



# Concept Note

Seventy years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948, **human rights are experiencing one of their most regressive periods worldwide** concerning both the general support for their fundamental principles and infrastructure and for their implementation. As plainly acknowledged by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres addressing the Human Rights Council at its 34th session, ‘disregard for human rights is a disease, and it is a disease that is spreading – north, south, east and west’. Thus, the fact of human rights as a compass for building world order is increasingly being questioned.

**Research stands among the elements that can significantly contribute to inverting this daunting trend.** Thorough, sound and comprehensive human rights research can provide original data, ideas, visions and methods to develop a more effective policy agenda in a multi-level governance perspective. In other words, it can guide and support policy-makers, officials within international organisations, law-makers as well as activists, NGOs and educators in their shared commitment to increase the understanding, respect and enjoyment of universal human rights locally to globally. From this perspective, **human rights research can positively affect a number of variables that represent the potential drivers to the effectiveness of human rights implementation:** the quality of leadership, the degree of international and transnational cooperation, a better functioning of mechanisms for the protection of human rights, the advancement of human rights education, and so forth.

In spite of this potential, **current human rights research is also facing a number of challenges and shortcomings.** On one hand, its quality and usefulness is being questioned. Issues such as multi- and inter-disciplinarity are increasingly referred to as almost inevitable features of rigorous research in this domain. However, these remain open and disputed concepts, which are often employed as empty catchwords rather than being used to create meaningful correlations among a variety of datasets. On the other hand, there is often little correspondence between the interests and questions investigated by human rights researchers and the types of outputs that practitioners, human rights bodies and communities expect. Tensions between ‘critical’ and ‘mainstream’ approaches risk undermining the overall human rights discourse, and eventually weaken the capacity of societies and epistemic communities to resist oppression and violence.

This International Conference **aims to delve into the various facets of this debate**, which is crucial for the present and future of human rights, with the goal of providing an original contribution to discuss the role of human rights research and improve its policy- and action-oriented effectiveness. The Conference also aims at strengthening networking and cooperation among research centres committed to these themes worldwide.

# Conference Programme

Monday 27th November 2017

**Venue: Palazzo del Bo, Aula Nievo**

8:30 – 9:00

## **Registration**

---

9:00 – 9:30

## **Welcome Addresses**

---

Rosario Rizzuto, Rector, University of Padova

Marco Mascia, Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Padova

Giuseppe Giordan, Ph.D Coordinator, International Joint Ph.D Programme “Human Rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance”

Marcella Bonchio, Vice Rector for Research, University of Padova

Annalisa Oboe, Vice Rector for Cultural, Social and Gender Relations, University of Padova

9:30 – 11:30

## **Opening Plenary Session**

---

**Chair: Elena Pariotti, Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, University of Padova, Italy**

Todd Landman, University of Nottingham, UK

*Rigorous Morality: Transdisciplinary Research and the Advance of Human Rights*

Linda Hogan, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

*Situated (Religious) Communities and the Promotion of Human Rights: Challenges and Prospects*

Koen De Feyter, University of Antwerp, Belgium

*Leaving No One Behind in Human Rights Research*

11:30 – 12:00

## **Discussion**

---

# Parallel Panel Sessions

## Panel 1: Genocide, Ecocide and Minority Protections

14:00 – 16:15

---

Chair: Damien Short and Corinne Lennox, Human Rights Consortium, University of London, UK

Thamil Venthan Ananthavinayagan, Irish Centre for Human Rights, Galway and Griffith College, Dublin, Ireland

*Dum Vivimus Vivamus. The Tamils in Sri Lanka: a Right to Internal Self-determination*

Giulia Sajeve, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy

*Human Rights in the Anthropocene. Looking at Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Rights to Environmental Stewardship*

Malaka Shwaikh and Ayat Hamdan, Exeter University, UK

*Human Rights Violations and Everyday Resistance in the Gaza Strip*

Ann Marie Thake, Superior Court of Justice of Malta

*The Introduction of the Crime of Cultural Ecocide as a Tool for the Protection of Indigenous Cultural Heritage*

