



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

November 2024 Newsletter



[Announcement!] PhD Member Conference Attendance Grants

The NNHRR is pleased to announce the launch of a pilot **Conference Attendance Grants** scheme in 2025. The aim of the initiative is to support PhD members in attending key academic events in the field of human rights, giving them the opportunity to develop their expertise, build connections, and strengthen their presence in the global academic community.

In the pilot year of 2025, there will be three rounds of applications. The deadline for applications for the first round will be **31 January**, the deadline for the second round will be **30 April**, and the deadline for the third round will be **30 September**. For each round, four grants of maximum **€1,000** will be awarded.

If you are interested, read the eligibility requirements and the application procedure [here](#).



[Save the date] PhD Training for 3rd and 4th year candidates

Exciting news for 3rd and 4th-year PhD candidates: the annual NNHRR [PhD Training](#) will be hosted by the [University of Groningen](#) and take place on **11 April 2025**!

Stay tuned for updates on the program and registration details. For now, make sure to mark your calendar—we look forward to seeing you there!



[Save the date] Toogdag 2025: Access to Justice

Mark your calendars! The annual [Toogdag](#) will take place on **12 June 2025** at **Radboud University in Nijmegen**! This year's theme is *Access to Justice*.

Keep an eye out for updates and registration details. For now, make sure to mark your calendar—we look forward to seeing you there!

[Workshop] The Human Right to a Healthy Environment: What Impact on Intellectual Property Laws?



Exploring the intersection of the **Human Right to Environmental Protection and Intellectual Property (IP)**: Join Us in Amsterdam or online on **4 December**! Leading scholars and legal practitioners will share their insights on different aspects of the human right to a healthy environment as well as the varying relationships between this right and the different types of intellectual property protection.

Sign up [here](#).



[New NNHRR Working Group] Good News from the Polder: Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Are Not Forgotten!

We are thrilled to announce the creation of the **Working Group on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ESCR)** within the NNHRR! This initiative brings together a dynamic group of scholars committed to advancing research and critical dialogue on ESCR, focusing on both the Dutch context and global challenges.

Economic, social, and cultural rights—like the rights to health, housing, food, and water—are fundamental to social justice and human dignity, yet often neglected in legal and policy frameworks. By tackling issues such as enforcement, codification, effectiveness, the Working Group aims to address gaps in theory and practice, ensuring these rights gain the recognition they deserve.

To introduce this exciting initiative, we are preparing a **blog series** for Human Rights Here. The series will present the Working Group and delve into their research of the initial members on topics ranging from social security and housing rights to public interest litigation.

Join us in this journey to explore how ESCR can become more tangible and transformative for all. For information on joining NNHRR working groups, click [here](#).

Stay tuned to learn more about how we are planning to bring these rights to the forefront of academic and societal conversations!

[Workshop Invitation] De-Classifying Migration and Integration Research

Date: 16 January 2025

Time: 13:00

Location: Radboud University



The **Migration & Borders Working Group** is excited to extend an invitation to its upcoming workshop, 'De-Classifying Migration and Integration Research'. The event aims to deepen the understanding of scholars from various disciplines engaged in the field of migration on the importance of moving beyond (legal) categories in migration studies. It will explore how categories imposed on migrants can sometimes fail to fully capture the lived realities of individuals on the move. The workshop will explore how

political, social, and economic factors interact with legal norms and challenge simplistic categories of migrants.

Sign up by sending an email to nesli.soylu@ru.nl before **16 December 2024**. Please indicate if you have any dietary wishes/restrictions.

[Social media] Follow the NNHRR's New Bluesky and LinkedIn Accounts!



We are migrating to Bluesky and LinkedIn! Please follow us at [@nnhrr.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/@nnhrr) and connect with us at [Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research](https://www.linkedin.com/company/netherlands-network-for-human-rights-research/) for event updates and news from the Network. Tag us if you would like us to repost your posts!



[Save the date!] Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Strategically Moving Forward

Date: 29 January 2025

Location: Maastricht Centre for Human Rights (hybrid)

In recent months, two books were published by members of the Maastricht Centre for Human Rights in the AHRI Human Rights series. 'Human Rights Strategies: Benefits and Drawbacks', edited by Dr. Ingrid Westendorp, and 'Socio-economic Rights, Inequalities and Vulnerability in Times of Crises: Building Back Better', edited by Prof. Dr. Andrea Broderick and Dr. Jennifer Sellin. The second book was written in honour of Prof. Dr. Fons Coomans.

In light of both of these recent publications, the time is ripe to reflect, and take a forward-looking perspective, on the manner in which human rights institutions, mechanisms, and processes can build back better in the wake of crises, to ensure a more equitable enjoyment of socio-economic rights. Human rights strategies may contribute to the protection of socio-economic rights, but besides benefits, such strategies may also have drawbacks.

Several speakers will discuss and create synergies between the topics of both books, while Prof. Dr. Philip Alston will give the keynote address.

This seminar will launch both books mentioned above, and at the same time put the spotlight on Prof. Dr. Fons Coomans, who retired two years ago and to whom the *liber amicorum* will be presented.

More details about registration and the programme will follow as soon as possible. In the meantime, please save the date.

[Call for Papers] International Law's Local Encounters: Experiences and Imaginaries of (de-)Coloniality



The constitutional commitment of Tuvalu to maintain its sovereignty, even as climate change threatens its physical territory, highlights the profound stakes of international law in shaping decolonial futures. How do local experiences and global solidarities challenge and transform international legal norms?

