



Advancing Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights in a Polarised, Digitalised, and Unequal World

Launching Conference
of the NNHRR Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and
of the project “Evolving Rights: Social Rights in the Era of Climate Change and Digital
Revolution”

4th and 5th September 2025

Leiden University, Faculty of Law – [Kamerlingh Onnes Building](#) (KOG); Steenschuur 25; 2311 ES
Leiden – The Netherlands

Organising committee: Luísa Pinto e Netto, Nathalie Schnabl, Lucas Dijkers

PLENARY SESSIONS

4th September		
WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
8:45– 9:15	Entrance KOG	Registration
9:15 – 9:30	Room A 0.51	Opening remarks
9:30– 10:30	Room A 0.51	Plenary session 1 – Keynote ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ERA Professor Aoife Nolan (University of Nottingham; Council of Europe)
10:30 – 10:45		Coffee
11:45 – 12:15	Room A 0.51	Plenary session 2 - SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE REGIONAL SYSTEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS Professor Catarina Botelho (Catholic University Porto) Dr. Aua Balde (Catholic University Lisbon; UN) Dr. Lorena Sosa (Utrecht University)
12:15 - 13:30		Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Rooms B 0.14 B 0.17 B 0.31	Parallel panel sessions 1 (4 panels)

	A 0.51	
15:10 – 16:40	Rooms B 0.14 B 0.17 B 0.31	Parallel panel sessions 2 (3 panels)
16:40 – 17:00		Coffee Group picture

17:00 – 18:00	Room A 0.51	Plenary session 3 SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE NETHERLANDS – NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE? Professor Ingrid Leijten (Tilburg University) Professor Gijsbert Vonk (Groningen University, Maastricht University)
19:00		Diner (for speakers/panellists)
5th September		
WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
9:30 – 11:00	Room A 0.51	Plenary session 4 ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS – BRIDGING ACADEMY AND PRACTICE Professor Yvonne Donders (University of Amsterdam, UN HRCtee) Professor Janneke Gerards (Utrecht University, Council of State) Professor Ann Skelton (University of Leiden, University of Pretoria)
11:00 – 11:15		Coffee
11:15 – 12:45	Rooms B 0.14 B 0.17 B 0.31 A 0.51	Parallel panel sessions 3 (4 panels)
12:45 – 14:30		Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Rooms B 0.14 B 0.17 B 0.31	Parallel panel sessions 4 (3 panels)

16:00 – 16:15		Coffee
16:15 – 17:40	C 1.31	Closing remarks Plenary session 5 SOCIAL RIGHTS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CORE Professor Michaela Hailbrunner (University of Münster) Professor Colm O’Cinneide (University College London)
17:40 – 18:40		Drinks

PANEL SESSIONS

Sessions	WHERE/ WHEN?	WHAT?	WHAT AND WHO?
1 a	B 0.14 4 Sep 13:30 – 15:00	Protecting ESCR in Times of Conflict	Chair: Aua Balde <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jurisprudence of the African Human Rights System in Adjudicating Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and Reparations in Armed Conflict: Unmasking Challenges and Emerging Trends (Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker) Access to Food as an International Human Rights Issue (Otto Spijkers) ESCR in Times of War and Conflict: Legal Obligations of Occupying Powers (Ramandeep Kaur)
1 b	B 0.17 4 Sep 13:30 – 15:00	ESCR, Mobilization and Effectiveness	Chair: Nikki Nilwik (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Mobilization for Economic and Social Rights: Insights from Central and Eastern Europe (Adam Ploszka) Enforcing the Right to Basic Education through Public Interest Litigation – Lessons from South Africa (Sharngan (Shar) Aravindakshan) The Effects of Judicial Decisions on Indigenous Lands in Mexico and Their Consequences for Communities' Rights (Daniela Sánchez Carro) A critical reflection on the right to food as a discourse in cities: Two qualitative case studies in York and Leeds (Cindy Leung)

1 c	B 0.31 4 Sept 13:30 – 15:00	ESCR, Equality, Non- discrimination	<p>Chair: Nathalie Schnabl</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Recourse to Dignity: The Right to Social Security and the UK's 'No Recourse to Public Funds' Regime (Molly M. McCall) • Trans-inclusive Social Rights: Challenges and Possibilities to Advance ESCR for Gender Equality (Jess Reia) • Differentiations along socio-economic inequalities in the sphere of anti-discrimination and equality law (Ella Dertschei) • The Human Right to Sanitation (Lê Pahn-Warneke)
1 d	A 0.51 4 Sep 13:30 – 15:00	Realizing the Right to Housing	<p>Chair: Michel Vols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Social Policy and Constitutional Principle: The Italian Journey Toward a Right to Housing (Niccolò Dazzi) • PROHOUSE: Understanding the Impact of Housing and Property Rights in Dutch Eviction Cases (Michelle Bruijn) • Shaping Domicide as a Human Rights Violation (Ricardo Álvarez Morales) • Housing is a Right! – The Impact of the Right to Housing in the Netherlands; Focus on Mobilization, Implementation, and Housing Rights (Lucas Dikkers)

