The Age of Witness: Testimonies, Memoirs, & Other Perspectives "From Below"

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2010
Time: College Hour 3:15 - 4:30pm
Place: Kean Hall room 127

Faculty are welcome and encouraged to bring their classes. Refreshments will be served.

The "From Below" identifies the common person as witness to victims of severe crime and psychological assaults as found in many published and unpublished memoirs. The suggestion that the "aftershock" of witnessing any number of traumatic incidents/events has significant impact that emerges from these memoirs.
Introduction: Interpreting Spectacular Events “From Below”

We are delighted to present the 7th installment in Kean University's Faculty Seminar e-book series, Comparative Cultures. "The Age of the Witness," a series of papers delivered by two seminar members and two students selected from a university-wide competition at the spring, 2010, annual Faculty Seminar roundtable, represents an important galaxy of contemporary concerns amply documented by these papers. Witnesses to assault offer not only incriminating evidence; their perspectives, constituted in memoirs and private and legal testimonies, challenge the monopoly of authority "from above."

Victims of severe crimes and psychological assault have produced hundreds of thousands of published and unpublished memoirs as well as oral testimonies. These documents suggest a search for comprehending the after-shocks of a traumatic incident, or a search for “authentic” material evidence providing special insight into spectacular events worldwide. Whatever the reason, witnesses are acquiring privileged status as a source of information. Some critics believe they are eclipsing not only “official” versions but also mainstream scholarship for grasping what the historian E.J. Hobsbawm called our age of extremes.

In setting an agenda for the 2009-10 Faculty Seminar, the papers it produced for the 2010 seminar roundtable, and, ultimately, for this volume, we posed the following questions:

Are witnesses a prominent source of information and interpretation in studies of traumatic events? Have these events privileged witnesses as sources of information?

What perils are implicit in the assumption that witnesses’ expressions are authentic? Do their reports marginalize the significance of context?

What do witness reports communicate? The narratives of outrage and abjection are evident, as is the narrative of redemption (history lessons, hope from despair, etc.). Are there competing or alternative narratives buried in testimonies, such as confessions of the futility to articulate traumatic experience?

The papers comprising the present volume offer interpretive paradigms conducive to analyses of genocide, African-American slavery, warfare, revolution, indigenous and post-colonial cultures, family dynamics, and other arenas of social conflict. This interdisciplinary inquiry requires multiple perspectives, and, indeed, the following papers reflect work in criminal justice, bioethics, and history. As an open, online forum, this volume invites the submission of additional papers for possible inclusion. Readers can also submit papers to any of the volumes in this series. For submission details, email dklein@kean.edu. My personal thanks to Professor James Drylie, chair of the criminal justice department, for coordinating the 2010 roundtable and for editing this volume.

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Titles in the Comparative Studies E-book Series
· Empire and Cultural Conquest, Part I (ed. Sue Gronewold)
· Empire and Cultural Conquest, Part II (ed. Julia Nevárez)
· Representations of Genocide (ed. Julia Nevárez)
· Forgiveness: Political Considerations (ed. Julia Nevárez)
· The Bystander: On the Politics of Disengagement (ed. Jacquelyn Tuerk Stonberg)
· Peace: Its Conceptions and Conditions (ed. Jacquelyn Tuerk Stonberg)
· The Age of the Witness: Testimonies, Memoirs, & Other Perspectives “From Below” (ed. James J. Drylie)
· The Public Intellectual in the 21st Century (ed. Jeffrey Toney), forthcoming
Science and Human Rights: A Bridge Towards Benefiting Humanity

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ABSTRACT

Three case studies involving scientists from different disciplines that contribute their expertise to advancing human rights in the US and abroad are discussed. Scientific research can have a greater impact on society if directed towards solving problems relevant to human rights. Progress in science and technology can be abused, leading to violations of human rights, but can also benefit humanity. Scientists have an opportunity to play an active role in preserving human rights.

I. INTRODUCTION

I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no person should witness. Gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot and burned by high school and college graduates. So I am suspicious of education. My request is: help your students become more human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, or educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human.¹

Educator Haim Ginott powerfully illustrates how science can be abused to perpetrate atrocities such as genocide. The time has long passed since scientists have been able to claim that in order to maintain their objectivity, they need not be concerned with the social or human impact of their studies. The horrendous results of research, such as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study and the experiments on concentration camp victims performed by Dr. Joseph Mengele, have led to the enactment of US and international laws that mandate the ethical treatment of participants in research.² Because science has been used in such morally repugnant ways, scientists bear a special responsibility—not just to avoid harming people in the future—but to engage in research that provides positive benefits to the human condition.

Scientists can contribute to human rights in many ways.³ In what has arguably become a classic in the subject of science and human rights, Richard Pierre Claude’s Science in the Service of Human Rights, Claude describes how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the subsequent International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights evolved as a reaction to the atrocities mentioned above.⁴ Claude illustrates

². See Susan M. Reverby, Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and Its Legacy (2009); see also John Ware & Gerald L. Posner, Mengele: The Complete Story (1986).
how scientific progress can create new human rights issues in biomedical ethics and information technology, as well as how scientists have solved certain human rights problems. In a review of Claude’s book in the *American Scientist*, Susan Lederer concluded, “[It] helps us to understand how far we have come since the bleak days of the Second World War—and how far we need to go in the years ahead.”

This article will discuss some recent examples of how researchers across several disciplines, in some cases partnering with human rights organizations, have applied scientific methods to successfully deal with human rights issues. The idea of scientists collaborating with human rights nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) was reinforced by the launching of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Coalition in early 2009.

The AAAS chose the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an auspicious time to promote these partnerships and to rededicate its ongoing Science and Human Rights Program, in which scientific organizations and human rights organizations work hand in hand. *Sigma Xi*, a member organization of AAAS’s Science and Human Rights Coalition, declared 2008 as the “Year of Water,” focusing on science, policy, and ethics issues involving access to water as a basic human right.

II. COMBATING BIOTERRORISM: THE ORIGIN OF THE US MAIL ANTHRAX SCARE

“Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.”

“Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.”

A week after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, lawmakers on Capitol Hill and media outlets in Florida and New York began to receive mysterious mail laden with anthrax spores. Within two months, five people were dead and seventeen others were sickened from contact with anthrax powder, among them several

9. Id. art. 27.
US postal workers. Anthrax is an infection caused by \textit{Bacillus anthracis}, a gram-positive, spore-forming bacterium with a high level of genetic uniformity among its dozens of different strains. A few years earlier, Paul Keim, a microbial geneticist at Northern Arizona University, and his colleagues identified thirty-one unique DNA sequences referred to as amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) markers among various anthrax strains.

AFLP can be used as a powerful DNA fingerprinting technique. It uses polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to selectively amplify fragments of genomic DNA of any origin. The AFLP technique allows a large number of DNA fragments to be amplified and detected without requiring knowledge of the sequence of the DNA. Applying this technique to a sample of the anthrax isolated from the body of one of the victims, Dr. Keim identified the attack strain as Sterne-Ames—the most virulent of all anthrax strains. Although different grades of anthrax were used in the attacks, all of them were of the Ames strain.

