



# Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research

## February 2026 Newsletter

---

### Calls & Opportunities

#### [Call for Applications] Research Methodologies Workshop – Global Health Law & Human Rights

- **Date:** 11–13 March 2026
- **Location:** House of Connections, University of Groningen
- **Abstract deadline:** 28 February 2026



The Groningen Centre for Health Law at the University of Groningen invites applications for its annual **Research Methodologies Workshop on Global Health Law and Human Rights**. This three-day workshop is designed for legal scholars, public health researchers, PhD candidates, and Master's students seeking to deepen their understanding of methodological approaches in global health law research.

The programme combines legal and interdisciplinary methods, including normative and critical approaches, human rights-based research methods, systematic review techniques, qualitative research, database research, and research ethics. Participants will also have the opportunity to present their own research projects and receive feedback.

The participation fee is €325 (€275 for students and affiliates of partner institutions, including NNHRR universities). Places are limited to 20 participants.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

[More information](#)



## [Call for Abstracts] NNHRR Toogdag 2026 – Safeguarding Human Rights in the Technological Age

- **Conference date:** 11 June 2026
- **Location:** Erasmus University Rotterdam
- **Abstract deadline:** 19 March 2026

The Erasmus School of Law invites abstract submissions for the 2026 Annual Toogdag of the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research. This year's theme, "**Safeguarding Human Rights in the Technological Age**", explores the impact of digitalisation and emerging technologies on human rights protection. Particular attention will be given to Dutch and European developments, including algorithmic oversight, data protection, non-discrimination, and access to justice.

Plenary sessions will address overarching questions, while parallel panels will focus on specific themes such as business and human rights, migration, climate, economic and social rights, and areas of Dutch law. Moreover, a PhD networking activity (incl. dinner) is scheduled to take place on June 10.

Prospective contributors are invited to submit their abstract (350 words maximum) with a provisional title to [digitalization@law.eur.nl](mailto:digitalization@law.eur.nl) with "Toogdag 2026" in the subject line of the email. Contributions in Dutch are also welcome.

[More information](#)

## [Call for Papers] 16th Postgraduate Research Symposium on Environmental Law

- **Date:** 22 April 2026
- **Location:** University College Cork
- **Abstract deadline:** 20 March 2026



The School of Law at University College Cork invites researchers to submit abstracts for the **16th Postgraduate Research Symposium on Environmental Law**. The symposium provides a friendly and informal platform for PhD and postgraduate researchers to present their work (20–30 minutes) on any area of environmental, climate, planning, marine, or natural resources law.

The event precedes the 22nd Law and the Environment Conference (23 April 2026), and selected postgraduate papers may be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Presenters are also invited to attend the Speakers' Dinner.

Abstracts should be submitted to [o.mcintyre@ucc.ie](mailto:o.mcintyre@ucc.ie) by 20 March 2026.

More information



## [Opportunity] Shine a Spotlight on your PhD Research

- **Deadline:** ongoing

Are you conducting innovative human rights research during your PhD, or know someone who is? We would love to interview you on our newest initiative for PhD members: **PhD Spotlight!** To participate, send a portrait picture and a filled out version of the [following document](#) to [nnhrr@asser.nl](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl) with the subject line "PhD Spotlight - [your name]".

## Events & Education

### [3rd and 4th year PhD Training] Life After the PhD, Funding & Publishing

- **Date:** 8 April 2026
- **Time:** Registration from 09:00 | Programme 09:45–16:30 | Drinks afterwards
- **Location:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Initium Building



The Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research invites its [3rd and 4th year PhD members to the annual PhD training](#). This year's programme features three panel discussions:

- **Life after PhD** – Exploring career paths in academia, public service, national human rights institutions, and legal practice.
- **Research funds & grants** – Practical guidance on securing funding and continuing your research beyond the PhD.
- **Publish or perish?** – Insights into the peer review process and turning your dissertation into a book, with editors from the *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights* and the Asser series.

The training offers an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences, expand your professional network, and reflect on the next steps in your academic journey.

Participation is free of charge and includes lunch. **Registration is open to all NNHRR PhD members.** The training is designed for PhD candidates in a later stage of their PhD trajectory, but those in earlier stages may also attend.

Registration



## [1st and 2nd year PhD Training] Methodologies of Human Rights Research

- **Date:** 15–16 April 2026
- **Time:** 08:30-18:00 (15/04, followed by social event and dinner), 09:00-17:00 (16/04, followed by drinks)
- **Location:** Utrecht University, Janskerkhof 2–3, Utrecht

The Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR) invites [1st and 2nd year PhD candidates to its two-day PhD Training](#) titled “**Methodologies of Human Rights Research**”, which will take place on 15 and 16 April 2026 at Utrecht University. The training is designed to strengthen methodological foundations, expand research toolkits, and foster peer exchange in a supportive academic setting. The programme includes sessions on core approaches to human rights legal research, translating research questions into robust designs, reflexive and critical perspectives, and practical methodological tools such as critical discourse analysis, digital ethnography, semi-structured interviewing, and co-creation techniques. The training also provides space for community-building, including a shared dinner.

