



Department of Equity Studies

Job Talk by

KIRSTIN J. FISHER, PhD

Child Soldiers After the Fighting: Reintegration and Reparations

Date:

Friday, April 8th

Time:

2:30 - 3:15 pm

Location:

York University
4700 Keele St.
Atkinson Building
Room 109 Crowe

In the aftermath of a conflict that inflicted mass violations of human rights, the reintegration of former fighters who were perpetrators of the violations is always challenging, but it is an even greater challenge when the perpetrators are child soldiers -- falling into the category of what can be called 'complex victims', themselves victims of atrocity as well as often perpetrators of it. There is a particular challenge in meeting the needs of these young persons, and securing justice for them for their victimization (their recruitment and treatment in the fighting forces), while at the same time acknowledging and respecting the needs and conceptions of justice of other victims within the community, including the victims of the child soldiers. This reintegration challenge is facing a new dimension, with the impending first implementation of the reparations mandate of the International Criminal Court that ordered reparations for the child soldier victims of Thomas Lubanga in the DRC. Reparations in this context have the potential to assist or hamper the reintegration prospects of this vulnerable segment of the post-conflict environment.

Kirsten J. Fisher holds a Ph.D. in political science and works on issues of human rights, justice after atrocity and post-conflict social reconstruction — in Africa and around the world. She is the author of *Moral Accountability and International Criminal Law* (Routledge 2012) and *Transitional Justice for Child Soldiers* (Palgrave Macmillan 2013), and co-author and co-editor of *Transitional Justice and the Arab Spring* (Routledge 2014). She is the Executive Editor of the Canadian Human Rights Yearbook, published by the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa, where she also teaches in the School of Political Studies and the Faculty of Law.