Under the coordination of the FBI, the then-director of The Institute for Genomics Research (TIGR), Claire Fraser-Liggert, led a team to decode the genome of anthrax DNA (approximately 5 million base pairs). TIGR set out to establish a genealogy of the anthrax cultures, beginning with the Ames ancestor that was isolated from a cow, which succumbed to the disease in Texas in 1981. It turned out that the DNA of the strain used in the terrorist attack was virtually identical to the Ames ancestor—it seemed to be indistinguishable from any of the thousands of known anthrax cultures. Indeed, strains of \textit{Bacillus anthracis} are available commercially.

\textit{The New York Times} reported in 2008 that an army microbiologist from Fort Detrick, Maryland found a way to distinguish the anthrax cultures by spreading the spores from the anthrax used in the attacks on growth media. The spores grew into various subpopulations, including one with a distinct morphology. This “morph” had a major genetic change referred to as an indel (insertion or deletion of DNA), which gave the strain used in the attack a unique genetic marker.

\begin{footnotes}
16. \textit{Id.}
\end{footnotes}
Over the next two years, seven more such "morphs" were identified and their DNA sequenced. The anthrax spores collected from all of the attack mailings contained four identical "morphs". Under subpoena of the FBI, 1,070 anthrax samples were collected from laboratories in the US and around the world. Eight of these samples were found to have the same four "morphs" as the strain used in the attacks.\(^{17}\)

The source of the eight samples was soon revealed: a master flask of Sterne-Ames anthrax strain referred to as RMR-1029 that was under the custody of Dr. Bruce Ivins, a researcher at the US Army Medical Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick. Ivins committed suicide in July 2008, just one month before the FBI made announced the solving of the seven-year-long anthrax puzzle. Such microbial forensics tools can be applied to future biological threats—individuals contemplating such "attacks" can no longer assume that their weapons are untraceable.\(^{18}\)

### III. TWITTER AS A TOOL FOR A GRASSROOTS REBELLION TO ELECTIONS IN IRAN

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedures.\(^{19}\)

In 2006, Jack Dorsey, a software architect; Evan Williams, an internet entrepreneur; and Biz Stone, a native of Boston, founded Twitter: a real-time, social networking, micro-blog with the goal of helping people stay connected with each other. Twitter, whose motto is "share and discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world," asks one simple question, "What's happening?"\(^{20}\) Answers, which must be under 140 characters, can be sent instantly and widely via the web, text messaging, or instant message.\(^{21}\)

The high mobility and simplicity of its use have made Twitter not just an apparatus for people to stay in touch, but also a powerful tool for the benefit of human rights issues. Advancement in information technology helps to promote awareness of human rights issues by enabling quick and accurate dissemination of information on a global scale. Given the ubiquitous use

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17. Id.
21. Id.
of mobile devices coupled with the wide accessibility to the Internet and mobile applications, information related to human rights movements, and monitoring violations of these matters can instantly be seen by people all over the world. The faster knowledge is transmitted, the quicker people will be aware of human rights issues globally, thereby providing the opportunity for concerned individuals to react faster and act more appropriately.

With technologies such as Twitter and YouTube, the popular video website, it has become increasingly difficult to prevent the broad dissemination of uncensored information. Despite a potential downside, such technologies can serve as an effective platform for promoting human rights awareness. Other Internet and mobile applications, such as Plurk, Flickr, MySpace, and Google Wave, continue to change and challenge the way we communicate and understand current events.

After Iran held its presidential elections in June 2009 between the incumbent Ahmadinejad and opposition candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi, the putative landslide win for Ahmadinejad ignited worldwide protests and violent riots in Iran, amid allegations of voting fraud. The cries of protests, heard all over the world, were the strongest on Twitter.22

Twitter's core technology is a device agnostic message routing system. Messages are compatible with Really Simple Syndication (RSS) and Atom Syndication Format (Atom) formats. Tweets are transmitted over multiple networks, such as the internet (via the Twitter website) and SMS (Short Message Service—for transmission of short text messages between mobile devices); tweets can be received and read on practically any device with a network connection and a screen. Twitterers frequently append notes called hashtags to their tweets, allowing them to be grouped or searched for by topic, and to be retweeted by other Twitterers. The quick-and-easy broadcasting capability of Twitter makes it easy for people to use and difficult for an official entity to censor. With the escalation of the riots and protests, the Iranian government stepped up the suppression of dissent, both in printed media and in online forums. The front pages of Iranian newspapers with news stories were blanked out, and access to many social networking sites such as Facebook were shut down. Western journalists were barred from this region. However, ordinary citizens of Iran continued to deliver compelling, street-level stories, in both English and Farsi, in real time on Twitter.23

With technologies such as Twitter, it has become increasingly difficult to prevent the broad dissemination of uncensored information. These

technologies can serve as an effective platform to promote the freedom of speech.\textsuperscript{24}

![Figure 1. Source: http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2009/0713afghanistan.shtml; http://shr.aaas.org/geotech/cases.shtml Copyright 2009 DigitalGlobe. Produced by AAAS.](image)

### IV. EYE IN THE SKY: THE WORLD IS WATCHING

In a satellite image captured 2 July 2004 (Figure 1: left-hand image), soil above the purported mass grave at Dasht-e-Leili appeared to be undisturbed, according to Lars Bromley, director of the AAAS Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights project.\textsuperscript{25} A satellite image captured 5 August 2006 (Figure 1: right-hand image) revealed a large pit on one side of the roadway, and two large vehicles on the other side of the roadway. Based on their dimensions and appearance, the vehicles could have been a hydraulic excavator and a dump truck.\textsuperscript{26}

\textsuperscript{24} Twitter.com, supra note 20.


\textsuperscript{26} Id.
With the advancement of image acquisition and analysis capabilities over the past two decades, remote monitoring of human rights issues is possible using geospatial technologies. Geospatial imageries such as satellite images taken from space and aerial photographs taken from airborne platforms use color and panchromatic images to capture and rapidly convey information about the natural world as well as human activities occurring on earth’s surface. Moreover, web-based virtual globe applications such as Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth have made such digital images available to all users who have access to a computer and the Internet since 2005. The fast development of sensing technology and an increase of customer requests have led to the acquisition of an array of images of higher spatial resolution and more frequent temporal coverage. Commercial satellite sensors such as Ikonos and GeoEye-1 by GeoEye, capture panchromatic images at spatial resolutions of 1m and 50cm, respectively. DigitalGlobe’s QuickBird and WorldView-1 satellites are now supplying images with pixel sizes of 61cm and 50cm, respectively.

Every object on earth can be referenced geospatially using a coordinate referencing system. This geospatial information is used to represent the geographic locations and features of objects on earth’s surface in a digital form. Represented in a so-called raster format, the data contained in the pixel-by-pixel digital form can be measured, analyzed, and disseminated using spatial analysis functions provided by Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which transform the gathered data into information over time and space.

