

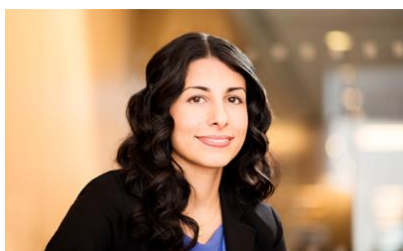
## Reparations under International Law for Enslavement of African Persons in the Americas and the Caribbean

### Speaker Biographies



**E. Tendayi Achiume** is Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law, and a Research Associate with the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of Witwatersrand, and the Refugee Studies Center at Oxford University. She currently serves as the fifth United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the first woman to serve in this role since its creation in 1993. Professor Achiume's current research focuses on understanding international law's relationship to the problem of racism and xenophobia, and on studying the global and regional governance of these issues. She has supervised litigation before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, petitioned the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, published an international human rights report on racial and gender discrimination against incarcerated women, and provided legal and advocacy support to human rights NGOs all over the world (including some operating in the African Human Rights system), and to community-based organizations.

**Humberto Adami** is President of the National Commission for the Truth of Black Slavery of the Federal Council of the Brazilian Bar Association. He is also a former Vice President of the Brazilian Bar Association's National Commission for Racial Equality. Mr. Adami holds a law degree from the University of Brasília and a master's degree in law from the State University of Rio de Janeiro. His practice has included work combating racism before the Federal Supreme Court of Brazil. Mr. Adami is a Partner at Adami Advogados Associates, and Member of the Superior Council, and Professor at the Zumbi dos Palmares University since 2001. He is a former President of ABAA Associação Brasileira de Advogados Environmentalists and Former President of IARA—Racial and Environmental Advocacy Institute, where he also currently serves as legal director.



**Catherine Amirfar** is President of the American Society of International Law (ASIL). She is also a litigation partner in the International Dispute Resolution Group and Co-Chair of the Public International Law Group at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. Her practice focuses on international commercial and treaty arbitration, international and complex commercial litigation and public international law. Prior to rejoining Debevoise in 2016, Ms. Amirfar spent two years as the Counselor on International Law to the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Amirfar received the State Department's Superior Honor Award in recognition of her contributions to the Department. Ms. Amirfar was elected President of ASIL in 2020 and served as Vice President from 2016-2018. She is co-host of the ASIL podcast *International Law Behind the Headlines*, and currently is a member of the American Law Institute, the Council on Foreign Relations, the State Department's Advisory Council on International Law, and the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. She also serves as Co-Chair of the ICCA-ASIL Task Force on Damages in International Arbitration.

**Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** is the eighth Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, and a leading economic and social historian. Before assuming office as Vice-Chancellor in 2015, he served the university as Professor of Economic History, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, and Principal of its Cave Hill Campus in Barbados for thirteen years. Among other appointments and honours, Sir Hilary has served as an advisor to UNESCO's Cities for Peace Global Program, an advisor to the UN World Culture Report, a consultant for the UNESCO Cities for Peace Global Programme, and an Editor of the ninth volume of UNESCO's *The General History of Africa*. In 2013, Sir Hilary was selected by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to be the inaugural Chair of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, which coordinates the Caribbean governments' policy positions on the global reparatory justice conversation, and globally promotes reparations for native genocide, African enslavement and colonization. Under his guidance, the Centre for Reparations Research at The UWI was established to lead the implementation of CARICOM's Reparatory Justice Programme. His many publications include *Britain's Black Debt: Reparations for Slavery and Native Genocide in the Caribbean* (UWI Press, 2015), *Centering Woman: Gender Discourses in Caribbean Slave Societies* (James Currey Press/Ian Randle Publishers, 1999), *Natural Rebels: A Social History of Enslaved Black Women in Barbados and the Caribbean* (Rutgers University Press/Zed Book, 1989), and *White Servitude and Black Slavery: White Indentured Servitude in the Caribbean, 1627–1715* (Tennessee University Press, 1989).



