

Human Rights at a Crossroads? A Time for Critical Reflection on the Human Rights Project

This workshop brings together prominent experts from academia, leading human rights NGOs, and the United Nations to consider the challenges facing human rights, competing ideas about how human rights can address inequality and suffering, and what the agenda for the movement should be to confront the world's pressing human rights challenges.

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Panel 1 – The Nature of the Problem

The first session will consider a range of questions investigating the current crisis of human rights. How should we characterize the challenges facing the human rights movement today? Are these of a different nature than in the past? If so, what is new here? What are the manifestations of new challenges versus intensification of old ones? This discussion will be grounded in contemporary examples and consider their defining characteristics. Are the challenges of popular nationalism, digital technologies, counter-terrorism governance, etc., separate or related phenomenon? Is there a theory that explains the state of the field?

MODERATOR / COMMENTATOR:

- **Naomi Roht-Arriaza**
Distinguished Professor of Law, Hastings College of the Law

PANELISTS:

- **Philip Alston**
John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law, New York University School of Law
Director and Chair, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
- **Karen Engle**
Minerva House Drysdale Regents Chair in Law, University of Texas at Austin Law School
Founder and Co-director, Bernard Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice

- **Laurel E. Fletcher**
Clinical Professor of Law, Berkeley Law
Co-director, Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law
- **Frédéric Mégret**
Professor of Law, McGill University
William Dawson Scholar, McGill University
- **Ruti Teitel**
Ernst C. Stiefel Professor of Comparative Law, New York Law School
Visiting Professor, London School of Economics
- **Samuel Moyn**
Henry R. Luce Professor of Jurisprudence, Yale Law School
Professor of History, Yale University

Friday, November 13, 2020

Panel 2 – Is Human Rights Part of the Problem?

The second session asks us to consider the relationship between our conceptions of the human rights movement and our theories of social change on the one hand, and the strategies we deploy to defend human rights on the other hand. For example, one of the foundational assumptions driving a great deal of human rights work is that law, legal institutions, and rule of law are key drivers of progressive change. Yet pursuit of legal solutions has had consequences for how defenders conceptualize problems and develop a praxis to address them. To what extent do rights-based strategies complicate efforts to secure human rights? What is the role of human rights law in human rights as a social movement?

MODERATOR /COMMENTATOR:

- **Jim Silk**
Binger Clinical Professor of Human Rights, Yale Law School
Director, Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic
Director, Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights

PANELISTS:

- **Tendayi Achiume**
Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law
Faculty Director, Promise Institute for Human Rights
- **Brad Adams**
Asia Director, Human Rights Watch

- **Agnes Callamard**
Director, Columbia University Global Freedom of Expression
- **David Kaye**
Clinical Professor of Law, University of California, Irvine
Director, International Justice Clinic
- **Alice Miller**
Associate Professor (Adjunct) of Law, Yale Law School
Co-Director, Global Health Justice Partnership
- **Vasuki Nesiah**
Associate Professor of Practice Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University
- **Roger Normand**
Director of Campus Plurality Forum, Bard College

Panel 3 – Where should the movement be headed?

In the final session, we look forward and ask what does a human rights agenda suited to this moment look like? What are the theories of change that are its scaffolding? What are the strategies that advance human rights in light of current challenges? pre What are alternatives to the current conceptions and strategies for human rights realization? What might replace conventional human rights strategies such as the “name and shame” model or promoting legal frameworks-enforcing legal rights and standards-strengthening “rule of law”?

MODERATOR /COMMENTATOR:

- **Zinaida Miller**
Assistant Professor, International Law and Human Rights
School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University

PANELISTS:

- **Roxanna Altholz**
Clinical Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law
Co-Director, International Human Rights Law Clinic

- **David Kennedy**
Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
Faculty Director, Institute for Global Law and Policy
- **Viviana Krsticevic**
Executive Director, Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)
- **Iain Levine**
Senior Human Rights Advisor, Facebook
- **Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito**
Director, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
New York University School of Law
- **Meg Satterthwaite**
Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law
Faculty Director and Co-Chair, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice
Faculty Director, Robert L. Bernstein Institute for Human Rights