High-resolution imagery and spatial analysis have found a powerful application in the documentation of humanitarian crises and human rights assessments. Along with their unequivocal timing, the photographs provide authentic, accurate images and sometimes the photographs are the only form that shows the before-and-after visual evidence of damage to houses, fields, and other properties or the shift of human populations. As noted by researchers such as Dr. Amy Ross, from the University of Georgia, who study regions experiencing mass atrocity, there is great difficulty in collecting data for such studies due to the dangers researchers have to face, and the fact that interviews obtained in conflict zones are often precarious and problematic. Geospatial technologies thus provide an essential supplement for studying human right issues in these areas.

Lars Bromley, a geoinformation specialist and Project Director of the Science and Human Rights Program at the AAAS, has been using high-resolution digital imagery obtained from satellites to help document large-scale crisis zones in Darfur, Burma, Ethiopia, and other regions. In partnership with human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, AAAS obtains images from commercial satellites based on the spatial coordinates of the regions in crisis and analyzes them for evidence of refugee camps, burned villages, leveled fields, and mass graves.

In a series of historical satellite images compiled in 2007, using coordinates provided by Physicians for Human Rights (36.65° latitude, 65.70° longitude), Bromley located and analyzed the suspected site of a mass grave in northern Afghanistan (see Figure 1). The images were acquired by QuickBird, Ikonos, TopSat, and SPOT-5 satellites, operated by a combination of US, British, and French companies. The satellite images from 2004 indicated the absence of pits at 36.65° latitude, 65.70° longitude, while an image from August 2006 indicated the presence of one pit, as well as two vehicles with dimensions and appearance consistent with those of a dump truck and a hydraulic excavator on top of what later developed into a second pit. Images from January and October 2007 indicated the presence of both pits. The timeline of the appearance of the pits and soil disturbance in the alleged site supported allegations of the existence of a mass grave.

As web-based virtual globes are making the once limited-access imageries available to the general public, large-scale human rights violations all around the world can be witnessed, and such information can be distributed broadly and instantly. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Google Earth have collaborated to post enormous amounts of evidence of the human rights crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Together with the recently available historical


34. Pinholster, supra note 25.

35. Id.

36. Id.


image viewing function provided by Google Earth, the archived imageries and documents make visible the destructions of over three thousand villages in the region.\textsuperscript{39} Geospatial tools such as remote sensing and GIS offer a transparent recording of the earth’s surface unlike anything available before. Would awareness of an “Eye in the Sky” give a dictator pause, or prevent altogether, an atrocity such as genocide?

V. CONCLUSION

It has been shown that biologists, computer scientists, and geologists, despite the differences in background and specialty, all were able to help advance human rights. It is our hope that these examples will not only inspire professional scientists to contribute their knowledge and skills to benefit human rights issues, but will also serve as powerful case studies for scientists in training.

\textsuperscript{39} Id.
In assessing the value of *The Age of Witness* to the overall University community, it is critical to learn from our students here at Kean. A good amount of learning occurs just by listening. Hearing the opinions and views of our students are integral in determining how well a message can and is conveyed in the learning environment. Two examples of student’s understanding and views of genocide and the Holocaust will be chronicled in the following passages. Dominique Barnes and Jennifer Ruszcyk independently conducted research on these topics, the former on genocide in Burundi in the 1970s and the latter on the Holocaust, as a part of their studies *Holocaust and Genocide and Modern Humanity* under the guidance of Professor Dennis Klein.

Barnes’ witness to genocide was the result of her research on the genocide in the African country of Burundi beginning in the 1970s. According to Barnes, since Burundi independence in 1962 genocide has occurred twice. The first genocide was the 1972 massacre of the Hutu by the Tutsis. From April to May between “80,000 and 210,000” Hutus were killed. The killing of the Hutus by the Tutsis was triggered by fears that the Hutus were going to take over every position of the government. In response, the Tutsis set out to kill all educated, elite, or military trained Hutus. Barnes notes the disparity on categorizing these mass killings as genocide due in large part to the selective nature of the killings. Although every Hutu wasn’t killed, enough were killed to label this as genocide. Even though the Tutsis only targeted the educated Hutus, it doesn’t take away the fact that they were targeted. It doesn’t matter if it was only a small portion of them.

According to Article 2 in the Convention on Genocide, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to ring about physical destruction in whole or in
part is genocide. “In whole or in part” is the key to making this case known as genocide. It was deliberate and orchestrated. “Extensiveness and extreme brutality against all Hutu elites have prompted some commentators to refer to a “selective genocide” (René Lemarchand, “The Rwanda Genocide,” *Century of Genocide: Eyewitness Accounts and Critical Views* [New York: Garland, 1997], 408-16). Today, there is still an ongoing debate between scholars as to whether or not the 1972 killings should be labeled as a double genocide, a selective genocide, or just genocide. The 1972 Burundi massacre is genocide whether people want to call it “selective” or not, and the world should consider it and pay more attention.

Ruszcyk notes that the Holocaust was devastating not just for German Jews, but for others as well. Adolph Hitler was able to convince Germans that Jews were responsible for their defeats and failures, and if the Jews weren’t completely abolished then the Germans themselves would be. Sadly, you still have people who don’t believe that the Holocaust would constitute as genocide and feel that well it just never occurred.

In assessing the nature and extent of the Holocaust, Ruszcyk cites a passage from the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide:

“Any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical or religious group, such as: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life, calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”

Relying on this definition, Ruszcyk notes that Hitler used the *Final Solution* as a way to destroy every Jew that they could find. Even in face of defeat in the war, the Germans
“continued to pursue their goal of racial purification in those areas still in their control”

**Denials**

Barnes and Ruszcyk note the disturbing fact that there are those who deny the existence of genocide, and both authors cite a lack of attention and apathy as contributing factors in this regard. Barnes highlights this point in the examination of the atrocities in Burundi. Although the first genocide that happened in Burundi never really got enough attention from the world, the 1994 genocide in Rwanda comes second to the Holocaust in receiving the most coverage and attention from the world. April 4, 1994 is an infamous date for the country of Rwanda. On this day, and over the course of the next 100 days, Rwandan Tutsis were killed by Hutus. Overall, hundreds of thousands of Tutsis died, resulting in one of the worst genocides in the continent of Africa. According to Barnes, the Hutu government orchestrated the killing because they wanted all of the power and they did not want the Tutsis in their country. The government was extremely organized and the Hutus final goal was something they call “ethnic cleansing.” There is no doubt that the killing of the Tutsis by the Hutu is genocide.

Similarly, Ruszcyk raises a troubling analogy regarding the denial of genocide. Looking introspectively, Ruszyck questions the past practice of segregation in the United States. Ruszyck cites Samantha Power, who suggests that “Southern Senators feared that inventive lawyers might argue segregation in the South inflicted “mental harm” and thus counted as genocide” (Samantha Power, “A Problem from Hell”: America and the Age of Genocide [New York: Harper Perennial, 2002], 67).
Perpetrators

Barnes and Ruszyck, independent of each other, examine the role that societies, internal and external to the strife, play as possible perpetrators of genocide. The approach taken by Barnes is to question what role popular media plays in understanding genocide. According to Barnes, filmmakers and writers have the privilege of showing the world a visual account of genocides, but some choose to be ambiguous and not tell the whole truth. Although today’s accounts of history are generally written based on real facts, previous accounts from writers sometimes aimed to condone their own leaders and personal beliefs. This is to say that the writers tend to tell the story in favor to what they believed happened, or maybe take sides. The fact that most writers and filmmakers want to entertain people contributes to exaggerating a story to give it more interest.

