the proposed project will raise questions students should consider as future leaders of their professions. Over their careers, Case Western Reserve students can employ what they have learned about human rights in general and the human right to science in particular to foster policy change locally, nationally, and globally. Students will have the chance to learn how their education and learning experiences can reduce discrimination, promote collaborations, and prevent harms arising from science. Second, the project will offer opportunities to learn from visiting scholars. Professor Mancisidor, Dr. Córdova, and Dr. Holt all possess inter- and trans-disciplinary perspectives of teaching and learning. Professor Mancisidor has directed the Basque region’s UNESCO office and is a law professor who teaches courses for the University of Bilbao and American University. In addition to directing the largest and probably most important funder of scientific research in the United States, Dr. Córdova is former President of Purdue University. Before becoming the AAAS CEO, Dr. Holt was a U.S. Representative, and before that, a physicist at Swarthmore College and Princeton University. These visiting scholars will offer insights into the importance of individual disciplines as well as inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations to scholarship and public policy. Because faculty members and students from across the University’s academic units will be invited to the working conference and workshops, the proposed project will foster inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations to create student learning opportunities beyond classroom environments. Third, arising from this project will be potential creation of research communities among faculty and students. During the workshops, opinions of participants will be solicited regarding creation of research communities around various aspects of the General Comment and the human right to science. In addition, the SHRC is endeavoring to reach out to graduate students based at other Ohio universities, then eventually universities across the university, about research on science and human rights. Our University offers fertile ground to scholarship on the human right to science.

Professional impacts: General Comment: Since March 2016, I have informally advised Professor Mancisidor on the General Comment on the human right to science. Indicators: I am writing an article for submission to Science that describes indicators of the human right to science and why they matter to the CESCR’s work. The Human Right to Science: With Mark Frezzo I am writing a book entitled, The Human Right to Science. New projects: I am a contributor to three research projects that intersect science and human rights. The human right to science is featured in the International Survey of Human Rights (ISHR), which I co-direct. I am part of the Engineering Research Center for Human Fusions Initiative, and I am a co-investigator of a project that seeks to comprehend how the human right to science can benefit individuals with spinal cord injury.

Metrics and data collection: A direct measurement will be a survey administered to audience members of the public panel. Downloads of the recorded public panel will be monitored through a global mapping mechanism. Input into the General Comment during the working conference and workshops will be recorded.

Department Contact: Michelle Rizzuto. Michelle.Rizzuto@Case.Edu; 216 368 2700.
Nord Grant Proposal  
Budget, including possible cost sharing  
Title: The Human Right to Science  
Brian Gran  
Department of Sociology/College of Arts and Sciences

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Honoraria for Guest Speakers (3 @ $1000): Area experts in educational sociology, and qualitative research methodology</td>
<td>$3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flights (Google Flights)</td>
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<td>Hotel accommodations (Marriott, Euclid and Cornell)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
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<td>AV and recording of public panel (via MediaVision)</td>
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<td>Social Justice Institute</td>
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<td>Cox International Law Center, Law School</td>
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<td>ACES + Distinguished Lectureship Program</td>
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Previous Nord grant received by Gran: “Strengthening Sociological Research through Methodological Innovations and Integration.” 2016. $5000.

Brian Gran,  
Dale Dannefer, Sociology Department Chair,

1 The persons listed have reviewed these expenditures.
April 23, 2019

Matthew Garrett, Director  
Case Western Reserve University  
University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education  
Allen Memorial Medical Library Building, Room 101  
11000 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44106-7025

Dear Professor Garrett:

I write in enthusiastic support of Professor Brian Gran’s application for funding to support a four-day project on The Human Right to Science, which will involve hosting prominent scientific and legal leaders, including Dr. Rush Holt, CEO of AAAS, Dr. France Cordova, Director of NSF, and Professor Mikel Mancisidor, who is Vice Chair of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The planned schedule and timetable for the conference look reasonable. The Department of Sociology unfortunately has no discretionary funds available to support this project.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted, 

Dale Dannefer  
Selah Chamberlain Professor of Sociology  
Chair of the Department of Sociology
BRIAN K. GRAN  
(Q): 216 368 2694  (E): Brian.Gran@Case.Edu  (T): @ScienceRights

POSITION  
Professor  
Case Western Reserve University, Department of Sociology  
Case Western Reserve University, School of Law  
Case Western Reserve University, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences

COURSES (selected)  
Sociology of Human Rights (SOCI 357/457).  
Children’s Rights, Social Policy, and Law (SOCI 355/455; course number to be added)  
Sociology of Law (SOCI 360/460)  
Health Policy (SOCI 365/465)  
Law and Society (SOCI 250)

PUBLICATIONS (selected)  
-Frezzo, M., & Gran, B. *The Human Right to Science*. Under contract with Anthem Press.  
-“The Human Right to Science.” In preparation for *Science*.  

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (selected)  

FUNDED RESEARCH (selected)  

HONORS AND AWARDS (selected)  
Chair, UNCRC Policy Center. 2017-present.  
Mentor Fellow, UCITE. 2011.  
Learning Fellow, UCITE. 2009.  
Glennan Fellow, UCITE. 2007.

OFFICES (selected)  
*American Association for the Advancement of Science*  
Member, Steering Committee, Science and Human Rights Program. 2013-2018.  
Member, Council, Science and Human Rights Program. 2011-2018.
April 23, 2019

Brian Gran, PhD.
Department of Sociology
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Dr. Gran,

I am writing this letter in strong support of your proposal “The Human Right to Science” and am happy to provide funding in the amount of $2,000 through the ACES+ Distinguished Lectureship program.

The purpose of the Distinguished Lectureship fund is to provide support for senior women or underrepresented minority faculty to visit the Case Western Reserve University campus and share their expertise with the university community. Professor Mikel Mancisidor’s qualifications make him an excellent candidate to share knowledge with faculty, staff and students at CWRU and to increase women and underrepresented minority participation in academia.

I am pleased to see your emphasis on supporting diversity through the proposed lectures directed towards students of law, engineering and the social sciences as well as the scheduled meeting with university administrators and faculty. I commend you for coordinating such an exemplary set of lectures and look forward to working with you to support this project.

Sincerely,

Sarah de Swart
Director
Office of Faculty Development
April 23, 2019

Dr. Brian Gran  
Bill Lenart  
Case Western Reserve University 
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Brian and Bill,

On behalf of the Social Justice Institute Leadership Collective, I am pleased to announce a $500 sponsorship for the visit of Mikel Mancisidor. His work with the United Nations and developing the Human Right to Science General Comment is critical and we are pleased to support his time at Case Western Reserve University.

Please let us know how else we can connect him with our social justice scholars and the community members with whom we work. I am also happy to help with logistical or marketing support as needed.

Thank you for this exciting opportunity to collaborate!

Lisa Kollins, Administrator
April 23, 2019

Matthew Garrett
Director
Case Western Reserve University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education
Allen Memorial Medical Library Building, Room 101
11000 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106-7025

Dear Director Garrett:

I write to provide this letter of support of Brian Gran’s application to the Nord Grant program. Gran’s project on the human right to science will empower people to learn through a public panel, working conference, and workshops on the human right to science. This project will directly benefit student learning through hosting visiting scholars who will address teaching and learning issues surrounding the human right to science. The project will foster research communities among faculty members and students interested in education, learning, science, and human rights. The project will stimulate inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations that encourage student learning opportunities beyond the classroom environment.

The Frederick K. Cox International Law Center pledges $1000 to support the project Gran is pursuing with support of the Nord Grant program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Michael P. Scharf
Dean, School of Law
Case Western Reserve University