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NETHERLANDS NETWORK FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH

Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

Annual PhD Training 2023/2024

Open Universiteit - Studiecentrum Utrecht

Vondellaan 102 (first floor), 3521 GZ Utrecht

(21 and 22 March 2024)

This training aims to equip our participants with knowledge and skills to conduct their PhD research. Our objective is to introduce specific research methods and their applications in human rights research. We will also provide suggestions for participants to refine their research proposals.



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First Day – 21 March 2024 (Thursday)

11:00 Welcome and opening remarks

11:15-12:30 Qualitative research and Empirical Legal Studies

- Speaker: Prof. Dr Marijke Malsch (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit)

This section will go in depth over the theory and practice of empirical legal studies. How to relate qualitative research to a theoretical framework? What is verifiable evidence?

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Social Justice, Human Rights Law and Social Rights

- Speaker: Dr Eduardo Arenas Catalán (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit)

In this session will be discussed the relations between Social Justice, Human Rights Law and Social Rights

15:00-15:15 Tea Break

15:15-17:15 Refining your research proposal

- Speaker: Dr Wendy Guns (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit)

In this session will be discussed the importance of the research proposal. After the presentation participants will be divided into groups to discuss their prepared summary of their research proposal with peers and senior researchers.

18:30 Dinner and social event



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Second Day – 22 March 2024

10:00-10.45 Tensions in International Human Rights law

- Speaker: Prof Dr Jan Willem Sap (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit, Vrije Universiteit)

What are the tensions in international human rights law?

10:45-11:00 Tea Break

11:00-12:15 Using human rights indicators and measurement

- Speaker: Dr Bart Kleine Deters (CINOB-ECBO, Dutch Centre for Expertise on Vocational Education)

In this session, Dr Bart Kleine Deters will explain how to use human rights indicators to measure human rights policies, processes and outcomes.

12:15-13:15 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Comparative law method

- Speaker: Prof. Dr Carla Zoethout (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit, Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Doing research in Comparative constitutional law: methodological challenges

15:00-16:30 Research and communication

- Speaker (TBC): Nicky Touw (Faculty of Law, Open Universiteit)

Doing the job: doing research, teaching, writing and communicating human rights research. Introduction and round table session.

16:30 Closing

Participants will be informed of reading materials closer to the workshop date.