The training is open to NNHRR PhD members, particularly those in their first or second year (non-members may participate for a fee).

Registration

## [Inaugural Lecture] A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights

- **Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2026
- **Time:** 16:15
- **Location:** Academy Building, Utrecht University
- **Language:** Dutch



Prof. Karin de Vries, Professor of Fundamental Rights Law at Utrecht University, will deliver her inaugural lecture entitled “A Critical Look at Fundamental Rights” on Wednesday 13 May 2026. The lecture will take place at 16:15 in the Academy Building of Utrecht University and will be held in Dutch. A registration link will be shared closer to the date.

---



## [Save the Date] NNHRR Toogdag 2026 – Technology

- **Date:** 11 June 2026
- **Location:** Erasmus University Rotterdam

Please save the date for the NNHRR Toogdag 2026, which will take place on 11 June 2026 at Erasmus University Rotterdam. The theme of this year’s Toogdag will be Technology, exploring its implications for human rights research and practice. Participation at the conference is free of charge but registration is required. Registration for non-speakers should be addressed to [digitalization@law.eur.nl](mailto:digitalization@law.eur.nl) by May 1, 2026.

---

## [Call for Participation] NNHRR PhD Survey 2026



The NNHRR PhD Survey 2026 is now open. We invite all PhD members to share their views on current NNHRR events, activities, and working groups, as well as preferences regarding thesis publication.

The survey consists of ten short questions and is fully anonymous. Your feedback will help shape future NNHRR initiatives and ensure they meet the needs of our doctoral community.

Complete the survey via the [online form](#).

---

# Publications

## Call for Contributions!

Would you like us to feature your recent or upcoming publication in the NNHRR Newsletter? Reach out to [nnhrr@asser.nl](mailto:nnhrr@asser.nl).

---

## [New Issue] Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights



The December 2025 issue of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights has been published! It features the yearly editorial by the Editor-in-Chief and a column on the UN financial crisis by Ann Skelton. It also includes articles on temporality within human rights, the intersection between enforced disappearances and migration, and the paradoxical human rights implications of (phasing out) fossil fuels. The [newest edition](#) is available online and is open access. Happy reading!

---



## 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](mailto:humanrightshere@asser.nl) and check [here](#) for the requirements.

---



## The Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award and Equal Marriage Rights by Masuma Shahid

On Human Rights Day 2025, the PhD research “Queering Courts” by Dr Masuma Shahid was awarded the 2025 Max van der Stoel Human Rights Award. In her blog, Masuma Shahid examines how the European Court of Human Rights, the Court of Justice of the European Union and the United States Supreme Court address cases concerning same-sex couples asking for ‘equal marriage rights’, concluding that ‘Queering’ in her research has led to a more comprehensive understanding of the equal marriage rights case law driven by the queer needs of the LGBTQ+ community itself.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

---

## 75 Years ECHR: House of Stories and Concerns by Antoine-Buyse-and-Janneke-Gerards



As the European Convention of Human Rights has reached the venerable age of 75, it also faces the most concerted state critique since its genesis. Maybe this critique of the European Court of Human Rights going too far and the Convention covering too much is the other side of an otherwise bright coin: over the last decades, the ECHR has been a catalyst for an ever-evolving human rights protection in all its state parties.

In their blog, Antoine Buyse and Janneke Gerards comment on the triad of events organized on Friday 14 November 2025, in a special collaboration between the Montaigne Centre for Rule of Law and Administration of Justice, the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights (SIM), the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (the Dutch NHRI) and the Netherlands Network for Human Rights Research (NNHRR).

You can read the blog post [here](#).

---



## Promises, Processes, and Pitfalls of International Criminal Justice Today by Lucy Gaynor

By 2025, the international legal order, and its mechanisms for delivering justice, seem to be under assault on an almost daily basis. This current crisis has sparked a kind of

moment of reckoning for the international criminal justice project. On Thursday 4 December 2025, while the International Criminal Court's annual 'Assembly of States Parties' took place in The Hague, a group of experts came together at the Universiteit van Amsterdam for a morning of wide-ranging, thought-provoking and insightful discussions about international criminal justice. In her blog, Lucy Gaynor comments on the roundtable, "Promises, Processes, and Pitfalls in International Criminal Justice Today" organised by Maartje Weerdesteijn, Barbora Hola, Adina-Loredana Nistor and herself.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

---

## Cyberviolence and Artificial Intelligence: Interdisciplinary Reflections by Irene-Kamara-and-Bilgehan-Korucuoglu



Artificial intelligence is maliciously used to amplify the harm of cyberviolence and to create new forms of violence such as with the use of AI-generated media (deepfakes) for image-based sexual abuse. Children and women are reported to be impacted the most. Several complexities are hampering the potential of socio-legal and technical solutions to combat AI-facilitated cyberviolence, abuse, and exploitation.

In their blog, Irene Kamara and Bilgehan Korucuoglu reflect on the findings from the interdisciplinary workshop 'Artificial Intelligence and Cyberviolence' held on 25 November.

You can read the blog post [here](#).

---

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

Email [nnhrr@asser.nl](mailto: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**

@2026 Copyright. All rights reserved.

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

[Unsubscribe](#)