



PROGRESS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS INTELLECTUAL HISTORY PROJECT / UNIHP

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PUBLICATIONS

In 2005 the project published two more volumes in the UNIHP series by Indiana University Press: *UN Voices: The Struggle for Development and Social Justice*, by Thomas G. Weiss, Tatiana Carayannis, Louis Emmerij, and Richard Jolly; and *Women, Development, and the UN: A Sixty Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, by Devaki Jain.

UN Voices—the much-anticipated book based on the 73 oral history interviews conducted by the project since 1999—was launched on June 1st in New York with the help of Secretary-General Kofi Annan and several of the persons interviewed. The launch and book signing, held at The CUNY Graduate Center and home of the project, drew over 200 academics, UN diplomats and staff, and NGO representatives in the NY area, as well as many of the project's supporters. The launch coincided with the opening of the UN's 60th anniversary year, and the project's own efforts to disseminate its research products.

In response to several requests to make the research findings more accessible to policy-makers and undergraduate students, the project produced a short summary report of its research findings to date: *The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the First 60 Years*, by Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss, (published in-house and downloadable from the project's website).

Two additional volumes in the publication series are either in press or will be by the end of 2005: *Human Security and the UN: A Critical History*, by S. Neil MacFarlane and Yuen Foong-Khong—expected out in Spring 2006; and *The UN and Human Rights Ideas: The Unfinished Revolution*, by Roger Normand and Sarah Zaidi—expected out in Fall 2006, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the launch of the new UN Human Rights Council.

Substantive discussions were held in New York on *The UN and Global Governance: an Idea and its Prospects*, by Ramesh Thakur and Thomas G. Weiss; and on the final synthesis volume, tentatively entitled *The United Nations: A History of Ideas and their Future*, to be written by the project's directors.

In 2003, the UN Secretary-General requested that the project also undertake an independent assessment of the UN's intellectual contribution to peace and security, and the project committed itself to exploring ways to respond creatively. Additional funding in 2005 has made it possible to commission the first of these studies, *Preventive Diplomacy at the United Nations: The*

Journey of an Idea, by B. G. Ramcharan, who will be in residence at UNIHP headquarters in New York beginning in January 2006. This book is expected to be completed and go into production in December 2006.

Finally, substantial progress was made toward the publication of the first *Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws. In a series of back-and-forth exchanges with the authors of the forty chapters, outlines were finalized and placed on Oxford University Press's dedicated web site. The essays themselves began to be submitted in late fall, and the editors have revised them and are finalizing their own overview to the volume which is expected to go into production in late 2006.

ORAL HISTORY

With the interview process completed, project staff completed the indexing of all finalized interview transcripts. In anticipation of the publication of the full interview transcripts on CD-ROM, project staff finalized the project's oral history protocols and began a lengthy and careful copyediting process all of the finalized, indexed transcripts accordingly.

The project continued to work with some of the persons interviewed who have not yet completed their transcript corrections to finalize their transcripts and to ensure that these may be included in the oral history CD-ROM.

Work on the CD-ROM containing the complete oral history transcripts has begun in earnest. Special software has been purchased, and considerable staff time is being devoted to the technical side of producing the oral history CD-ROM, as well as to developing an outline and determining additional content. Staff has also been working with the UN Photo Archives to identify photo content for the CD-ROM. It is anticipated that the CD-ROM will be available for wide distribution in 2006.

In June, the project responded positively to a request by the History Channel for oral history material for the exhibit: "Path to Democracy: I was 20 in 45," a six-month, state-of-the-art, interactive exhibition that promises to transport visitors to the defining moments of World War Two. The exhibit, which is to be shown on the North Lawn of the United Nations in 2006, is to be an unprecedented collaboration between government agencies and more than 50 of the world's leading historical and cultural institutions including The Smithsonian Institute, The Imperial War Museum, The Museum of Armed Forces in Moscow and the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem.