Barnes believes that the person who is making or writing for a film has a tendency to bend the truth to create a more interesting story. Overall, writers and filmmakers are biased to telling stories of their own objectives. Writers and filmmakers who look at situations start to speculate and make up assumptions about reasons that genocide happens. The filmmakers and the media tell the world about the victims and perpetrators, but many times they fail to include and clarify the fact that the state or country had to have orchestrated the genocide for the plan to be executed correctly. This is true, for example, in the compelling film about the Rwanda genocide, Sometimes in April. Writers and filmmakers make genocide look like a spontaneous act of anger.

Ruszyck’s approach to the point is different. The author questions who the perpetrators are. According to Ruszyck, whether people believe that genocide occurred or not, there is no way that they can deny the fact that millions and millions of people had
been tortured and murdered. So who is to blame? Who in their right minds would do this, and why? Hitler needed a scapegoat, something that would lift the spirits of Germany and launch his and the country’s success. Following the First World War Germany had become very poor and stuck in what seemed an everlasting economic depression. “War provided a cover for mass murder” (Bergen,147), and the destruction of German Jews was offered as a solution to the country’s problems. Similarly, according to Ruszyck, the genocide in Cambodia at the hands of the Khmer Rouge has chilling effects on the perpetrators. Ruszyck notes that the advancing genocide creates a form of inertia. Some perpetrators knew what they were doing was very wrong. However, instead of stopping and trying to do things in another way, they just lived in fear and killed more people. Therefore, by committing genocide, it traps the killer into a corner of guilt, and being scared, kill more people than was originally or initially planned.

Victims

How genocide affects individuals and entire societies can be as diverse as the numbers and types of victims that survive. Ruszuck puts it in perspective: The victims who have to live with these thoughts and images in their mind will never forget what had happened to them. Nor will they debate whether or not this was right or wrong, genocide or not, because they lived it and know the true extent of the horror. Ruszyck quotes Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel: “Never shall I forget these things, even if I am condemned to live as long as God himself.” Even in death, these victims will suffer the cruel film that forever plays in their minds. Their eyes become the window to the non-stopping view of suffering and death of not only strangers, but of their loved ones too.
In examining victimization, Barnes and Ruszyck both consider the long term impact on human memory, specifically deep or repressed memory. As Barnes explained, victims tend to have two types of memory of the genocide. There is common memory, which is a memory that’s not too difficult to think about, and deep memory or repressed memory. Barnes describes deep memory as resisting remembering traumatic situations that happened in your life. Ruszyck notes that many have suffered through deep and common memory when recollecting their events and dealings. Deep memory is memory that takes you right back to the time and place it happened, and as you speak to tell it, you become confused, lost in thought, and emotional.

Both authors cite examples of victims recalling their own horrifying ordeals. Barnes, in citing Lemarchard, relays the statement of a woman who survived the 1994 genocide in Rwanda:

“Two of my children were killed. Nkusi and Muhire. I know the killer. He was a soldier, Mukama. He had a gun; he is the one who shot many people. They would shoot at a hundred or two hundred people…It is all former soldiers who killed us. Those who fell over were beaten up with clubs or hacked to death” (Lemarchand, 498).

According to Barnes, this is a prime example of a deep memory. This victim struggles to reconcile her expectation of soldiers with the reality of their brutality against their own compatriots. Discussing her children also emerged from deep memory. Talking with someone about the death of your children is not something that comes easily. The death of your children is not likely to be a common memory, because it is something that you would want to suppress and forget about. Thinking about something like this would wear on your mind and drive you crazy.
Similarly, Ruszyck uses the experiences of a survivor of Auschwitz, Kitty, as she returns to the camp decades later. As she recalled in the film *Kitty Returns to Auschwitz*:

“Don’t think I can. Oh God. Just wait and see. Just wait and see. Oh God.” Kitty returned because she felt she needed to do it, if not for herself, then for all of the survivors and victims of the Holocaust. She wanted to be very strong, but as she first stepped back onto the soil, she couldn’t help but envision again all of the innocent people all in a line, being beaten, and demanded like animals, to do as the Nazis said. This is a deep memory because Kitty can’t bear to speak of the events that just happened, and starts crying. Also, she repeats herself, and can’t explain the story, and debates whether or not she should be doing this.

Barnes suggests, all in all, that deep memories are very important to get to the core facts of horrific situations such as genocides. They allow victims to retain true accounts and information, allowing them to relay this information to others. The world needs to always trust the deep memory and testimonies of the victims of genocide because this is the closest we’re going to get to knowing about the genocide.

**Bystanders**

Genocide does not occur in a vacuum. There is an awareness, and awareness can lead to intervention, but it often does not. Both authors conclude their own observations of genocide and the Holocaust in their respective examinations of bystanders to these atrocities. Barnes is critical of the United States, as a nation, in failing to intervene in the genocide in Rwanda in the latter part of the Twentieth Century. According to Barnes, the United States government stood by when it could have fixed the problem right away. Unfortunately, it was reluctant and refused to intervene into genocidal episodes. The fact
that the government stood by also makes them perpetrators because they could have stepped in at any point and helped save lives. Is it incriminating that when the genocide in Rwanda was going on, the United States demonstrated its capacity to intervene by taking their own people out but failed to help stop the genocide from happening?

Ruszyck is also critical of the United States in this regard. As these innocent people were being slaughtered and degraded of their religion and lives, there were lots of people who had become bystanders. The United States stood by not only during the Rwanda genocide about also during the Holocaust. Its government justified its silence by honoring above all the principle of national sovereignty.

**Conclusion**

The benefit of interdisciplinary studies that encourage students from various majors to meet, research and discuss critical issues can be found in the telling reports by two Kean students, Dominique Barnes and Jennifer Ruszyck. In their independent research, both note the similarities of infamous periods in human history. These similarities span time, culture and geography.

Barnes and Ruszyck argue that the atrocities of genocide cannot be forgotten lest history will continue to repeat itself. The vicarious nature of this form of their own witness allows them to experience the pain and suffering of the countless millions of men, women and children who have suffered horrifically across the span of time and place so that their stories are not forgotten. The unspeakable truth is that which is not told, from person to person, from generation to generation.

**Sources**

THE AGE OF WITNESS:

Imagine two people meeting for the first time in a human drama that ends with one dead and the second gravely wounded. What provoked such an incident, such violence? Why is one man dead, and the other is left clinging to life? How do we understand one man’s will to survive and another’s desire to die? How can we witness this incident if we were not even there? This essay offers a glimpse into the nature of witnessing an incident vicariously through another. This form of witnessing examines the resiliency of one such man, Ken Hogan, and his will to survive. Using excerpts from a case study analysis, this essay will focus on the incident that almost cost Hogan his life. The raw emotion, pain, and anxiety Hogan felt in the fight for his life is expressed in clear and simple language, his own.

