

WRITING TRUTH TO POWER: REMARKS IN CELEBRATION OF INTLAWGRRLS' TENTH BIRTHDAY

*Diane Marie Amann**

Let me begin by thanking Karen E. Bravo for that moving tribute that we have just heard on behalf of our departed IntLawGrrls colleague, Hope Lewis.¹ Thanks as well to University of Georgia School of Law Dean Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge for his warm welcome and his unstinting support for our law school, its Dean Rusk International Law Center, and our Georgia Women in Law Lead initiative.

Indeed, thanks are due to all the staffers at our Center, and to the entire Georgia Law community of students, faculty, library, staff, and graduates, as well as two additional cosponsors of this conference, our university’s Willson Center for Humanities & Arts and its Institute for Native American Studies. We thank as well the American Society of International Law Women in International Law Interest Group—and not least, the Planethood Foundation, whose generosity has permitted us to support many of the students here today with travel grants.

Finally, deep thanks to all of you, whom I wish a very good afternoon, and to whom I hope I may offer a few remarks about what has brought us here today and where we might wish to go from here.

After a gestation period that had begun on Valentine’s Day, on the third day of the third month, exactly a decade ago—March 3, 2007, Girls’ Day in Japan—IntLawGrrls was born.² It appeared at a website that I had launched

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¹ Her remarks are published in this volume at Karen E. Bravo, *Tribute to Hope Lewis*, 46 GA. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 135 (2017). Other contributions from that conference published in this volume are *IntLawGrrls! Tenth Birthday Conference*, 46 GA. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 129 (2017); Patricia Wald, *Strategies to Promote Women’s Participation in Shaping International Law and Policy in an Era of Anti-Globalism*, 46 GA. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 141 (2017); Karen Hoffmann, *Redress for ‘Some Folks’: Pursuing Justice for Victims of Torture Through Traditional Grounds of Jurisdiction*, 46 GA. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 97 (2017).

² See Diane Marie Amann, *It’s an IntLawGrrl!*, INTLAWGRRLS, Mar. 3, 2007, <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/2007/03/its-intlawgrrl.html> [hereinafter Amann, *IntLawGrrl!*]; Diane Marie

by accident, not long after Googling the words “how to start a blog.” Our birth announcement said: “IntLawGrrls joins a world where cultures, ideas, and markets commingle, where humanity reveals both its best promise and its worst underside.”³

The post mentioned women from whom we drew inspiration. They included stateswomen like German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Condoleezza Rice, then the U.S. Secretary of State, as well as Nobel Peace Prizewinners like Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Muta Maathai, and Rigoberta Menchú. Also mentioned, of course, were judges: Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada; Dame Rosalyn Higgins, then President of the International Court of Justice; and Françoise Tulkens, then a Judge on the European Court of Human Rights.

The first post further stated: “It is our hope through IntLawGrrls to strengthen our voices as we continue to teach and work in international law, policy, practice.”⁴

In that post we named eight founding women, including myself. I am honored to recognize the five others who are here with us today, and I ask them to stand as their names are called: Elena Baylis, Karen Bravo, Naomi Norberg, Hari Osofsky, and Jaya Ramji-Nogales. The other two are Beth Hillman, who is now the President of Mills College in Oakland, California, and H el ene Ruiz Fabri, then the President of the European Society of International Law, later the Dean of the Sorbonne Law School, and now Director of the Max Planck Institute for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law in Luxembourg.

As today’s conference bears witness, we eight have been joined by many hundreds more⁵—a fact that leaves us humbled, grateful, and hopeful.

Humility, gratitude, and hope are welcome feelings at this time, when the every-day news cycle—indeed, in this age of Twitter, the every-minute news

Amann, *IntLawGrrls’ Heartfelt Hello*, INTLAWGRRLS, Feb. 10, 2007, <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/2007/02/intlawgirls-heartfelt-hello.html>. See also Diane Marie Amann, *IntLawGrrls Conceived: Heartfelt Invitation to Our 10th Birthday Conference*, INTLAWGRRLS, Dec. 4, 2016, <https://ilg2.org/2016/12/04/intlawgrrls-conceived-our-heartfelt-invitation-to-our-10th-birthday-conference/>.

