



Advancing Social Rights

Leiden, September 2025



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

Program – 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

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

<u>04/09</u>		
WHEN?	WHAT?	
8:45/9:15	Registration	
9:15/9:30	Opening remarks	
9:30/10:30	Plenary session 1 – Key note <u>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ERA</u> Professor Aoife Nolan (University of Nottingham; Council of Europe)	
10:30/10:45	Coffee	
11:45/12:15	Plenary session 2 <u>SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE REGIONAL SYSTEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS</u> Professor Catarina Botelho (Catholic University Porto) Dr. Aua Balde (Catholic University Lisbon; UN) Dr. Lorena Sosa (Utrecht University) Chair: Dr. Misha Plagis (Leiden University)	
12:15/13:30	Lunch	
13:30/15:00	Parallel panel sessions 1 (4 panels)	PANEL 1A – 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; <u>Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker</u> • Access to Food as an International Human Rights Issue; <u>Otto Spijkers</u> PANEL 1B – ESCR, Mobilization and Effectiveness Chair: Nikki Nilwik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Mobilization for Economic and Social Rights: Insights from Central and Eastern Europe; <u>Adam Ploszka</u> • Enforcing the Right to Basic Education through Public Interest Litigation – Lessons from South Africa; <u>Sharngan (Shar) Aravindakshan</u> • The Effects of Judicial Decisions on Indigenous Lands in Mexico and Their Consequences for Communities' Rights; <u>Daniela Sánchez Carro</u> • A critical reflection on the right to food as a discourse in cities: Two qualitative case studies in York and Leeds; <u>Cindy Leung</u> PANEL 1C – ESCR, Equality, Non-discrimination Chair: Nathalie Schnabl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Recourse to Dignity: The Right to Social Security and the UK's 'No Recourse to Public Funds'

		<p>Regime; Molly M. McCall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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-Warnke <p>PANEL 1D – Realizing the Right to Housing</p> <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
15:10/16:40	Parallel panel sessions 2 (3 panels)	<p>PANEL 2A – Cultural Rights in Focus</p> <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 <p>PANEL 2B – Digital Challenges to ESCR</p> <p>Chair: Mirjam van Schaik</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalization as a Requirement for Access to Justice; Nathalie Schnabl • The Right (not) to Use the Internet: Human rights Perspectives on Digital Choice and Technological Non-Use; Damian Malinowski <p>PANEL 2C – ESCR and Structural Inequalities</p> <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
16:40/16:45	Group picture	

16:45/17:00	Coffee	
17:00/18:00	Plenary session 3 <u>SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE NETHERLANDS – NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE?</u> Professor Ingrid Leijten (Tilburg University) Professor Gijsbert Vonk (Groningen University, Maastricht University) Chair: Lucas Dikkers (Radboud University)	
19:00	Diner (for speakers/panellists)	
<u>05/09</u>		
WHEN?	WHAT?	
9:30/11:00	Plenary session 3 <u>ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS – BRIDGING ACADEMY AND PRACTICE</u> 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) Chair: Dr. Nathalie Schnabl (Open University)	
11:00/11:15	Coffee	
11:15/12:45	Parallel panel sessions 3 (4 panels)	PANEL 3A – ESCR, International Norms and Monitoring Systems Chair: Tina Stavrinaki <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 • Repositioning National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up: Advancing Social Rights Where Courts Fall Short; Ahmed Kamal Badr PANEL 3B – Legal Frameworks for Climate-Related ESCR Chair: Michelle Bruijn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Mustafayeveva

		<p>PANEL 3C – Intertwined ESCR 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 <p>PANEL 3D – Ideology, Crisis, and the Erosion of Social Rights Chair: Lucas Dikkers</p> <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
12:45/14:15	Lunch	
14:15/15:45	Parallel panel sessions 4 (3 panels)	<p>PANEL 4A – Judicial Interpretation and Legal Justification of ESCR Chair: Willem Mingelen</p> <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 Bertazzoli • Adjudicating socio-economic rights in India and South Africa: South-South borrowing in practice; Lauren Kohn, Theunis Roux <p>PANEL 4B – Climate Justice and Vulnerable Groups Chair: Nathalie Schnabl</p> <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 <p>PANEL 4C – Enshrining ESCR in Law and Constitutions Chair: Eduardo Arenas Catalan</p> <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
15:45/16:00	Coffee	
16:00/17:40	Plenary session 5 & closing remarks <u>SOCIAL RIGHTS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CORE</u> Professor Michaela Hailbrunner (University of Münster) Professor Colm O’Cinneide (University College London)	
17:45/18:45	Drinks	

Logistical support: Emma Pellegrom, Petra van der Helm and Demi Lomans.

If you are not a speaker or a member of the working group but would like to follow the plenary sessions online, we are trying to make that possible. Please contact us at: l.c.pinto.e.netto@law.leidenuniv.nl.