Ken Hogan was a police officer. His career mirrored the many thousands of men and women serving in police agencies across the Nation. His approach to his job was grounded in his will to survive. Ken Hogan’s story has been chronicled in film and is the source of interest for practitioners, clinicians and researchers alike who all seek to explain how someone can survive from multiple gunshot wounds to the head and body and then return to work as a productive individual. The lessons learned from Hogan’s life and experiences are inextricably linked and help to provide a glimpse into how his life’s experiences helped to shape his overall resiliency.

The Early Years

Ken Hogan’s young life was difficult at best. Born in Irvington, New Jersey in the late 1950s to alcoholic parents and he was the youngest of four children. Hogan’s father was incapable of maintaining full-time employment, and the family suffered from the father’s chronic alcoholism and propensity to gamble the little money they had. His father was murdered in the early 1960s as the result of an attack that occurred near their home. Ken’s mother struggled with her own alcoholism and the difficulty of raising four kids in a tough urban neighborhood.

Hogan’s life was not without hope. As a young boy, after his father’s death, he was enrolled in a local catholic school with the assistance of the parish. A young catholic nun, Sister Maureen, had a profound impact on the young Hogan. Sister Maureen taught young Hogan to be strong and never to be afraid. The young nun would die shortly after meeting Hogan from leukemia, but her earlier advice would leave an indelible impression on Hogan.

As he grew, so did his will to survive and the seeds of resiliency began to take hold. Hogan believed in himself, he had a plan. His plan was to survive and to make a difference. The early roots of young Hogan’s plan would factor into his day-to-day plan to survive as police officer.
Entering the police profession in the late 1970s, Ken Hogan saw his fair share of pain and suffering. Joining the ranks of his hometown police force in Irvington, he was entering a world that one day challenge his will to survive. Without the benefit of solid childhood role models, Hogan quickly gravitated to senior officers who demonstrated many of the positive traits that were missing in people in his earlier, formative years.

**Game Changer**

It was late January 1994, a Monday when Ken Hogan began his ride to work, a day that would change his life forever. The commute was not a long one and his early thoughts were personal; he was getting married and his fiancée’s wedding shower was the day before. All in all, a great day for Ken, his fiancée, their family and friends.

Hogan did not believe his job was routine, but his daily routine getting ready for work was. Roll call was the same, day in and day out. The conversations, the bantering, the quirks of the officers as they went through the ritual of getting ready were generally the same regardless of the shift, regardless of the personnel.

As he made his way to his assigned radio car, a Chevy Impala with over 80,000 miles, Ken sensed that his day was not staring off to well. A little superstitious, as most cops were, he preferred older cars, cars he could rely on. Not today. After inspecting his assigned vehicle he started the car.

*Shit. A fucking miss. The engine is fucking missing. That’s just great.*

Hogan drove the marked radio car a short distance to the Municipal Garage. After several attempts to correct the engine miss the decision to deadline the car was made and a substitute car was assigned from the motor pool. Hagan repeated the inspection of the newly assigned car and was ready to begin his tour, with one exception. The mechanic did not have a single spare key for Car #7 so the garage foreman handed him a ring that held over 50 car keys. This huge key ring was not something that Hogan or any officer could place in their pants pockets or on a gun belt. As a matter of routine, Hogan would leave keys on the floor when he needed to exit the car quickly. His thoughts focused on how he would do that with a key ring that a school janitor would envy.

*What am I suppose to do with 50 keys? One key, that’s all I need, one key. I got 50, 50 friggin keys. Only in Irvington. What a job.*

After clearing from the municipal garage Hogan began his way toward his assigned area: 203. The city was divided into four areas, each about the same size in terms of square miles covered. Many of the homes in the area were two-family, neatly lining the streets side-by-side.

A native of the city, Hogan first worked 203 as a beat cop. Long before community policing was in vogue Hogan would be invited by area residents to attend birthday parties and enjoy some home cooked meals during local barbeques. Most area residents were black, second or third generation Irvington residents. But things changed. Many of the
people that Hogan knew as a young beat cop were gone. Many homes were vacant, some boarded up, others just abandoned. There were homes that stood out, homes that were cared for. Sadly, many of these properties were ringed with heavy gates and fences in attempts to hold back the crushing advance of urban decay and blight. There was hope. There were people who cared; there were people like Ken Hogan.

As he made his way east on Springfield Avenue into the 203 area Hogan’s thoughts drifted between the present and the future. Thoughts of an upcoming promotion to the rank of sergeant were mixed with practical thoughts of how he would help to prepare and protect the cops who would eventually work for him. Some of the cops were good and some not so good. The not so good ones were his main concern. Cops can get into trouble. They get hurt. They die. Not that day, not Ken Hogan, he has thought a lot about this and that is not a part of his plan.

Turning off of Springfield Avenue onto 21st Street Officer Ken Hogan began to clear his mind and focused on the area and hidden dangers. Hogan was keenly aware that the streets are often used as a cut-through by car thief’s from the area to travel into and out of the City of Newark. The area is a classic example of social apathy. Abandoned houses line the streets and his conscious thoughts are about survival; his own and that of the people in the neighborhood.

Traveling north on 21st Street, Hogan approached the intersection of Nelson Place and Standard Place, a typical residential street corner in the City of Irvington. He continued north into a one-way street. The absence of cars made his choice of driving against the flow of traffic easier. If anyone was out on the street the element of surprise would be in his favor.

As he drove slowly down the street one of the first things that Hogan noticed was out of place was something that usually is present, but it’s not: garbage. Normally garbage would be along the street and collected near the curbs. The snow was hiding all of that, at least for the time being. It will come back, it always did. Something else was missing: people. No one was out. The porches were empty. He saw some kids looking out from a window; he recognized friendly faces, local kids. Inside, warm, a good place for them on a day like this. Hogan reflected on how peaceful the streets were at that moment. That was all about to change.

As Hogan approached the intersection of 19th Avenue and 21st Street he glanced toward the east, toward Newark. Nineteenth Avenue is a clear shot into Newark and Hogan’s thoughts was focused on stolen motor vehicles. The street was clear. At that moment Hogan noticed a black male walking in a westerly direction toward his marked radio car. The male was on the sidewalk as he approached Hogan. Hogan doesn’t recognize this guy. His first thought was that he was not from the area. There are no bus stops, no stores, and no schools. What is he up to? Hogan is in cop mode. His radar is on. This is a drug area, people buy and sell drugs whether there is snow on the ground or not. Stolen car? What’s the deal?

As the male approached, Hogan keyed in on his body language. The male was looking down. Hogan wondered why he was not looking up at the radio car. The only moving car on the street the radio car must be obvious. As he assessed the situation, Hogan noticed that
the male continued to look down, avoiding any eye contact or acknowledging that the police car was even there.

