



Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

January 2025 Newsletter

[Register Now!] Annual PhD Follow-up Training: 11 April 2025

Don't miss out on our **Annual PhD Follow-Up Training** in Groningen, tailored specifically for 3rd and 4th-year PhD candidates! This training event tackles critical topics to help you transition smoothly from your PhD journey to the next chapter of your career.

Highlights include:

- Careers in Human Rights
- Publishing your Human Rights Research
- Funding your Human Rights Research
- Mental Resilience and Well-Being in Human Rights Research

Plus, it's a fantastic opportunity to network with fellow PhD candidates in the Network!



Register by 1 April 2025 via this [link](#).



university of
 groningen

Faculty of law

2025 NNHRR PhD Training Day

for 3rd & 4th year PhDs



11 April 2025, Friday

09:00 - 16:30

Röling building
Oude Boteringestraat 18
9712 GH Groningen

Highlights





[Announcement] PhD Member Conference Attendance Grants

Deadline extended!

The NNHRR announces an extension for the first-round application deadline of its 2025 **Pilot Conference Attendance Grants**. The new deadline is **7 February 2025**! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to apply for funding to attend key academic events in the field of human rights.

In 2025, three rounds of applications are available, with deadlines now set for **7 February**, **30 April**, and **30 September**. Up to four grants of a maximum of **€1,000** will be awarded per round.

For more information on eligibility and application procedures, please visit this [link](#).

[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!



[Panel Discussion] Climate on Trial: Lessons from the Milieudefensie versus Shell case

On **13 February 2025**, the [T.M.C. Asser Instituut](#), [SEVEN - University of Amsterdam](#), and the NNHRR will organise a panel discussion on the on the pivotal **Milieudefensie v Shell** judgment.

Although the appeal judgment may not have delivered the decisive victory climate activists sought, the ruling offers crucial insight into developing judicial attitudes towards corporate responsibility for climate change. The event will examine the implications of the

Court of Appeal's judgment from different angles, and explore its significance for future climate accountability strategies.

The panel discussion will take place in person at the Asser Institute in the Hague, and online!

Register through this [link](#).



[Roundtable Invitation] Supplier Codes of Conduct: From Policy to Practice

Date: 25th February 2025

Time: 13:00 – 17:00

Venue: Leiden University, Oude Sterrewacht
Sterrenwachtlaan 11 Leiden, Room STW-C1.02.

The **Business and Human Rights Working Group** of the NNHRR and the **Empirical Legal Studies Lab of Leiden University** are delighted to invite you to an afternoon of discussions on: '**Supplier Codes of Conduct: From Policy to Practice**'.

This event is organized in the context of the PhD defense of **Sarah Vandenbroucke**. Sarah has been a NNHRR member since the beginning of her PhD, is a chair of the Business and Human Rights working group, and is a member of the Empirical Legal Studies lab of Leiden University. Her PhD defense, entitled '**Navigating Corporate Social Responsibility in Global Supply Chains using Codes of Conduct**', is a great opportunity to bring together members of the NNHRR and empirical scholars around this thematic topic.

Program:

- **13:00–14:30:** Roundtable involving NGOs, CSR consultants, and academics
- **14:30–15:45:** Informal networking over drinks
- **15:45–17:00:** Public defense of Sarah Vandenbroucke
- **17:00–18:00:** Reception

This afternoon provides a unique opportunity to explore how supplier codes of conduct are implemented in practice, and how corporate practices are evolving notably in light of the CSRD and CSDDD.

This event will not be accessible online, at the exception of the PhD defense which will be livestreamed. Please register for this event at the following [link](#).

[Workshop Invitation] Join the Conversation on Security in the Digital Age!



Workshop Dates: 3 and 4 June 2025

Deadline of Call for Papers: 10 February 2025

The [Erasmus Center of Law and Digitalization](#) and the [Amsterdam Law & Technology Institute](#) are excited to announce an interdisciplinary workshop on '**Security in the Digital Age**'. The workshop is made possible by the financial support of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research and the SSH-Breed on Digitalization.

The conference welcomes and encourages contributions from a variety of methods and methodologies. In particular, we encourage contributions that build upon the theoretical and empirical aspects of the following subjects:

- The role of cybersecurity in protecting fundamental rights like the right to security, the right to access essential services, and the right to health;
- The relationship between cybersecurity and the rights to privacy and data protection;
- The legal framework on the protection of the critical infrastructure and its impact on fundamental rights;
- Sector specific challenges in securing the digital infrastructure;
- The role of governmental and non-governmental bodies in protecting the digital infrastructure;
- The use of new technologies to secure the digital infrastructure;
- Environmental security and digital infrastructure.

Submit your abstract (500 words max) to digitalization@law.eur.nl by **10 February 2025**. Selected papers may be published in an edited volume or special journal issue!

For more information on the theme of the workshop and possible topics, see the [Call for Papers!](#)

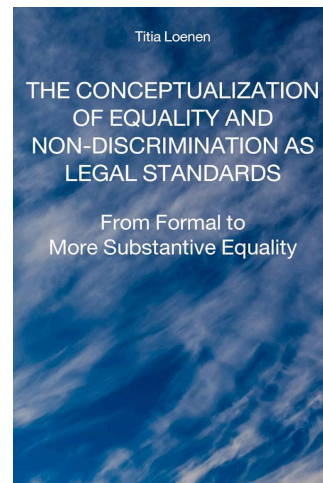
Participation is free, and limited financial aid is available for travel and accommodation.