Project discussions with oral historians in the second half of 2005 have yielded a number of recommendations on additional means to make the project's oral history resources more widely available—from publishing the project's oral history protocols, to adapting some of the oral history material for use in schools. The project is actively exploring these suggestions.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

We made great efforts in 2005 to ensure that the enormous work that has gone into this project did not merely get filed away on a bookshelf or in a desk drawer, but that it helped inform debate and encourage interest in UN activities, as well as facilitate further documentation of UN history. The project held numerous substantive seminar discussions around project research and book launches for academic and popular audiences in different world regions, wherever possible in collaboration with networks of UN researchers and other local partners.

UNIHP-SPONSORED CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

In addition to a host of presentations worldwide made by series authors noted below, the project organized four international conferences in collaboration with other institutions as part of its catalyzing initiatives to encourage further examination of UN history.

The first was held in Geneva on 24 January 2005, entitled: "From Development to International Economic Governance: The Intellectual Contribution of the United Nations." This was a one-day conference and book launch organized by the project's Geneva Liaison office in collaboration with the Réseau Universitaire International de Genève. The program included presentations and discussions on the UNIHP books *Unity and Diversity*, *UN Contributions to Development*, and *The UN and Global Political Economy: Trade, Finance, and Development*; and brought together the UN, NGO, and academic communities in Geneva.

A related exhibit, "UN Ideas in the Service of Development," was on display at the United Nations Library in Geneva to coincide with the conference.

The second conference was held in New York on 2 June 2005, and was held to coincide with the launch of *UN Voices* held on 1 June 2005. This book launch and discussion of the United Nations Intellectual History Project was part of a year-long celebration marking the 60th Anniversary of the UN and the Centenary of Dag Hammarskjöld. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered opening remarks. The program included a conversation on the "State of the Struggle for Development and Social Justice," based on the oral history interviews in *UN Voices*, and featured Margaret Anstee, Noeleen Heyzer, Gert Rosenthal, and James Traub of the New York Times, and was moderated by Thomas G. Weiss. The program concluded with a reception and book signing.

The conference held by the project the following day was on "Documenting UN History: Comparing Methods, Findings, and Lessons." This was organized in collaboration with the UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the UN University (UNU), the Academic Council on UN Studies (ACUNS), and the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. This conference brought together UNIHP researchers, UN agency historians, UN librarians and archivists, and scholars and research networks to discuss challenges to documenting UN history from around the world with the aim to share ideas and findings, methods and compatible technologies, and to develop areas of cooperation.

The third conference, entitled "Development & Decolonization as History: Learning from the Bilateral and Multilateral Past," was held in London on 24-25 October 2005. It was co-sponsored by the UNIHP and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study at the University of London.

This roundtable meeting was intended to bring together a range of compatible voices who have been undertaking oral and documentary histories of decolonization and multilateralism. The centerpieces were the concluding British Documents on the End of Empire (BDEEP) and Overseas Service Pensioners' Association (OSPA) projects at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies which have respectively advanced documentary and oral histories of mainly British decolonization and multilateralism; the findings and conclusions of the first eight publications and the completed oral histories of the UNIHP; and the UNDP history project.

The fourth conference, "60 Years of UNESCO History," was held in Paris on 16-18 November. This symposium was hosted by UNESCO on the occasion of its 60th anniversary, in conjunction with the University of Paris I, Pantheon-Sorbonne, the Centre d'Histoire de l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques, the Centre for History and Economics at the University of Cambridge, and the United Nations Intellectual History Project. It brought together more than sixty researchers from all over the world, including UNIHP director and authors Thomas G. Weiss, John Toye, and Richard Toye, to reflect on the following themes: the birth of an international organization; ideals challenged by history; taking action: international cooperation in perspective; and what sort of history/histories of UNESCO?