*What’s with this guy? Something’s not right. He’s not looking at me. Why isn’t he looking at me? Come on Mr. Happy, what’s up?*

As he continues to assess the male and his body language, Hogan’s instincts tell him that he was likely spotted by this guy first. The male hasn’t done anything wrong, yet. Hogan’s observations are part intuition, part survival. As he continues to read the man’s body language, Hogan notices that the guy’s arms stiffen and his direction on the sidewalk begins to move from right to left. The guy began walking from the side of the sidewalk closest to the street to the inside of the sidewalk, closer to the houses.

This guy was not playing by any script that Hogan expected. Hogan began to search his memory for past events that had occurred in this area. A recent gun job, a car chase, or drug deals were thoughts that quickly came to mind.

As the male approached the intersection Hogan inched the police car further toward the sidewalk in an attempt to gain the man’s attention. The man’s pace did not change or slow down at all.

*This ain’t right, his body is too stiff. What is this guy up to?*

Hogan was still in the police car as the male suddenly changed direction and began walking towards the rear of the radio car. Hogan was forced to glance over his right shoulder, looking across the interior of the radio car. As the male continued past the police car Hogan felt a sense of vulnerability as he was now forced to turn from his right to his left to continue to observe the man.

As Hogan continued to watch the male he expected him to cross back toward the crosswalk area to continue walking west. Instead, he walked southeast toward a house that Hogan was familiar with from past incidents. Hogan had made numerous arrests in the area in the past, including several gun arrests, and based on his instincts believed that the male was possibly looking to make a buy.

There were two males standing on a porch adjacent to where Hogan last saw the male walking. Neither of these men was present when Hogan first drove past the house. Hogan’s suspicions were mounting and he began to view the male in a different light: suspect. Hogan’s state of awareness intensified. He scanned the neighborhood looking for escape routes in case this guy took off. Hogan’s ready for action. Hogan continued in the same direction he was traveling when he first observed the lone male. He decided to turn the radio car around, to bring things back into his terms. After a quick K-turn Hogan was again in front of the house where moments before he observed the two males on the front porch.

*Where the fuck did they go? The two guys, they’re gone. Where the fuck are they? Mr. Happy’s moving fast.*
The two males on the porch were gone. Likely back in the house, but the suspect was moving away, he was approximately 75 feet away from the house heading back towards the direction where Hogan first observed him. Hogan continued driving the radio car in the direction of the suspect. He remembered the two on the porch, they were local street-level drug dealers, he was certain of it.

_This guy’s not fazed by me. Look he’s tightening up. He’s up to no fucking good._

Hogan was mentally preparing himself for the stop. He scanned his memory for past arrests in the area. He checked for familiar signs and cues that could help in the event that there is any type of foot pursuit.

_He’s gonna do something. Rabbit, fight, something, he’s got to. This guy just bought or sold I know it._

The suspect continued to walk away from Hogan, but he was headed toward the dead end section of Nelson Place. Hogan moved the car in the direction of the suspect. The sound of the radio car would have been obvious to anyone walking in the area, but this guy did not react.

_He’s dirty, he’s got something on him, I can feel it._

As Hogan continued toward the suspect, he positioned the radio car in such a way that he could turn in any direction to chase the suspect on foot or with the car if he took off. Hogan was feeling confident. He made the conscious decision to stop the suspect. With a sense of confidence he radioed to headquarters:

**Hogan:** Gonna be stopping one on 21st and Nelson.

**Headquarters (HQ):** Alright. Unit in the area of Nelson and 21st, to back him.

It was standard procedure in the Irvington Police Department to dispatch a back-up unit to assist any officer during a field interview or motor vehicle stop. Hogan was aware of this and did not acknowledge that back-up was assigned. There was nothing inherent in Hogan’s radio transmission or his voice that alerted communications or other personnel that the officer was in imminent danger. He had made that same transmission hundreds of times in his career. He was a skilled, veteran cop. Ken Hogan had a plan and he was acting according to the script he had played over and over in his mind.

The suspect’s back was to Hogan at this point. Hogan was watching him for any sign or indication of what would happen. Hogan recalled that the suspect’s jacket was black, but his attention quickly moved towards his hands.

_Alright Mr. Happy, what’s in your hands, anything? Do you have anything in your hands?_

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1 Radio transmissions are between Hogan and the Irvington Police Department Communications Center.
Hogan was searching for something, anything that would indicate what the suspect’s intentions were. His hands were open; they weren’t clenched or closed in any way that would be an attempt to hide something, anything. He wasn’t holding a damn thing; money, drugs, anything, but his arms, they were rigid, stiff. His body language was sending signals to Hogan, loud signals.

*What’s he up to? Mr. Happy, you’re up to something, yes you are, I can feel it. Watch this guy Kenny, he’s up to no good.*

Hogan had stopped individuals in similar situations countless times, hundreds of times, but he wasn’t taking anything for granted. He ran over in his mind what his actions would be, what he would say. He prepared himself like he always did. What if he runs?

Hogan was beginning to process how he would broadcast the information. He continued to assess his location. Mentally he established the compass points; North, South, East, and West. He knew that it was critical to give accurate locations. Hogan’s senses were heightened. His mind processes both conscious and subconscious thoughts. The suspect and his actions are in the forefront of Hogan’s mind. His subconscious is handling the situation based on sixteen years of police work, sixteen years of surviving. Hogan is a survivor. He sits erect in the car, his eyes taking in everything; the suspect, the neighborhood, likely escape routes. Hogan is in full *cop mode.*

The suspect is about 35 feet from the front of the police car. Hogan is prepared to act. He continues to assess the situation. His eyes are scanning every possible inch of the suspect’s body. The suspect’s body is still stiff. Hogan can clearly see his back and his arms. Clear, they are clear, nothing visible. The driver’s side window of the police car is down all the way. Hogan begins to open the door and calls out to the suspect.

**Hogan:** “Yo, my man, hold up a minute.”

As he calls out to the suspect Ken notices that the suspect begins to turn slightly to his right. At this point Hogan loses sight of the suspect’s right hand.

*Where is his hand? I can’t see his hand. I gotta see his hand.*

The suspect begins to move. Hogan is following the movement. Things begin to happen rapidly, quicker than Ken would have expected. The suspect’s jacket, a black army-type jacket, is open. The movement conceals his right hand. Hogan can no longer see the suspect’s right hand.

*His hand, where the fuck is his hand? I can’t see his hand. This ain’t good, I can’t see his hand. GUN.*

Gun. It’s as clear as if this was designed to happen. The suspect has removed a handgun from his waistband.
Gun. He’s got a gun.

The suspect swings his right arm up pointing the gun in the direction of Hogan’s police car. Hogan sees a flash, there is a loud crack.

POP.

Everything is bright. Hogan recalls that the sun was reflected off of the snow that was on the ground. Hogan’s senses are at peak levels, he is processing things that seem insignificant.

The fucking snow, fuck the snow.