**Michel Erpelding** is a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law, where he previously worked as a Research Fellow (2015–17) and a Senior Research Fellow (2017–20). He holds a PhD from Sorbonne Law School (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne). His doctoral thesis, which won several awards and was published in 2017, addresses the International Anti-Slavery Law of 'Civilized Nations' (1815–1945). Based on a systematic survey of 19th and early 20th century treaties and legislation (both domestic and colonial), it shows how Western powers tried to use the notion of 'civilization' and the public/private divide to condemn slavery while legitimising forced labour, but ultimately failed to uphold this distinction. Dr. Erpelding's current research project focuses on historical international courts and tribunals, especially in the late 19th century and during the interwar period, and on their impact on the emergence of the international judge as a guarantor of individual rights in post- WWII international law.

**Claudio Grossman** is a Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at American University Washington College of Law. He is a Member of United Nations International Law Commission (2017–2022) and President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (2016– ) In 2019, Grossman was elected as an Associate Member of L'Institut de Droit International. He was Member (2003–2015) and Chairperson (2008–2015) of the United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT), and a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights from 1994-2001 where he served as its President for two terms. Grossman's career includes extensive litigation experience presenting or deciding landmark cases in the Inter-American system and the UN Committee Against Torture, concerning disappearances, discrimination, rights of indigenous populations, scope of reparations owed to victims, and so forth. In 2016, Grossman served as both Agent and Co-Agent for Chile in cases before the International Court of Justice. Grossman presented a proposal to the ILC on reparations for human rights violations that was incorporated in the Long-Term program of that body and proposed and shared the working group of CAT that adopted its General Comment 3 on reparations.





**Mamadou Hébié** is Associate Professor of International Law at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden Law School. He holds a PhD (*summa cum laude, avec les félicitations du jury*), and a Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Relations - Specialization international law, from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. He also graduated from Harvard Law School and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and is a recipient of the Diplomas of The Hague Academy of International Law and the International Institute of Human Rights. Mamadou's PhD thesis on '*Les accords conclus entre les puissances coloniales et les entités politiques locales comme moyens d'acquisition de la souveraineté territoriale* (Paris : PUF, 2015)' was awarded in 2016 the Paul Guggenheim Prize in International Law. From 2013 to 2016, he was Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), in the Master's in International Dispute Settlement programme (MIDS), and from 2018 to 2021, Special Assistant to the President of the International Court of Justice.

**Charles C. Jalloh** is a Professor of Law at Florida International University and founding editor of the *African Journal of Legal Studies* and the *African Journal of International Criminal Justice*. A member of the United Nations International Law Commission, where he was Chair of the Drafting Committee (70th session) and Rapporteur (71st session), he has published widely on issues of international law. Jalloh has won several research awards, including the FIU Top Scholar Award (2015), the FIU Senate Faculty Award for Excellence in Research (2018) and the Fulbright Lund University Distinguished Chair in Public International Law at Lund university and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden. He holds a B.A. from the University of Guelph, LL.B and B.C.L degrees from McGill University, Canada, a Master's in International Human Rights Law from the University of Oxford, where he was a Chevening Scholar, and a Ph.D. in International Law, from the University of Amsterdam.



**Jeremy Levitt** is a Distinguished Professor of International Law at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, one of the leading public historically Black university (HBCU) in the United States. Dr. Levitt formerly served as associate dean for international programs and founding director of the Center for International Law and Justice. He is the author and editor of six books and numerous scholarly works. In 2012, he served as the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Human Rights and Social Justice at the Human Rights Research and Education Center (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa. In 2009–2010, Louise Arbour, former UN High Commission for Human Rights nominated Dr. Levitt to serve as Head of the International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of the Republic of Liberia (TRC), and he was appointed by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Africa's first elected female president. In 2005, he was a visiting fellow at the Lauterpacht Center for International Law at Cambridge University. Dr. Levitt is an elected member of the American Law Institute and the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law.



**Gay McDougall** is Senior Fellow and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice / Center for Race, Law and Justice at Fordham University School of Law. She is a former Vice Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minorities. For decades, Professor McDougall's work has focused on the fault-lines of race, gender and economic exploitation in the American context and in countries around the world. Among other positions, she was executive director of Global Rights, which worked with human rights advocates in 10 countries around the world to develop their strategies for justice. Prior to that she played a special role in securing the release of thousands of political prisoners in South Africa and Namibia. She was then appointed to the electoral commission that in 1994 ran the first democratic elections in South Africa that ended apartheid and installed Nelson Mandela as president. Professor McDougall was a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Award for her work in pursuit of global human rights, and in 2015 the Government of South Africa bestowed on her their national medal of honor for non-citizens, the Order of O.R.Tambo Medal for her extraordinary contributions to ending apartheid.



