

## Research Workshop on Human Rights

### ***Future-proofing your human rights research: Climate change as a cross-cutting issue for human rights research***

#### Call for expressions of interest to participate

Please register your interest to participate by Friday, 14 July (extended deadline).

**Date and time:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023

**Place:** University of Groningen (room to be advised)

#### **Workshop description**

This workshop is for researchers in any area of human rights law and policy, not necessarily directly climate-change related. You do not need a background in, or advanced knowledge about, climate change to participate.

Climate change is the pre-eminent threat to human and planetary health. Its impacts are already widespread and disruptive for many communities and are expected to worsen in the coming decades. Urgent action is needed: according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change the scale of (in)action until 2030 will determine our own future and that of human generations for hundreds, and likely thousands, of years to come.

Climate change impacts on human rights in two major ways. First, the necessary decarbonization of our societies will require very rapid and major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. These will entail deep transformations of societies implicating all human rights.

Second, the disruptive effects of climate change are increasingly physically visible and felt. The human rights impacts will be increasingly severe in the coming years, including for women, girls and vulnerable communities in the global South *and* the global North.

Climate change is thus a major factor for the universal enjoyment of human rights. Yet, the impacts of climate change on human rights are often still only studied by those who specifically research 'climate change and human rights'.

If we do not view climate change as an underlying cross-cutting issue that affects *all* our human rights research, is our human rights research sufficiently 'future proof'? How can we ensure our research is relevant in 2030, 2040 or 2050, in light of the climate crisis?

#### **Specific questions for discussion**

- How does climate change impact the legal questions we ask, or the topics we research?
- How does climate change denial (including denial of severity and impact) affect our research, and what can we do about it?
- How can we mainstream climate change into existing and planned human rights research. Is this necessary, or even possible?

This event invites participants to actively reflect on their current research from a climate change perspective. We will investigate human rights scholars' academic responsibility to confront climate change more directly in their research. Why do scholars not address the climate crisis more head on?

## **Draft agenda**

10.00 Welcome and introductions

10:30 – 12.30 Session 1

Keynote and short presentations

- Examples/dilemmas/best practices
- Discussion and networking exercise

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Session 2

Future-proofing your research from a climate change perspective

- Working groups

15:00 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 17:00 Session 3

Working group presentations & discussion

- Next steps

## **Cost and support to attend**

There is no charge to participate. Lunch and morning/afternoon refreshments are included. Limited travel support is available for NNHRR members from outside Groningen.

## **Call for expressions of interest to participate**

We very much welcome the participation of NNHRR members. Participation is limited to 20 persons. Please register using the link below **by Friday, 14 July**.

## **Convenors**

*University of Groningen*

*Groningen Centre for Health Law*

Dr Marlies Hesselman

David Patterson, PhD Candidate

*Tilburg University*

*Tilburg Law School*

Dr Dalia Palombo

*Department of Transboundary Legal Studies*

Dr Antenor Hallo de Wolf

Dr Lottie Lane

## **Further information**

David Patterson email: [d.w.patterson@rug.nl](mailto:d.w.patterson@rug.nl)

## **Registration link**

<https://forms.gle/iAzPaZyoGJ6mG18R8>