He is processing everything that has happened. Checking and cross checking. He is keenly aware of his surroundings. Hogan is still in the car, he never exited it.

MOVE HOGAN, MOVE. FUCKING MOVE. GET DOWN, GET THE FUCK DOWN.

Hogan moves instinctively to his right, it’s his only option. The first shot hits the windshield at a point even with Hogan’s head. The round is dead on.

SHIT, OH SHIT.

The interior of the police car is filled with millions of particles of glass. The glass moves towards Hogan’s face.

Oh shit, shit. The windshield, the windshield is hit.

Hogan’s physical reactions to the initial gunshot were going as planned. He had planned for this moment his whole career. The car would provide cover. Prepare for the pain. Use the mind to control the body. Hogan was preparing for the inevitable.

As quickly as everything was happening it seemed as if time had slowed to a crawl. They told him this would happen. It’s happened before, Hogan knew the script, and he was living it. Hogan’s movements were quick, reactive to the danger, yet each movement that he made seemed to take forever. The sense of slow motion was magnified, it even seemed normal.

Hogan continued to move to his right, first hitting the armrest between the front seats.

Move, get down, down. Don’t let this fucker get you. Move.

Hogan’s head was down. The passenger seat prevented further downward movement. Was he trapped? Would the design of the car be his downfall? No. He continued to reduce the chance of exposure. Moving toward the passenger side door Hogan heard several more gunshots.
POP. POP. POP. POP. POP. An auto, this guy’s got a fuckin automatic. How many rounds did he fire? What is it, what kind of gun is it?

HE’S COMING. THIS FUCKING GUY IS COMING FOR ME.

As Hogan continues to move toward the passenger side of the patrol car he realizes that the suspect is not stopping, this guy was on a mission. His mission was to kill a cop. His mission was to kill Ken Hogan. Hogan’s plan was to stop him, stop him from completing his mission; Hogan’s mission was to survive.

Oh my God. Oh my God.

The suspect has reached the drivers side door.

How the fuck did he get here? This can’t be happening? How the fuck did he get here?

Hogan’s thoughts are on escape. There is no time for anything else.

Get out of the car. Get out of the fucking car Hogan. MOVE. MOVE. MOVE. Move Kenny, you have to get the hell out of here.

Hogan heard several more gunshots, but by now he has lost count, the rounds were fired without hesitation.

Did he reload, is he out of ammo? He ain’t fuckin stopping.

Hogan’s in full survival mode. His thoughts focus on his escape. The door, he needs to move towards the door.

Get out of the fuckin car. You’re trapped, get out of the car. DO IT NOW HOGAN, DO IT NOW, GET OUT OF THE CAR.

Hogan reaches for the passenger side door handle with his right hand. He had rehearsed this very scenario in his mind several times before, over and over again. These were the “What if” scenarios. This is what he had been trained to do; it’s what he needed to do. He had gone over each and every job before and critiqued what he and other cops had done, what went right, and more importantly, what went wrong. He made mental notes, it was a part of the plan; the plan to survive.

Things were happening so quickly Hogan’s initial reaction was to avoid being hit by the gunfire. He did not have time to draw his own service weapon. According to Hogan’s plan he would first escape the confines of the car and get cover, and then he would draw and return fire. That is what he was trained to do. As he is pulling on the door handle he hears a shot.

POP.
This would be the last shot that Hogan recalls hearing. There was nothing but silence. Everything was quiet. Hogan hears something, or does he? There is a high pitched noise, a ringing sensation. Hogan begins to realize that the ringing is in his head, it’s constant. The noise was coming from inside of him.

OOOOH SHIT. Oh y God, Oh my God. Oh my God. I’m hit. I’m fucking hit.

Everything is black, the lights are out. The bright snow is gone. Hogan is temporarily blinded.

**Unit 204:** Alright, coming from the center.

Back up was on the way.

**Wow, it finally happened, I’m shot. I’m shot.**

In a half-ass sort of way Hogan had expected that he would, sooner or later, be shot. He was not sure how he would react, but would soon begin that journey.

The darkness was vivid; it magnified Hogan’s physical and emotional feelings. After realizing that he has been shot Hogan felt a sudden sense of peace. Something was missing. The pain, there was no pain. Hogan began to identify his lack of feeling. The calm and silence, his sense of peace. Death. It finally happened! Hogan’s first thoughts were of his father who had been murdered when he was just three years old.

**Hello Dad, I’m gonna finally meet you.**

His thoughts continue to focus on death. He thought of Tony Graffa, the Irvington police officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1984. He was a role model for Hogan, a cop that he admired. Graffa was someone that Hogan had looked up to as a young police officer and his death had a profound effect on Hogan.

**Hey Tony, here I come.**

Hogan stopped. His thoughts radically changed direction. He thought about life. The life he and his fiancée were planning. They had been dating for seven years. Just the day before they had celebrated the wedding shower, this was a part of a plan; a plan that did not include dying, at least not today.

**Wait a minute, I gotta marry my girl.**

Hogan’s mind is racing. His thoughts go back and forth to his training, his plan for survival.

**You know what this is. Get up Kenny, get up. Get mad.**
Death’s door, Ken Hogan is at death’s door. Not for long.

*Get mad Kenny, Get mad Kenny. Fight Back. Move, get up off of the floor.*

*Oh my God, this is bad. Get up off of the floor Ken.*

*Fight Kenny. FIGHT.*

*Oh my God.*

The feeling of peace that Hogan initially felt quickly gave way to a rushing sense of fear, which was a good thing. It meant that Hogan was still alive. He knew this and he kept talking to himself.

*Move, get up. Get away.*

*Don’t die Kenny…don’t die…You can do this. You’re not going to die today.*

He played this over and over in his mind. The mantra was cathartic.

*Don’t die Kenny…don’t die. Don’t die Kenny.*

Hogan sat up in the car. There still was no sensation of pain. His physical movement felt exaggerated, as if he is moving in slow motion. Suddenly he realizes that two of his senses are not working. Ken Hogan cannot see or hear anything. This realization is flooded with fear.

*I can’t see. My eyes, my fucking eyes, I can’t see.*

*Where the fuck is he? Where the fuck is the bad guy?*

Fully aware that he is upright in the police car Hogan cannot determine where his assailant is. There is no time to feel pity or sorrow. Hogan has to do something. He has to survive. That is a part of his plan.

Hogan visualizes in his mind’s eye exactly where he was just before he was shot. What he is not aware of at that moment is how many times and where he has been shot and just how seriously he is injured. Four shots struck Hogan. The first hit him in the right hand followed by two shots in his back; his right shoulder and spine at the base of his neck. The last shot was point-blank to the center of his head.

The plan, the scenario, these were things that Hogan had gone over in his mind. He was prepared for this. This was a part of his plan.

*I know this. I know this. I know this. Do it, do it know.*
As he tries to move Hogan is acutely aware that his right arm is limp at his side. Still, he knows that he must react. Trying to start the car, which he had turned off just before calling to the suspect, Hogan realizes that he cannot use his right arm. Thankfully the large key ring would help Hogan in starting the car without having to look for the guys; he never pulled the key from the ignition and dropped it to the floor, something he had done countless times before. Luck or consequence would play an integral part in Hogan’s movements immediately after he was shot.