[Book Publication] 'The conceptualization of equality and non-discrimination as legal standards - from formal to more substantive equality'

Recently, Professor emeritus and former NNHRR Steering Committee member [Titia Loenen](#)'s book titled *'The conceptualization of equality and non-discrimination as legal standards - from formal to more substantive equality'* was published by Brill.

The book provides an overarching analysis of the concepts that are central to equality and non-discrimination standards across jurisdictions: formal and substantive equality, indirect discrimination, reasonable accommodation, affirmative action and intersectional discrimination. It explains how different conceptualizations matter and may result in different outcomes in legislation, case law and policies. In doing so, it draws on examples from a wide variety of sources, including the European, Inter-American and global human rights systems and the jurisprudence of the apex courts in Canada, India, South Africa and the US. The study concludes that over the past 40-50 years, the conceptualization of equality has been moving from formal to more substantive equality approaches.

Access the book [here](#).



[Launch Event] Centre of Excellence on Corporate Sustainability and Human Rights Law

On **18 February 2025**, the new Centre of Excellence on Corporate Sustainability and Human Rights Law will be launched.

The Centre, hosted by Wageningen University's Law Group and led by [Nadia Bernaz](#), focuses on advancing corporate sustainability and human rights in alignment with the EU legal and policy frameworks, such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

This event will convene policymakers, business leaders, civil society representatives, and academics to explore the transformative global implications of the EU's corporate sustainability laws, particularly the CSDDD. Discussions will address how these laws influence corporate behavior beyond EU borders, support the EU accession processes of candidate countries such as Ukraine and Serbia, and drive sustainable development and post-conflict recovery. In the future, we will draft guidelines on the implications of the CSDDD in candidate countries.

Please register for the launch following [this link](#).

[Call for Applications] Doctoral Workshop on Sustainability & Public Law

Workshop Date: 7 April 2025

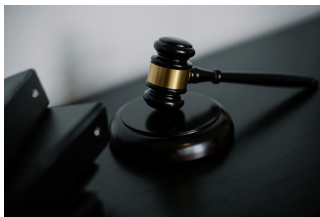
Application Deadline: 3 February 2025



The PhD Candidates of the [Sustainability & Public Law research project at the Research Centre for State and Law \(SteR\)](#) at Radboud University are excited to announce that they will be hosting a workshop on the intersection between sustainability and public law. During the event, participants will have the opportunity to present their research (around 10 minutes) in moderated thematic panels and engage in discussions with the other participants. The workshop also presents a great opportunity to connect with peers from law faculties throughout the Netherlands.

PhD candidates focused on different aspects and intersections of sustainability and public law are encouraged to apply!

Apply before **3 February 2025** through this [link](#).



[Lecture Invitation] Conservative Tactics in the European Court of Human Rights: Interference, Blame, Shame, and Strategic Consequentialism

Date: 3 February 2025

Time: 17:00-18:30

Location: Erasmus University Rotterdam, Sanders building, Room 1-08 or [online](#)

Join Professor Gaëtan Cliquenois (Rennes University, France) for an insightful lecture on the topic of conservative litigation strategies in Europe. Despite extensive research on conservative legal activism in the US, little attention has been paid to Europe—until now. This talk will provide the first comprehensive overview of conservative litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, exploring key moral issues such as abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, surrogacy, and hate speech.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

[Article Publication] 'Potential Tensions and Synergies between DDR and Transitional Justice in Relation to Pro-Government Militias: The Case of the PMF in Post-IS Iraq'



PhD candidate and NNHRR member **Hossein Mojtahedi**, in collaboration with Dr. Maarten Bolhuis and Dr. Joris van Wijk, has published a peer-reviewed article in the journal *Conflict, Security & Development*.

Titled '*Potential Tensions and Synergies between DDR and Transitional Justice in Relation to Pro-Government Militias: The Case of the PMF in Post-IS Iraq*', the study investigates the complex dynamics between Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) programs and transitional justice processes. Focusing on Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), it offers fresh insights into the challenges and strategic considerations for fostering peace and justice in post-conflict contexts.

Read the full article [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.



'Report on the Workshop "Disinformation and Human Rights in Context" (2024)'

Anticipating a bumper year of elections worldwide, as well as the attendant risks of systemic manipulation and interference, Anna Smulders and Tarlach McGonagle (NNHRR Working Group on Human Rights in the Digital Age) organized a one-day workshop 'Disinformation and Human Rights in Context' on 24 January 2024 at Leiden University. As the end of the year approaches, it is timely to pause, take stock, and reflect further on the workshop discussions.

Read it [here](#).

'Contribution of SDGs to the Achievement of Women's Right to Work: a Mutual Reinforcement'



Despite international human rights framework of women's right to work, women face persistent inequalities regarding the access and enjoyment of this right. However, the legal basis can be reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This blog explores how SDGs provide specific targets, indicators, and measurable outcomes, contributing concrete guidelines to the fulfillment of women's right to work. SDGs and human rights can mutually reinforce each other, offering both binding norms and concrete measures for the realization of this right, moving forward an inclusive, sustainable and rights-based development.

See the blog post [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!

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Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

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