Shannon Maree Torrens, Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, Australia

*Environmental Destruction at the International Criminal Court: Benefits and Challenges*

## Panel 2: Social Justice, Equity, Human Rights and Public Health

14:00 – 16:15

---

Chair: Roberto De Vogli, Human Rights Centre, University of Padova, Italy

Su-ming Khoo, School of Political Science and Sociology, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland  
*Defending Health Solidarity in Challenging Circumstances: New Public Goods Theory, Public Health Ethics and Human Rights*

P Sree Sudha, Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Vizag, India

*Interface between Traditional Knowledge & Human Rights in Realizing Right to Health and Health Care*

Yi-Bin Chang, Tamkang University, New Taipei City, Taiwan, and Mab Huang, Soochow University, Taipei, Taiwan

*Economic Change and the Structure of Opportunity for Low-educated Workers in Taiwan*

Lais Kondo Claus, Mackenzie Presbyterian University, Brazil Emanuele Seicenti de Brito, University of São Paulo, Brazil, and Luciana Morilas Romano, University of São Paulo, Brazil

*The Application of Pursuit of Happiness Principle in Brazilian Jurisprudence*

Alexander Sieber, Columbia University, New York, USA

*Spiritual Rights?*

Mary L. Radnofsky, Dementia Action Alliance, USA

*The Dehumanization of People Like Me and 47 Million of My Closest Friends With Dementia*

### **Panel 3: Applying a Human Rights Based Approach to Human Rights Research | 14:00 – 16:15**

---

Chair: Peter Johansson, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

Luca Bonadiman, Institute for Global Law & Policy, Harvard Law School, USA  
*The “Good” Researcher: On the Dark Side of Human Rights Based Methods*

Martina Zuliani, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Martha Bouziouri, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece, Orhan Ceka, Centre for South-Eastern European Studies, University of Graz, Austria, and Mietta Eleni Kyrios, University of Melbourne, Australia  
*Employing HRBA in the Framework of Refugee Development Programs: Aspects of Inclusion, Representation and Integration*

Dennis A. Francis, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
*Applying Participatory Art-based Methods as a Mode of Inquiry to Challenge Homophobic Violence in South African Schools*

Marco Perolini, Goldsmiths College, London, UK  
*Human Rights as Legal Norms or Ideals for Social Justice? Rethinking the Ontology and Epistemology of Human Rights Research*

---

### **Panel 4: Bringing Home Human Rights: Research on Human Rights Protection from a Local Perspective | 16:30– 18:45**

---

Chair: Gerd Oberleitner, UNESCO Chair Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz and Lisa Heschl, European Training Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, University of Graz, Austria

Elaine Webster, Centre for the Study of Human Rights Law, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK  
*Civil Society Engagement with Human Rights Law at Local Levels: Alienating or Empowering?*

Nora Ho Tu Nam, Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa  
*Local Authorities and the Protection of Human Rights in Africa*

Admir A, Duraj, Centre for Legal and Strategic Research [Studio D], Albania  
*Reforming Local Government as a Response for Human Rights Obligations*

Matteo Daicampi, University of Udine, Italy  
*Effective Participation of Minorities in Public Affairs in the Local Government: Towards a “Subsidiarity” in Diversity Accomodation?*

Danish Sheikh, Jindal Global Law School and Centre for Health Law, Ethics and Technology, India  
*Navigating Legal Gender Recognition in India – Translating Human Rights*

Julianne Freire de Souza, University of Padova, Italy  
*The Promotion of Local Policies in Human Rights, Protected of External Influence and How the Results are Effected by the Local Perspective*

## Panel 5: Interculturality and Human Rights

16:30– 18:45

---

Chair: André Dizdarevic, Institut des Droits de l'Homme, Lyon Catholic University, France

Marcella Ferri, University of Bergamo, Italy

*From the Right to Take Part in Cultural Life to the Right to Cultural Identity: the Evolution of the International Protection of Cultural Rights*

Magdalena Ratajczak, Institute of International Studies, University of Wrocław, Poland

