

Focus on economic and social rights: HRLC creates a new Operational Unit



ESR Unit Reading Group

HRLC is pleased to announce the establishment of the Economic and Social Rights (ESR) Unit, led by Professor Aoife Nolan and Professor Thérèse Murphy.

The new Operational Unit's expertise stretches across a broad range of ESR issues, including those relating to international, regional and domestic human rights law, health, disability, children's rights, housing and social welfare, and public finance. As such, the Unit is exceptionally well-placed to assume a prominent position with regard to ESR research. Under the leadership of Prof. Nolan and Prof. Murphy, ESR Unit members are involved in an array of ESR-related activities, domestically and internationally. Reflecting the key themes in contemporary ESR scholarship, the Unit focuses on inter-disciplinary work and seeks to engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including governments and other state actors, practitioners, advocates, national human rights institutions, human rights scholars, and both inter- and non-governmental organisations.

The ESR Unit was launched on 22 November 2013, in conjunction with the 5th Bi-Annual Economic and Social Rights Academic Network UK and Ireland (ESRAN-UKI) research workshop and a book launch featuring three ESR publications (see also pages 2 and 7).

The rights of others: Why European human rights diplomacy matters

Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, the EU Special Representative on Human Rights, delivered HRLC's Annual Lecture on Thursday 30 January 2014. As anticipated in the title, Mr Lambrinidis explored why human rights diplomacy matters, why the European Union's view of it matters and what his mandate entails. Mr Lambrinidis also outlined the principal challenges faced today in ensuring effective global human rights promotion.

The *EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy* of 2012 outlines the EU's common position and commitment to place human rights at the centre of all it does. The Special Representative's mandate was created to a) increase effectiveness of the EU's external action on human rights, b) increase its visibility, and c) increase the coherence of the EU's actions and policies with regard to human rights, internally and externally.

Mr Lambrinidis explained that coherence is threefold. There is, of course, external-internal coherence, (are we doing as we preach others to do?) but there are two more dimensions which are equally important: external-external and internal-internal coherence. The former requires a consistent response to human rights issues in any country which is not always achievable because the same tools cannot be used to deal with all human rights and human rights issues cannot be raised with every country in the world in the same way. The latter dimension requires consistency between EU external action and Member States' foreign policy. Without coherence there cannot be effectiveness. The only real power that the EU can use in diplomatic

relations with all countries (even those that are not interested in EU funding or geostrategic alliance) is the soft power of being consistent and coherent, the ability to tell the world that we (the EU, Europeans) are sincere about human rights, both internally and externally.

Effectiveness requires coherence in all three areas, but also:

i) consistency in rhetoric, putting human rights at the centre of conflict resolution; ii) developing clear strategies on major human rights issues; and iii) building partnerships with other multi-lateral organisations (UN, Council of Europe, etc.) and with third countries.



Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU
Special Representative on
Human Rights

The three major current challenges for the EU are: i) the attack on the universality of human rights – human rights has always been the universal language of the powerless – in any country, in any culture, in any religion – against the relativism of the powerful; ii) the shrinking space of civil society around the world – if civil society is persecuted and silenced, human rights will not take root; iii) the lack of emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, which is required both internally and externally (development aid needs human rights impact-based assessment).

Fifth bi-annual ESRAN-UKI research workshop hosted by newly founded ESR unit

The newly-formed ESR Unit hosted a meeting of the Economic and Social Rights Academic Network UK and Ireland (ESRAN-UKI) on 22 November 2013. The event aimed to provide a key opportunity for exchange among researchers and the strengthening of relationships between academics based in Ireland and the UK working on international, regional and domestic ESR-related issues. Participants included leaders in

the field of ESR research, as well as early career researchers. Prof. Aoife Nolan, Joint Head of HRLC's ESR Unit and founder of ESRAN-UKI, was delighted that the workshop took place in Nottingham and stated that: "Given that ESRAN-UKI was founded just three years ago, it is exciting to see such a wide range of ESR scholarship being presented by both new and long-established members."