This meeting launched UNESCO's history project, which benefited from UNIHP's encouragement of UN agencies to document their own histories and conduct oral histories with their own staff. One of the UNIHP's co-directors, Thomas G. Weiss, has agreed to serve on the advisory council of the UNESCO history project.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES BY UNIHP AUTHORS

Throughout the year, individual authors continued to present and discuss project research to various audiences around the globe. They included:

UNIHP author Tagi Sagafi-nejad gave a presentation on “The UN’s role and TNC’s in Apartheid South Africa” at the annual meeting of the Eastern Academy of Management, held in Cape Town, South Africa on 26-30 June.

On 8 September, Thomas G. Weiss and Tatiana Carayannis gave a presentation on *UN Voices* at a book signing hosted by UN/DPI at the United Nations Bookshop in New York. Weiss and Carayannis also gave a presentation at a book signing hosted by the UNA-NY on 22 September.

Louis Emmerij made a presentation on the United Nations Intellectual History Project at the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) 30th Anniversary Conference held in Bonn on 21-24 September 2005.

Richard Jolly gave a talk on *The Power of UN Ideas* at the UNDP office in Madagascar on 3 October.

The UNDP office in New Delhi held a book launch and discussion of *Women, Development, and the UN: A Sixty Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, by Devaki Jain, on United Nations Day, 24 October 2005. The event was chaired by Dr. Maxine Olson, UN Resident Coordinator and UN Resident Representative in India, and the panel included Dr. Margaret Alva, ex-Member of Parliament (Congress Party), and Dr. Veena Mazumdar, Chairperson, Centre for Women's Development Studies.

On 27-28 October, Louis Emmerij gave a presentation in Pretoria, South Africa entitled “Toward a Global Consensus on Development and the UN” at a conference on “The UN at 60: Toward New Reform Agenda?” The conference was organized by the Institute for Global Dialogue, the University of Pretoria, and the South African Office of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

On 4 November, Thomas G. Weiss and Tatiana Carayannis discussed the project’s oral history process and findings at a panel entitled “Telling the Intellectual History of the United Nations-UN Voices: The Struggle for Development and Social Justice,” at the annual Oral History Association conference held in Providence, Rhode Island.

On 1 December, Devaki Jain, author of *Women, Development, and the UN: A Sixty Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, was joined at UN Headquarters in New York by Gloria Steinem, K.S. Jomo, UN Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, and Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary-General for

Communications and Public Information, to launch and discuss the book.

On 4 December, Richard Jolly gave a talk on the project at the annual meeting of CODESRIA held in Maputo, Mozambique.

DISTRIBUTING POWER OF UN IDEAS

In addition, the project printed and distributed 5,000 copies of *The Power of UN Ideas*, the summary report. Copies were sent to the members of the U.S. Congress on the eve of discussions on UN reform with the help of the UN Foundation, and additional copies were given to U.S. Congressional delegations through the Humpty-Dumpty Institute (HDI). Copies were also distributed to all members of ACUNS, to various UNA organizations, and to several regional academic organizations. An electronic copy of *The Power of UN Ideas* has been made available for download and distribution at no cost on the project’s website to facilitate its use in coursework and make it easily accessible around the world.

UNIHP ON UN TELEVISION

UN television’s *World Chronicle* TV series broadcast two segments on the project in 2005. The first, “Giving Voice to the UN Experience,” was recorded on 22 June and featured Thomas G. Weiss and Tatiana Carayannis. The second, “The UN’s Future Challenges,” was recorded in New York on 18 July and featured Richard Jolly. *World Chronicle* is a weekly, half-hour television show broadcast to audiences in a number of countries worldwide.

REGIONAL EFFORTS

As part of its continued efforts to stimulate additional and historical exploration of the UN’s record by academics and graduate students, especially in the Global South, the project has reached out to CODESRIA and other regional groupings to host events in those regions. More recently, for example, the project is exploring hosting a meeting with a Brazilian university on UN history and the future of multilateralism in Rio de Janeiro in June 2006, to coincide with the annual meeting of ACUNS being held there at that time. This would also be an opportunity to introduce Brazilian academics and graduate students to international research networks examining the UN as a way to encourage UN studies in that region.

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