

Nov 10th, 8:30 AM

Understanding Truth: How Commissioners Influence the Final Report of a Truth Commission

Christine Bianco

Florida International University, cbian005@fiu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights



Part of the [International Relations Commons](#), and the [Latin American Studies Commons](#)

Bianco, Christine, "Understanding Truth: How Commissioners Influence the Final Report of a Truth Commission" (2017). *The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy*. 1.

http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2017/transitional/1

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Rights Center at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlengen1@udayton.edu.

The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy

2017 Conference of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center

Nov. 8-10, 2017, Dayton, Ohio

For the archive of the conference, see http://ecommons.udayton.edu/human_rights/2017/

Research Panel: Dynamics of Transitional Justice and Advocacy

Presenter: Christine Bianco, Florida International University

Title: Understanding Truth: How Commissioners Influence the Final Report of a Truth Commission

Abstract:

Ensuring a future of human rights means coming to terms with past violations of human rights. This both recognizes human rights as an important position in the policy of the state and helps to end a system of impunity against such actions, even if it is done symbolically. One of the major mechanisms that states have used to address their past has been truth commissions. The strength of truth commissions lies in their ability to bring to light the voices of the victims as well as their ability to criticize those who have committed human rights abuses.

In order to gain a better understanding of this second strength of truth commissions, this paper examines to what extent the political makeup of a commission influences the degree to which the final report of the truth commission criticizes an abusive regime.

Using Chile's National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation (Rettig Commission) and National Commission on Political Imprisonment and Torture (Valech Commission) as case studies, the paper examines two nearly identically structured truth commissions to study how changing the political backgrounds of the commissioners can affect the outcome of the commission.

After exploring the backgrounds of the commissioners from both commissions, the paper analyzes the final reports of the truth commissions in order to examine the influence the commissioners had on the process.

About the presenter:

Christine Bianco is a combined program to earn a master's in Latin American and Caribbean studies and a Ph.D. in international relations at the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University, where has a Presidential Fellowship. She focuses on human rights, transitional justice, and international criminal law. She has a bachelor's in international relations and Spanish from Rollins College.