

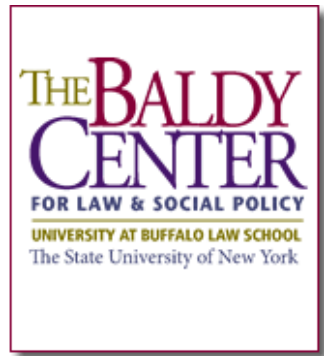
The Baldy Center Working Group on International and Comparative Legal Studies invites you to a

**Working Group Luncheon Presentation**

Wednesday, October 15, 2008, 12:30–2:00 pm

Conference Center, 509 O’Brian Hall

RSVP to [BaldyCtr@buffalo.edu](mailto:BaldyCtr@buffalo.edu) (lunch from 12:00)



## **‘Why the Jews, Why Not Us’? The African Social Movement for Reparations**



### **Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann**

Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

**Africans** interested in reparations from the West for the slave trade, colonialism and post-colonial relations frequently ask why the Jews were able to obtain reparations for the Holocaust, but Africans have not been able to obtain reparations. This presentation uses social movement theory to answer this question. Success depends to a large extent on how the claim for reparations is framed. Past treatment of Africans by the West violated the key contemporary norms of bodily integrity, equality, and private property. Yet victims of direct harms are dead, perpetrators are diffuse, some of the actual harms were legal when they were committed, and the causal chain of harm is long and complex.

**Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann** is Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights at Wilfrid Laurier University, where she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Global Studies and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. In 2006 the Human Rights section of the American Political Science Association named Dr. Howard-Hassmann its first Distinguished Scholar of Human Rights. Among many other published works, she is co-editor (with Claude Welch) of *Economic Rights in Canada and the United States*. She is also co-editor of the 2007 volume, *The Age of Apology*, and author of *Reparations to Africa* (2008); she is currently writing a book on human rights and globalization. Dr. Howard-Hassmann is also creator and editor of a website on political apologies and reparations, which can be accessed at [political-apologies.wlu.ca](http://political-apologies.wlu.ca).