

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOW HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BECOME A MOTIVATING FORCE ON THE  
WORLD STAGE TO BE EXPLORED IN TALK AT RAMAPO COLLEGE OF  
NEW JERSEY**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Samuel Moyn, Professor of History at Columbia University, will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Thursday, November 3 at 1 p.m. in the Robert A. Scott Student Center, Alumni Lounge (SC138) under the auspices of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the History Club of Ramapo College.

Moyn will discuss his recent book, “The Last Utopia. Human Rights in History,” which traces the genesis of the ideal of human rights and how it has become a motivating force on the world stage.

The presentation will delve into the ideal's troubled present as well as its uncertain future. The event will reveal how a broad consensus developed around the cause of human rights, supplanting revolutionary communism and nationalism, and became an alternative to struggle and bloody violence.

Moyn holds an A.B. from Washington University in St. Louis (1994), a Ph.D. from University of California at Berkeley (2000), and a J.D. from Harvard Law School (2001). His studies include modern European intellectual history, political and legal thought, mathematical and critical theory and Jewish studies.

In addition to numerous essays and reviews, Samuel Moyn is the author of several previous books, including: “A Holocaust Controversy: The Treblinka Affair in Postwar France” (Brandeis, 2005) and “Origins of the Other: Emmanuel Levinas Between Revelation and Ethics” (Cornell, 2007).

The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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For media inquiries, contact Anna Farneski, assistant vice president, Marketing and Communications, 201.684.6844.

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business,

humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, as well as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.