**Parvathi Menon** is doctoral student at the Erik Castren Institute at the University of Helsinki, and is currently writing a thesis titled "Protective Empire of Law: A History of International Law's Humanitarian-Authoritarian Alliance." Her fields of study include public international law, history of international law, legal theory, and international criminal law, and her prior publications include "Edmund Burke and the Ambivalence of Protection for Slaves: Between Humanity and Control," *Journal of the History of International Law* (Oct. 2020), and "The Procrustean Bed of Colonial Laws: A Case of the British Empire in India," *International Law and Litigation: A Look into Procedure* (June 2019). Ms. Menon teaches

international criminal law at the University of Helsinki and has previously taught international law and legal theory at the University of The Gambia and the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, India, and also worked as a researcher at the Max Planck Institute in Luxembourg. She is an alumna of Harvard Law School, the London School of Economics, and Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

**Eric J. Miller** is Professor and Leo J. O'Brien Fellow at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, California. He has been involved in the legal battle to obtain reparations for African Americans for twenty years. In 2001, Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. appointed Professor Miller to the Reparations Coordinating Committee, where he took a leading role in drafting the complaint in the pathbreaking federal reparations lawsuit on behalf of the survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, *Alexander v. State of Oklahoma*. Professor Miller is currently a member of Lawyers for Justice for Greenwood, and again took a lead role in drafting a reparations public nuisance lawsuit, *Randle v. City of Tulsa*. He has written a number of articles and given multiple talks on reparations nationally and internationally. He has twice before testified before the House Judiciary Committee, in 2019 to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Hearing on HR40 and the Path to Restorative Justice; and in 2007 to the Subcommittee on the Legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in America. He has also provided testimony before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Reparations for Slavery and Other Forms of Structural Racial Discrimination in the United States in 2019.





**The Honorable Patrick Lipton Robinson** is Honorary President of the American Society of International Law and a member of the International Court of Justice for the term commencing February 2015. Following his call to the Bar in 1968, Judge Robinson began a long and distinguished career in public service, working for the Jamaican government for over three decades. From 1968 to 1971, he served as a Crown Counsel in the Office of the Director of the Public Prosecutions. Between 1972 and 1998, he served briefly as Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subsequently in the Attorney General's Department as Crown Counsel, Senior Assistant Attorney-General, Director of the Division of International Law, and as Deputy Solicitor-General. Judge Robinson's long-standing experience in United Nations affairs dates back to 1972, when he became Jamaica's Representative to the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General

Assembly, a position he held for 26 years. He played a leadership role on several issues in the Committee, including the definition of aggression and the draft statute for an international criminal court. From 1981 to 1998, he led Jamaica's delegations for the negotiation of treaties on several subjects, including extradition, mutual legal assistance, maritime delimitation and investment promotion and protection. Judge Robinson also represented Jamaica on several other United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the United Nations Commission on Transnational Corporations, serving as Chairman of that Commission's Twelfth Session in 1986. He represented Jamaica at all sessions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and was accredited as an ambassador to that Conference in 1982. As a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights from 1988 to 1995, and its Chairman in 1991, Judge Robinson contributed to the development of a corpus of human rights laws for the Inter-American System. As a member of the International Law Commission from 1991 to 1996, he served on the Working Group that elaborated the draft statute for an international criminal court. Judge Robinson also served as a member of the Haiti Truth and Justice Commission from 1995 to 1996, and was a member of the International Bio-ethics Committee of UNESCO from 1996 to 2005, serving as its Vice-Chairman from 2002 to 2005. Judge Robinson was elected a Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 1998 and served as the Tribunal's President from 2008 to 2011. Judge Robinson has also served as an arbitrator in disputes under the ICSID Convention. Judge Robinson is a Barrister of Law, Middle Temple, United Kingdom.