African Prisons Project Fellows with Dr Roisin Mulgrew (right) and Emily McEwan (APP) (left)

Human rights and imprisonment

In November 2013, HRLC hosted a short course programme on *Human Rights and Imprisonment* as part of the African Prisons Project (APP) pilot Leadership Development Programme aimed at enhancing the skills and capacity of senior prison staff from Africa. The six week programme covered a broad spectrum of themes including an overview of the criminal justice system; health and prisons; education and purposeful activity in prison; rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

HRLC was responsible for providing an overview of the human rights framework relevant for imprisonment. Dr Roisin Mulgrew developed a three day curriculum addressing all the most relevant topics - such as international human rights standards, penological regimes, rehabilitation and reintegration and oversight mechanisms - delivered by herself, Professor Noel Whitty and Sangeeta Shah.

This pilot programme saw the participation of two fellows, both senior officials from the Kenyan prison service. Their feedback was extremely positive, as they thought that the course content and topics discussed on "international standards on prison management" was extremely valuable, as they "may [then] be localised to improve national standards." Given the success of this pilot programme, HRLC is hopeful that there will be further collaboration with APP and a larger number of fellows.

'Default to the most private setting': The internet and human rights

HRLC hosted a one-day conference on *The Internet and Human Rights* in December 2013. The conference explored some of the principal human rights challenges emerging from the increased influence of the internet and its use by both public and private organisations and individuals. Speakers discussed the legal implications of increased internet use on consent and privacy (Dr Paul A. Bernal, University of East Anglia) and how technological developments shape the content of what the law regards as a 'reasonable expectation' for the purposes of privacy (Dr Eoin Carolan, University College Dublin).

This was followed by careful analysis of the human rights issues that arise from sexting and extreme pornography (Professor Alisdair Gillespie, University of Lancaster), as well as the regulation of online extreme pornography (Abhilash Nair, Northumbria University). The discussion then turned to the corporate social responsibility of social network providers and the ownership of personal information shared by users on social media platforms (Dr Emily Laidlaw, University of East Anglia) and the Right to be Forgotten (Professor Dominic McGoldrick, University of Nottingham).

The full conference programme is available from the HRLC website and #UoNIHR @UoNHRLC.



Due diligence, human dignity and human rights in global business and finance

Professor Mary Footer, Head of HRLC's Business, Trade and Human Rights Unit, has continued to foster the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Prof. Footer spoke on *The Role of Due Diligence in Implementing Responsible Supply Chains*, at a conference on *The Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Spain*, organised by the University of Seville in November 2013. Prof. Footer is also a member of the Research Networking Programme Beyond Territoriality: Globalisation and Transnational Human Rights Obligations (GLOTHRO) expert working group, which is drafting the *2014 Tilburg-GLOTHRO Guiding Principles on the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund and Human Rights*.

The working group met in Geneva in November 2013 to further examine the human rights obligations of these international financial institutions (IFIs), including issues of scope and definition of legal obligations, responsibility for adverse human rights impacts of IFIs' activities, accountability mechanisms and forms of redress.

Dr Mary Dowell-Jones, HRLC Fellow, presented her research on human rights and financial markets with a keynote paper on *Global finance, human rights and global responsibility: Putting humanity at the heart of finance* at an international conference on *Finance and Human Dignity: What rights, what duties?* in Luxembourg in November 2013, organised by the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and the Luxembourg School of Finance.

International humanitarian law and Lubanga's child soldiers - Shifting grounds?

Professor Patricia Viseur Sellers, Special Advisor for Prosecution Strategies to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and Visiting Fellow of Kellogg College, University of Oxford, gave the Second Annual Lecture for HRLC's International Humanitarian Law Unit at the University of Nottingham on 22 October 2013.

Before a packed audience, Prof. Sellers explored critical issues of international humanitarian law and international criminal law coming out of *The Prosecutor v Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*, which resulted in the first conviction of the International Criminal Court based in The Hague.