Fear was an emotion that Hogan had prepared for; he built fear into his scenarios. Fear was an ally at this point. It signaled that he was still alive and that he needed to act, he needed to act now.

*I CAN’T SEE. Oh my God.*

*Call Kenny, call Headquarters. Do they know where I am?*

Acting according to his plan, something that he consciously thought of, Hogan reached for the radio microphone with his left hand.

*Just reach up and grab the mic, reach up Ken, its there. It’s always there.*

**Hogan:** 3 to quarters. I’ve been shot!

*Did they hear me? Is the radio working? Oh my God.*

**START THE CAR KENNY. START THE FUCKING CAR. MOVE. MOVE. MOVE.**

Using his left hand Hogan started the car, the keys were in the ignition, he hadn’t dropped them to the floor like he normally would have, time and time again. Not this time. Not able to hear the engine he could feel the vibration in the car as the engine came to life. *Drive Kenny, drive. Drive the goddamn car.*

*I CAN’T SEE. I CAN’T FUCKING SEE. HOW AM I SUPPOSE TO DRIVE, I CAN’T SEE. JUST DRIVE, DRIVE.*

Still not feeling pain Hogan’s thoughts returned to his assailant.

*Where is he? Please don’t let him get off any more rounds.*

With the car running Hogan sitting upright put the car into gear.

*I have to get away. Don’t let him shot again.*

Hogan sensed the vehicle was moving and turned to his right. As a right-handed person, this was as much instinct as it was situational awareness based on his recollections of the scene prior to the shooting.
As the police car began to move Hogan realized that he was regaining his sight, he was able to see. The first image that he recalls was a police car heading in his direction.

*Thank God, thank you God. Help. Help is here.*

With the approach of the backup unit Hogan felt the light fading from his view. It was dark again, his sight was gone. He could feel the fear filling him again, but not pain. There was no pain. Hogan passed out.

Again, the recognition, no pain. Hogan knows that if he does not fight that he will die.

*OPEN YOU EYES KENNY. OPEN YOUR GODDAMN EYES.*

In response to his subconscious Hogan opened his eyes. Looking directly at his right hand he sees that his hand is covered in blood.

*My finger, my fucking finger is gone. This guy shot off my fuckin finger.*

The first shot to strike Hogan was to his right hand. The index finger was severed from the gunshot. Looking at his hand, Hogan began to sense that he was wet, everything was wet, his entire body. Fear crept back into the picture.

*The sun, I can see the sun.*

Not sure of what was happening; he pressed the accelerator in an attempt to keep the police car moving. Little did he know at that time, but the car had ridden up onto a snow bank and would not move. Ken was trying to escape; he was trying to complete his plan.

*RUN, RUN, RUN KENNY.*

**HQ:** Alright, units, he states he’s been shot. Units assist officer.

**HQ:** Units assist officer.

**HQ:** 21st and Nelson.

**Hogan:** I’ve been shot!

**HQ:** We’ve got units coming down. 21st and Nelson. Officer’s been shot there.

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. (HQ sends out an alert tone from dispatch center)

**HQ:** Units, officer shot, Nelson and 21st.

Hogan pushes the alert button from inside his police vehicle located on the floor mounted car radio – signaling the alert tone. This alert sends out an audible tone that signals distress.
Every cop is familiar with the beep-beep-beep tone. Ken had practiced pressing this button numerous times, some with his eyes closed. This as all a part of his plan, and he was putting it into action. He used his left hand to find the radio and continued to use his fingers, like a blind person relying on Braille; it worked, he pushed the button.

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.

HQ: We’re getting a signal from his vehicle now, units.

The other police car is an escape; it’s a safe haven away from the shooter. Hogan decides that his best option at this point is to get to the other police car. Not realizing the extent of his injuries Hogan plans on leaving his patrol car and running to the safety of the backup unit. In his mind Hogan runs to the other car. In his mind he runs.

HQ: Black jacket and army pants from a witness over the phone.

HQ: Through the yards 335 . . . 21st

204: Out.

As information is relayed over the police radio Hogan’s thoughts are on getting out of the radio car and into the police car that he saw just moments before. In his mind he runs. Despite his injuries Hogan manages to open the door of Car #7. Hogan visualizes running to the safety of the other car. Little does he know that he barely makes it from the car. In reality, he stumbles from his car and is helped into the backseat of the second police car by Officer Dennis Doherty (Unit 204).

204: 4 to quarters. You want me to take him to the hospital?

Doherty’s voice is strong, authoritative; he’s a veteran cop, just like Hogan. Hogan responds to Doherty’s last radio transmission.

I’m dying Dennis, I’m dying, just take me.

HQ: Everything should be there Dennis, just stand by there. Everything should be there momentarily.

Hogan is drifting in and out.

Dennis take me. Take me. I’m gonna die here. Take me.

Doherty has seen and heard enough, Hogan is in bad shape, real bad shape. Sounding less confident than before Officer Doherty makes the decision to transport Hogan to the hospital.
204: I’m starting down there.

As Officer Doherty begins to make his way to University Hospital, the State Trauma Center in Newark, Hogan lays in the backseat of the radio car bleeding severely from multiple gunshot wounds. Shot in the head, neck, shoulder, and hand, he feels the life draining from his body. Hogan continues to fight unconsciousness. He knows that passing out would mean death. His plan was to talk to Doherty in an effort to remain conscious.

Don’t pass out Kenny. If you pass out you’ll die. Don’t pass out motherfucker. Don’t die, I don’t want to die.

As Hogan continued to talk to Officer Doherty he felt more at ease. Fear was slipping away, but so was his consciousness. The last thing Officer Ken Hogan recalled before passing out in the rear of Officer Doherty’s car was the entrance way sign for the UMDNJ Emergency Room.

HQ: Units we just got a call – 22nd Street between 20th and 19th Avenue.
Male shot himself in the head there.

As Officer Doherty pulled into the parking lot of the Emergency Room, he expected that a trauma team would be waiting for him. No one, there was no one waiting. No one was there to help. Hogan lay in the back seat of Doherty’s radio car. He was bleeding out. Ken Hogan was dying.

Doherty sprang into action, determined to help. He ran into the Emergency Room and yelled

COP SHOT. COP SHOT.

The staff, the nurses, doctors, anyone nearby rushed to assist. Hogan was brought into the Emergency Room. He was at death’s door, but not for long, not today. There was a bond between medical personnel and the cops and firefighters that came in and out of emergency rooms across the nation. UMDNJ was no different. Cops were like one of their own. They would help Ken, they would help him.

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1 This public narrative was first presented in Spring 2009 during the Kean University Faculty Roundtable presentation The Age of Witness. This presentation was the foundation for future work on resiliency that was prepared as a manuscript for a chapter submitted for inclusion in Paton, D. & Violanti, J.M. Eds. (2011). Working in high risk environments: Developing sustained resilience. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas Publishers.