*Rethinking Public Diplomacy: the Role of Interculturality and Human Rights*

Sonia Boulos, University of Antonio de Nebrija, Madrid, Spain

*Reconciling Universalism and Particularism: Can Religion Play any Role in Promoting the Rights of Muslim Women in Europe?*

Matteo Tracchi, University of Padova, Italy

*Learning to Live Together: an Analysis of the Council of Europe Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe*

Assi Harkoma, Artic Centre of University of Lapland, Finland

*Interculturality and Human Rights Research - Based on the Report on human and fundamental rights research in Finland*

Catherine Renshaw, Thomas More Law School, Australian Catholic University, Sydney, Australia

*Interculturality, Human Rights and Regionalism: the Challenge from Southeast Asia*

## Panel 6: Women's Rights and Scientific Research: Continuities, Shifts and Challenges for the Future | 16:30– 18:45

---

Chair: Fouzia Rhissassi, UNESCO Chair Woman and her Rights, Ibn-Tofail University, Kenitra, Morocco

Alice Baroni, Interdepartmental Research Centre on Gender Studies, University of Padova, Italy

*Women's Rights, (Visual) Media, and Political Mobilisation in Brazil: A Participatory Exploration of the Brazilian (Female) Photographers Movement*

Khourn Chantevy, Actionaid Cambodia

*Women's Participation in Politics in Cambodia*

Azadeh Dastyari, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

*Too Far Away to Hear her Screams?: Human rights Scholarship and the Muted Voices of Refugee Women in Australia's Detention Centre in Nauru*

Paola Degani and Claudia Pividori, Department of SPGI, University of Padova, Italy

*Ending Violence against Women as Testing Ground for Women's Human Rights Research: Practices, Limits and Challenges*

Michela Patti, Association 'Dafne Futura', Italy

*Discriminations, Violences against Women and Violation of Human Rights: Importance of a "Gender Research"*

Inés Romero Parra, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

*Gender, Immigration and Irregularity. Intersectionality as a required Analysis Tool*

**Tuesday 28th November 2017**

**Venue: Palazzo del Bo, Aula Nievo**

9:00 – 10:30

**Welcome Address**

---

Alessandro Paccagnella, Vice Rector for International Relations, University of Padova

**Plenary Session: Needs and expectations from human rights research:  
the view from non-academic sectors**

---

Chair: Paolo De Stefani, Human Rights Centre, University of Padova

Anna Neistat, Amnesty International, UK

*New Age of Human Rights Research Methodology: Innovation, Communication, Action*

Wolfgang Heinz, German Institute of Human Rights, Germany

*The Role of Research in the Work of National Human Rights Institutions*

Antoine Meyer, French National Asylum Court (Cour Nationale du Droit d'Asile), France

*Informing the Public, Policy and/or Decision-making: a Few Thoughts on Asylum and EU Human Rights Research*

10:30 – 11:00

**Discussion**

---

11:15 – 12:00

**Closing Key-note Speech**

---

David McCoy, Queen Mary University, London, UK

*Riding two Horses: The Challenges of Conducting Academic Research while also Engaging Politically*

The Conference is organised by the University of Padova Human Rights Centre, in the framework of the activities of the International Joint Ph.D Programme 'Human Rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance', in collaboration with: UNESCO Chair 'Human Rights Democracy and Peace', University of Padova; Human Rights Consortium, University of London; School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg; European Training Centre for Human Rights and Democracy and UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz; UNESCO Chair 'Woman and her rights', Ibn-Tofail University, Kenitra; Institut des Droits de l'Homme, Lyon Catholic University.



Partners:



Online version of the



conference programme

**#HRCPadova2017**

The Conference, promoted in the framework of the celebrations for the 35th anniversary of the institution of the University of Padova Human Rights Centre (1982-2017), is organised with the sponsorship of the University of Padova and of the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies, and in cooperation with the Bachelor Degree Programme in 'Political Science, International Relations, Human Rights' and the Master's Degree Programme in 'Human Rights and Multi-level Governance'.