Crossing the Boundaries: the place of human rights in contemporary scholarship

Interdisciplinary Academic Conference on Human Rights
Friday 24 March 2006
The study of human rights challenges the boundaries between forms of knowledge and the various academic disciplines upon which it draws. In particular, thinking through the intellectual challenge that human rights presents demands that we combine the contribution of law – arguably its parent discipline – with the critical insights that have emerged from, for example, sociology, anthropology and political philosophy, amongst others. These ‘perspectives’ interpret and deploy differently various contemporary engagements, issues, discourses, and dilemmas of human rights. They focus on a variety of aspects, including the historical, economic, social and political contexts for the emergence of ideas about human rights and their various manifestations, and exist in a potentially fruitful tension with one another, each pointing up the limits of another.

By evaluating these various disciplinary contributions and the limits that each of these perspectives entail, the conference aims to generate discussion around two key issues:

(i) the place of the study of human rights in contemporary scholarship, and the importance to that study of a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary engagement, and (ii) the value or pay-off for understanding and furthering the agenda on human rights and the mechanisms of enforcement and control that might be generated by combining the diversity of disciplinary knowledge about human rights.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

**Crossing the Boundaries:** the place of human rights in contemporary scholarship

**Interdisciplinary Academic Conference on Human Rights**

Friday 24 March 2006

Venue: Clement House, LSE

**HOW TO FIND US**

Nearest tube stations: Holborn (Piccadilly and Central lines), and Temple (District and Circle lines)

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

For details about the Centre’s other events, activities and short courses please visit the Centre’s website [www.lse.ac.uk/humanrights](http://www.lse.ac.uk/humanrights) or contact:

Joy Whyte, Centre Manager
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9 – 9.45am  Registration and Coffee

9.45 – 10am Welcome Address
Professor Conor Gearty

10 – 11am Keynote Speaker:
Professor David Kennedy
‘Two sides of the coin: human rights pragmatism and idolatry’
Drawing on the insights of various disciplines in the social sciences, Professor Kennedy will highlight some limits and dangers of a human rights movement which is insufficiently pragmatic – as well as what can go wrong when pragmatism takes over

11 – 11.30am Coffee

11.30am The View from the Disciplines
– 12.30pm
Chair: Dr Chaloka Beyani
Dr Marie Benedicte-Dembour
Professor Christine Chinkin
Dr Karin Flikschuh
Professor Lydia Morris

12.30 – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30 – 3pm Room D402 – Poverty and Human Rights: health, development, privatisation
Chair: Dr Chaloka Beyani
Dr Zoe Pearson and Ms Fiona Haigh
‘How good conversation can save the world: building interdisciplinary relationships between human rights and health’
Dr Brigit Toebes ‘Privatisation and human rights – the experience in the health care sector’
Dr Aurora Voiculescu ‘Re-mapping the human rights responsibilities: poverty, human development and the (corporate) triple bottom line’

Room D502 – The Politics of Human Rights: representation, struggle and democracy
Chair: Dr Claire Alexander
Mr Paul Harvey ‘Democracy and human rights (yet again): the possibilities and pitfalls of interdisciplinary work in cases of partial democratisation’
Dr Kate Nash ‘Mediated international human rights in the national public sphere: the Pinochet case’
Dr Rory O’Connell ‘Towards a stronger conception of democracy in the Strasbourg Convention’

3 – 3.30pm  Tea

3.30 – 5pm Room D402 – Gendering Human Rights: self-determination, religious freedom and sexual minorities
Chair: Professor Anne Phillips
Mr Holning Lau ‘Sexual minorities’ human rights and the confines of the individualist legal regime’
Ms Anat Scolnicov ‘The right to religious freedom: A gender analysis and its legal implications’
Assistant Professor Michael Weinman ‘Living well and sexual self-determination: expanding human rights discourse about sex and sexuality’

continued overleaf
3.30pm – 5pm

**Room D502 – Genocide: sociological, philosophical and historical reflections**

Dr Caroline Fournet ‘Reviving Antigone’s myth: philosophical reflection on the law of genocide’

Professor Paul Havemann ‘The long genocide: modernity and the indigenous people in Australia’

Dr William Pickering ‘Should genocide and persecution be differentiated concepts? A sociological response’

**Room D602 – Global Poverty: ethical, legal and socio-economic considerations**

Chair: Dr Margot Salomon

Ms Carla Clarke ‘What’s in a name: does it really matter whether wealthier states recognise an obligation of international cooperation and assistance?’

Dr Rowan Cruft ‘Is severe poverty a human rights violation?’

Dr Wouter Vandenhole ‘Human rights law and its paradoxical potential for contributing to human development’

Dr Polly Vizard ‘Sen v Pogge on global poverty and human rights’

**Room D702 – (Re)Thinking the Subject of Human Rights: archaeology, legal philosophy, social movements**

Chair: Mr Andrew Puddephatt

Dr Basak Cali and Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia ‘Two disciplinary perspectives on human rights: divergences between law and philosophy’

Professor Colm Campbell ‘Violent Frames: law, rights-violations and social movement theory’

Dr Lisette Josephides ‘The archaeology of human rights: the practice of being human’

Room D1 – Representations of Human Rights: law, drama, documentation

Chair: Mr Matthew Zagor

Dr Joshua Castellino ‘Human rights law and cul-de-sacs: confronting limitations to legal approaches’

Dr Harry Derbyshire and Dr Loveday Hodson ‘Human rights and contemporary british theatre’

Mr Stener Ekern ‘Genocide in Guatemala: the challenge of reporting about human rights across cultural boundaries’

Ms Gina Heathcote ‘Human rights law as narrative: dichotomies of the legal and non-legal’

5.15 – 6.30pm

**Closing remarks**

Chair: Professor Conor Gearty

speakers include Professor Francesca Klug and Professor Peter Townsend

6.30 – 7.30pm

Conference Drinks

Senior Common Room

7.30 – 10pm

Conference Dinner

Senior Dining Room

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