## Profile Hillel Levine

## Researcher, Policy Analyst, and Writer of Literary Non-Fiction

Dr. Hillel Levine, a professor at the Boston University is an accomplished writer, researcher and analyst in the field of ethnically and religiously incited local and global conflicts, how to prevent and how to stop them. His many writings include, "Whodunit?!: Intolerance and the Secularization of Law," *Economic Origins of Antisemitism*, "Judaism and Human Rights," *The Death of an American Jewish Community*," "Monotheism and the Sources of American Foreign Policy," "Colliding Identities," and *In Search of Sugihara*. He uses scholarly research tools and canons of evidence, but always takes an empathetic and multi-disciplinary approach. His use of evocative narrative and moving life-histories makes his work engaging to non-specialists and popular audiences, while remaining influential among academics and policy analysts. Many of his publications have been cited by journalists and writers as classical examples of literary non-fiction. His research on Sugihara, a rescuer during the Holocaust, provided the basis for an Oscar-winning documentary, and two of his books have been made into documentaries. A feature-length dramatization is planned for his book on Sugihara. He is a popular lecturer and guest columnist in newspapers, and he makes frequent radio and television appearances. Dr. Levine studied with eminent scholars such as Erik Erikson, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Elie Wiesel, Hannah Arendt, and Peter Berger.

## **Community and Organizational Planner**

Dr. Levine is President of the International Center for Conciliation, an NGO organized to prevent and resolve violent conflicts that are made all the more volatile by disputed histories and memories of past injuries. He applies his theoretical knowledge and experience in the social sciences, from psychoanalytic theory to organizational development and business administration, to a broad range of domestic and international strategic planning processes and public programs. He directed the first planning process resulting in the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, mediating the concerns of Holocaust survivors and representatives of other genocides, historians, educators, and communal leaders, architects, artists, elected officials, and government regulators. He is a board member of many community based not-for-profit organizations, and often acts as a consultant. He has designed and participated in conflict resolution workshops, including religious, ethnic, and socio-economic conflict, and consulted to foundations, government agencies, and professional organizations on these topics. Following the positive response to his book *Death of an* American Jewish Community on African American-Jewish relations, banking, government policy, changing neighborhoods, and ethnic conflict, he organized the Gentrification Project in Boston to foster dialogue and the clarification and balancing of conflicting interests among the stakeholders of neighborhood change. As an ordained rabbi, he has been active in interfaith activities and participated in the UN Millennial meeting on faith and development. He has consulted on these issues in Norway, Israel, Japan, Holland, Italy, Morocco, India, South Korea, and Germany. After the 1995 Kobe earthquake, he organized one of the only relief missions allowed entry by the Japanese government that included psychiatrists and mental health workers to deal with the trauma of the victims, particularly the burnout of the Kobe mental health workers who themselves were victims.

## **Teacher and Educational Programmer**

For more than thirty-five years, he has been devoted to undergraduate, graduate, professional, and adult non-professional education at Harvard, Yale, and now, as Professor of Sociology and Religion, at Boston University. He has held visiting professorships in Japan, China, India, Poland,

the Soviet Union, Brazil, and Israel. He teaches social theory and ethics, Jewish history, and the history of religions. He has developed and administered policy and research oriented internships in Washington, DC and interdisciplinary programs at his own and other universities, and contributed to the revitalization of the academy in the former Soviet Union after the fall of Communism. He enjoys the friendship of several generations of accomplished former students.