The **University of Amsterdam (UvA)** and the **Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR)** invite scholars to a two-day workshop on **5–6 June 2024** exploring these questions. This event will examine how claims to decoloniality emerge in international law and the limits and possibilities of terms like “decolonisation” and “coloniality.”

For more information, see the Call for Papers [here](#).



[Call for Papers] The Politics of International Dispute Settlement

The conference '**The Politics of International Dispute Settlement**' takes place at Utrecht University, in the Netherlands, on **6 June 2025**, with Judge Bruno Simma attending as keynote speaker. The aim of this conference is to explore the legal, but also the social and political, implications and consequences of decisions of international courts and tribunals (ICTs) within the framework of international dispute settlement. Abstract of no more than 500 words are welcome until **15 January 2025**.

See the Call for Papers [here](#).

[Call for Abstracts] Workshop on Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments on Migrants' Rights



The Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law (ACMRL) & Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies (MeDiMi) invites submissions for the workshop 'Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments on Migrants' Rights?'

The workshop, taking place on **27–28 March 2025**, will explore how governments engage with human rights litigation in migration-related cases, examining their roles in shaping the interpretation of human rights law through their participation in legal processes before international courts and treaty bodies.

Key Questions Include:

- What are the practices of Governments before human rights courts and committees in migration-related cases?
- How do Governments contribute to and engage in human rights litigation?
- Do they act as 'doctrinal entrepreneurs', engaging in 'reverse strategic litigation' in order to shape the meaning of human rights law?

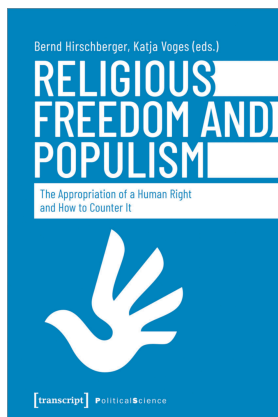
Submission Details:

- **Abstract Deadline:** 20 December 2024, 23:59.
- **Abstract Format:** Max. 400 words in PDF, including name, affiliation, and email.
- **Submission Email:** j.klueger@vu.nl and m.avila.curras@vu.nl (subject: *Reverse Strategic Litigation by Governments Workshop*)

Participants will be asked to submit a short draft (3-7 pages) ahead of the workshop as a basis for discussion. A joint publication of selected contributions is planned, though participation in the publication is optional.

For more information, please email the organizers!

[New publications] "Religious Freedom and Populism. The Appropriation of a Human Right and How to Counter It" and "How society cares for the dead - a matter of human dignity!"



The book is based on the observation that (far-right) extremist and autocratic forces have begun to appropriate topics and concepts from the field of religious freedom for themselves and to reinterpret them in line with their misanthropic and conspiracy-theoretical ideologies and anti-democratic power ambitions. Illustrated by various examples from different countries and thematic contexts, the anthology identifies typical patterns of populist appropriation and reinterpretation. In addition, it discusses which social dynamics favour the success of such populist strategies and what solutions are available to counteract them.

Access it [here](#).

DEUTSCHE KOMMISSION
**JUSTITIA
ET PAX**

How society cares for the dead –
a matter of human dignity!

142e

Schrittweise
Gerechtigkeit und Frieden

The publication, which is the result of several years of work by an interdisciplinary group of experts, systematically deals with a topic that has so far received little attention from a wider public, but which nevertheless has very significant implications for the relatives and societies affected in various contexts: In wars and in the context of enforced disappearances, for example, violations of the appropriate care for the dead are deliberately used as a weapon. Refugees who die while fleeing - in the Mediterranean or on other escape routes - are often buried in nameless graves (if at all). Many collections from the colonial era still contain human remains. Religious minorities in many places have to contend with restrictive burial regulations or social pressure is exerted on them not to carry out burials according to their own religious beliefs and rites. The publication systematically analyses the topic and makes recommendations on how violations can be counteracted and deficits overcome.

Download it English, Spanish or German [here](#).

Human
Rights
Here 

Human Rights Here Blog

Call for Submissions!

Submissions to the Human Rights Here blog are invited from scholars and practitioners both inside and outside of the Netherlands on topics related to human rights. Members of the NNHRR and early career scholars are especially welcomed to submit blog content. Please send your contribution to humanrightshere@asser.nl and check [here](#) for the requirements.

'Children's Rights in Armed Conflict and Post-conflict Peacebuilding'



In our latest blog, Lucy Opoka reflects on the role of children in peace building. Using the situation in South Sudan as a backdrop, she highlights the vulnerable position of children in armed conflict, outlines legal protections afforded to them, and discusses the potential of inclusive post-conflict peacebuilding with children. Read it [here](#).



'HRH Profile Series of NNHRR Working Groups: Migration & Borders'

We're also excited to kick off a new blog series spotlighting the NNHRR Working Groups! Our first post highlights the past activities and future plans of the Migration & Borders Working Group. Established in 2018, this Working Group welcomes researchers with an interest in thematic and methodological issues related to human rights, borders, and all forms of migration and mobility. It serves as an active network for migration scholars at all career stages.

Curious to learn more about this Working Group? Read the blog post by Dr. Kris van der Pas and Samuel Ballin [here](#).

Would you like your news item included in the next newsletter?

Email nnhrr@asser.nl with the desired text and image before the end of the month!

Was this email forwarded to you? Sign up for our newsletter [here](#).

Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

@2024 Copyright. All rights reserved.

R.J. Schimmelpennincklaan 20-22, 2517 JN Den Haag, The Netherlands

[Unsubscribe](#)