**Professor Philippe Sands QC** is Professor of Laws and Director of the Centre on International Courts and Tribunals at University College London, Samuel and Judith Pizar Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and a barrister and founder member at Matrix Chambers. He is President of English PEN and on the board of the Hay Festival of Arts and Literature. In addition to his academic work and publications, Professor Sands maintains a practice in general international law, covering a wide range of subjects, acting as counsel and arbitrator. He has appeared before many international courts, including the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Justice, the World Trade Organisation dispute settlement organs, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Criminal Court, and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. He also appears in arbitrations and before the English courts, and has accepted appointments as an arbitrator in several cases.



**Patricia Viseur Sellers**, an international criminal lawyer, is the Special Advisor for Gender for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. Ms. Sellers is a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College of the University of Oxford, where she teaches international criminal law and human rights law. She is a Practicing Professor at London School of Economics and a Senior Research Fellow at the Human Rights Center of the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Sellers was the Legal Advisor for Gender, Acting Head of the Legal Advisory Section and Acting Senior Trial Attorney at the Yugoslav (ICTY) Tribunal and the Legal Advisor for Gender at the Rwanda Tribunal (ICTR). She developed the legal strategies and was a member of the trial teams in the *Akayesu*, *Furundzija*, and *Kunarac* cases. Ms. Sellers is the recipient of the Prominent Women in International Law Award by the American Society of International Law, and holds an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the City University of New York, as well as an Honorary Fellow for Lifetime Achievement from the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania, her alma mater. Ms. Sellers has also been awarded the National Bar Association's Ron Brown International Lawyer Prize, the Global Center for Justice's inaugural Janet Benshoof Global Justice Award, and the 2020 World Peace Through Law Award of the Washington University School of Law.



**Verene A. Shepherd**, graduate of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Cambridge, is Professor Emerita of Social History at UWI. She is Director of the Centre for Reparation Research at UWI, a published author of 7 books, a radio host and scholar activist, especially in the areas of women's rights, human rights and reparatory justice. She is the immediate past Director of the Institute for Gender & Development Studies at UWI. As a UN expert she has played a role in helping to implement the UN International Year for People of African descent and overseeing the drafting of the programme of activities for the UN International Decade for people of African descent while she was Chair of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Among her awards are the Order of Distinction, Commander Class, from the Gov't of Jamaica; the Africana Studies distinguished Award from Florida International University and the 2017 UWI Vice Chancellor's award for excellence in Public Service. She was recently elected to an Honorary Fellowship at Jesus College, University of Cambridge. She was one of the 70+7 women honoured for service to the UWI during The UWI's 70th anniversary celebrations as well as one of the 60 Women of Distinction honoured by the Jamaica Gleaner in 2020. She recently won the President's award at the St Martin Book Fair. She is well-known for her scholar activism and for her lobby to establish monuments to historical figures and movement in Jamaica.

**Adrien Wing** is the Associate Dean for International and Comparative Law Programs and the Bessie Dutton Murray Professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, where she has taught since 1987. She also serves as the Director of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights, and Director of the France Summer Abroad Program, and has previously served as the Associate Dean for Faculty Development and the on-site Director for the London Law Consortium semester abroad program. Professor Wing has also been a member of The University of Iowa's interdisciplinary African Studies faculty and North Africa/Middle East faculty groups. Author of more than 140 publications, Professor Wing is the editor of *Critical Race Feminism: A Reader* and *Global Critical Race Feminism: An International Reader*, both from NYU Press, as well as co-editor of the *Richard Delgado Reader*. Her US-oriented scholarship has focused on race and gender discrimination, and her international scholarship has emphasized Africa and the Middle East. International law and Feminism, International law and Race, and the Arab world and women's rights are among the topics of articles.





**Dr. Nora Wittmann** is an independent scholar, holding a doctorate in international law (J.D.) and a master in social and cultural anthropology. She has served as member of the scientific council of MIR (Mouvement international pour les Réparations) and is the author of “Slavery Reparations Time Is Now. Exposing Lies, Claiming Justice for Global Survival – An International Legal Assessment” and of the children’s book “Little Afeni and the Cause for Reparations.” Based in Austria and Jamaica, she publishes in scientific and popular journals, debunking fundamental legal distortions that serve to undermine the global African claim for reparations.