³ Amann, *IntLawGrrl!*, *supra* note 2.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ For a complete list of the nearly 500 women, plus a few men, who have served as IntLawGrrls writers or editors since the blog’s founding in 2007, see *Contributors*, INTLAWGRRLS, <https://ilg2.org/contributors/>. The experience of developing this blog gave rise to observations of the role of this medium in academic work and public discourse; on these, see Diane Marie Amann, *Bill the Blogger*, in *ARCS OF GLOBAL JUSTICE: ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF WILLIAM A. SCHABAS* (forthcoming 2017).

cycle—often stirs anxiety. After I conclude these remarks, we will move to our plenary panel, “Strategies to Promote Women’s Participation in Shaping International Law and Policy amid the Global Emergence of Anti-Globalism.”⁶ If I may crib from that title: We find ourselves witnessing the global emergence of anti-globalism—an emergence perhaps best encapsulated in a few words by Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference in February 2017, less than a month after the inauguration of a new U.S. President, Lavrov envisaged a “post-West world order.”⁷ In similar vein was the declaration of “the beginning of a great global revolution,” uttered less than a week later by the British politician who led the successful 2016 referendum campaign for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.⁸

We hear such words, and we wonder—again cribbing from the title of the plenary panel—about strategies to promote our participation—that is, women’s participation—in shaping international law and policy.

Like all of you, I await answers to these questions from our plenary speakers.

When IntLawGrrls first entered the cybersphere, somewhat timidly, we wrote under the pseudonyms of famous, departed women. Eventually we found our own voices, and began to post in our own names.⁹ Our onetime namesakes became our named foremothers—about 150 *in toto*.¹⁰

⁶ Taking part in the lunchtime plenary panel were two of IntLawGrrls’ early members: editors emeritae Jaya Ramji-Nogales, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and I. Herman Stern Research Professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law, and Beth Van Schaack, Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Security & Cooperation at Stanford University and a former U.S. Department of State official. Joining them were: Mary L. Dudziak, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law and President of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations; Lucinda A. Low, Partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP and President of the American Society of International Law; Catherine Powell, Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law and a former U.S. Department of State and White House official; and Judge Patricia Wald, formerly Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and also a Judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. As indicated *supra* note 1, Judge Wald’s contribution to that panel is published in this volume.

⁷ David Rising & Geir Moulson, *Russia Seeks Pragmatic US Ties and ‘Post-West’ World Order*, ASSOCIATE PRESS, Feb. 18, 2017, Westlaw 2/18/17 ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) Newswires.

⁸ Paul Owen & David Smith, *Nigel Farage says Brexit and Trump Win are ‘Beginning of Global Revolution’*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 24, 2017), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/24/nigel-farage-cpac-speech-trump-brexit-global-revolution>.

⁹ See Diane Marie Amann, *IntLawGrrls in our own names*, INTLAWGRRLS, Oct. 13, 2007, <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/2007/10/in-our-own-names.html>.

¹⁰ For the full list, see *Foremothers*, INTLAWGRRLS, <http://www.intlawgrrls.com/p/foremost-hers.html>.

Today I wish to add to that list another foremother, about whom I learned on a recent visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

This newest foremother's name is Sophie Scholl.¹¹ She was a native of southern Germany, as were my own ancestors. In the early 1940s, while students at the University of Munich, she, her brother, and others wrote and distributed leaflets denouncing the Nazi regime then in power. The first, entitled "Leaflets of the White Rose," said:

Nothing is so unworthy of a nation as allowing itself to be governed without opposition by a clique that has yielded to base instinct . . . Western civilization must defend itself against fascism and offer passive resistance, before the nation's last young man has given his blood on some battlefield.¹²

Scholl, and others in this White Rose group, distributed their leaflets throughout Germany for many months. Eventually, however, they were found out, arrested, and interrogated. Sophie Scholl was twenty-one years old at the time of her People's Court trial, conviction, and execution by guillotine. Hers is not a happy story. Yet her example stands as an inspiration to all who choose to write truth to power. And so, as with the life stories of other IntLawGrrls foremothers, the story of Sophie Scholl is one that we all do well to remember.

Thank you.

¹¹ Much has been written about this woman and the resistance movement to which she belonged. The brief discussion in these remarks is drawn from TOBY AXELROD, HANS AND SOPHIE SCHOLL: GERMAN RESISTERS OF THE WHITE ROSE (2001); Margie Burns, *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*, INT'L RAOUL WALLENBERG FOUNDATION, <http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/holocaust/articles-20/sophie-scholl-white-rose/> (last visited Sept. 3, 2017); U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, *White Rose*, HOLOCAUST ENCYCLOPEDIA, <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007188> (last visited Sept. 3, 2017).

¹² Quoted in Burns, *supra* note 11.