2 a	B 0.14 4 Sep 15:10 – 16:40	Cultural Rights in Focus	<p>Chair: Otto Spijkers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isn't It Time for Cinderella to Watch a State Opera? Analysing the Obligation of States to Produce and Disseminate Art as a Public Service (Ayşegül Kula) • The Place for Cultural Rights in Public Procurement (Carol Cravero) • The Role of Human Rights Law in Developing an International Legal Framework Against Cultural Appropriation (Ayla do Vale Alves)
2 b	B 0.17 4 Sep 15:10 – 16:40	Digital Challenges to ESCR	<p>Chair: Mirjam van Schaik</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalization as a Requirement for Access to Justice (Nathalie Schnabl) • (Non)Digital Health Union: Conceptualising the Right Not to Use Internet in the Context of European Health Data Space (Marta Musidłowska) • Digitalised Human Resource Management and the Erosion of Labour Rights in Vietnam's Export Factories (Nguyen Binh An) • The Right (not) to Use the Internet: Human rights Perspectives on Digital Choice and Technological Non- Use (Damian Malinowski)
2 c	B 0.31 4 Sep 15:10 – 16:40	ESCR and Structural Inequalities	<p>Chair: Lucas Dikkers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Social Justice: Effective Remedies for Social Rights (Katie Boyle) • Land, Labour, and Livelihoods: A Feminist Analysis of Social Rights in Agrarian India (Ashwini Pandhare, Praveen Naik Bellampalli) • Addressing socio-economic inequality without socio-economic rights? The socio-economic duty in the United Kingdom (Justin Winchester) • The Status of Socio-Economic Rights and Economic Coercion: A Structural Paradox in International Law (Panagiotis Gkagkatsis)

3 a	B 0.14 5 Sep 11:15 – 12:45	ESCR, International Norms and Monitoring Systems	<p>Chair: Tina Stavrinaki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU accession to the ECHR – potentially strengthening the EU’s social rights protection ‘through the back door’? (Saskia von Landenberg) • How Can the UN Special Procedures Advance Economic, Social and Cultural Rights? (Inga T. Winkler) • Exploring the Gap: Forced Labour Prohibitions under the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter — Do They Safeguard Against Workfare? (Gaia Zanotti) • Repositioning National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up: Advancing Social Rights Where Courts Fall Short (Ahmed Kamal Badr)
3 b	B 0.17 5 Sep 11:15 – 12:45	Legal Frameworks for Climate- Related ESCR	<p>Chair: Otto Spijkers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Economic and Social Rights: The Role of International Cooperation (Philip Oamen) • Climate Litigation as Risk Work: Courts Navigating Knowledge and Social Rights (Juliana de Augustinis and Fernanda Sousa-Duarte) • Adequate standard of living and climate change: towards effective international monitoring and access to remedies (Najiba Mustafayeva)
3 c	B 0.31 5 Sep 11:15 – 12:45	Intertwined ESCR	<p>Chair: Caia Vlieks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right to Housing, Children’s Rights and The Loss of One’s Home: A Data-Driven Analysis of Eviction Cases (Michel Vols) • Children’s Rights in Just Transitions: The Missed Opportunity of the Sámi Sisters Case (Katrien Klep, Sheila Varadan) • The Right to Affordable and Sustainable Energy as a Newly Emerging Transnational Human Right (Marlies Hesselman) • From Legal Incorporation to Everyday Accountability: Realising ESC Rights Through Complaint Mechanisms in Scotland (Caroline Crawford)

3 d	A 0.51 5 Sep 11:15 – 12:45	Ideology, Crisis, and the Erosion of Social Rights	Chair: Lucas Dikkers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting the Financial Stability before Social Rights: The Constitutional Courts in Central and Eastern Europe Judging Austerity Measures (Jan Denka) Austerity's Echo: Social Justice and the Rule of Law in Post-Crisis Greece (Ifigeneia Intzipeoglou) The Social Rights of the Extreme Right (Eduardo Arenas Catalan) Corruption and Tiered Rights in an Age of Upheaval (Kimberly Breedon)
4 a	B 0.14 5 Sep 14:30 – 16:00	Judicial Interpretation and Legal Justification of ESCR	Chair: Willem Mingelen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial Reasoning and the Subsistence Minimum: A Comparative Framework for Constitutional Adjudication (Francisco Javier Moreno Ordoño) Rethinking legitimacy: An analysis of the law and politics of ESCR adjudication before the Inter- American Court (Carolina Braglia Aloise Bertazolli) Adjudicating socio-economic rights in India and South Africa: South-South borrowing in practice (Lauren Kohn, Theunis Roux)
4 b	B 0.17 5 Sep 14:30 – 16:00	Climate Justice and Vulnerable Groups	Chair: Nathalie Schnabl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The right to self-determination and the environment: The importance of indigenous women in climate governance (Nathalia Da Costa) Climate losers? Farmers' rights in the face of climate change (Foto Pappa) Litigating Culture: Exploring the Justiciability of Cultural Rights in Rights/-based Climate Litigation (Anastasia-Svenia Körner)
4 c	B 0.31 5 Sep 14:30 – 16:00	Enshrining ESCR in Law and Constitutions	Chair: Eduardo Arenas Catalan (chair to be confirmed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Innovation from the Periphery: Scotland's Struggle for Social Rights after Brexit (Indira Boutier) A Right to Care (Zora Geertsema) The Protection of the Right to Energy Through the European Social Charter (Maria Kotsoni) Enshrining Welfare: Group Inclusion, Public Participation, and the Constitutionalization of Social Rights (Cristián Eyzaguirre)