In her lecture, entitled *International Humanitarian Law and Lubanga's Child Soldiers - Shifting Grounds?*, Prof. Sellers explored the development of the legal protection and prohibition of use of child soldiers, starting with the 1929 Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. She further explored the meaning of 'consent' as it pertains to child soldiers.

Her lecture worked through the various crimes related to the use of child soldiers as defined in international criminal law - enlistment, conscription and participation - and probed whether the law needed greater imagination and creativity in order to become more effective at what it is doing or trying to do on the front of child soldiers. Prof. Sellers was introduced by Professor Dino Kritsiotis, Head of the IHL Unit.



Marlen Jakobi (Nottingham LLM student) presents her paper at the IHL Unit's Second Annual Roundtable

Kony 2012: The power and possibilities of the internet for international law

On Wednesday 27 November, Prof. Dino Kritsiotis and Sandesh Sivakumaran chaired the Second Annual Roundtable of HRLC'S IHL Unit *Kony 2012: The Power and Possibilities of the Internet for International Law*. The roundtable followed the very successful model of 2013 with presentations by Nottingham LLM students and external experts on the topic, giving students the opportunity to present and engage in discussion in a formal academic setting.

The roundtable began with an overview of 'Who is Kony?' and the Kony 2012 video (Marlen Jakobi, Nottingham LLM student), an analysis of the human rights world's reaction to it (Ruth Brittle, Nottingham LLM student) and an update on the situation of Kony's child

soldiers in 2013 (Simon Rau and Aikaterini Katsimardou Miariti, Nottingham LLM students). This was followed by discussion on possible responses to the crimes committed by Kony: hypothetical - such as a military response (Amy Larson, Nottingham LLM student), or actual - the ICC's role in apprehending fugitives in Africa (Dr Yassin M'Boge, University of Leicester).

Finally, the roundtable considered whether the 'responsibility to protect' concept has any hope to offer to the child soldiers (Catherine Gichuki, Nottingham LLM students) and whether the whole Kony 2012 experience is an example of sublimation by white noise with regard to the notion of greatest responsibility (Thérèse O'Donnell, University of Strathclyde).

Capacity building for Bahrain's National Institution for Human Rights



Commissioners and staff from Bahrain's NIHR

In Autumn 2013, HRLC welcomed a delegation from Bahrain's National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) for a two week capacity-building programme on international human rights standards, national human rights strategies and action plans, and the role of NHRIs in the Universal Periodic Review. The delegation included all nine NIHR commissioners as well as four members of their staff.

The programme comprised a week of seminars in Nottingham, delivered by academic staff from the School of Law - Prof. Dominic McGoldrick and Prof. David Harris (HRLC Co-Directors), Prof. Aoife Nolan and Sangeeta Shah - as well as external experts and practitioners - Prof. Geraldine Van Bueren (former member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission), Prof. Malcom Evans (chairman on the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture), John Kissane (an independent consultant specialising in human rights action plans and UPR reviews), Bruce Adamson (in his at the time dual capacity as representative of the Scottish Human Rights Commission and of the International Coordinating Committee for NHRIs), and Mervat Rishmawi (HRLC Fellow and MENA expert).

In the second week, the delegation spent two days at the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in Belfast, where colleagues shared best practices and experience on various aspects of the day-to-day work, as well as strategic planning and policy development of an NHRI. The last two days were spent in London, where the delegation visited the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, met with Baroness Berridge and Murray Hunt (Legal Adviser) of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, met with Louise De Sousa, Head of the Human Rights and Democracy Department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and with Said Boumedouha and Sima Watling, researcher and campaigner for the Middle East and North Africa programme at Amnesty International.

FRAME update: The positive and negative human rights impacts of non-state actors



HRLC has spoken to Petr Priblya, HRLC Research Associate to hear from him about progress and developments in the FRAME project (see HRLC Newsletter Summer 2013).

HRLC: Petr, since your arrival in October 2013, what have been the main developments and what are the main goals for 2014 for FRAME?

The first deliverable, for which HRLC is responsible, deals with the positive and negative impact on human rights of non-state actors and the EU's engagement with these. This is the current priority we have been working on. But I am not alone on this deliverable. The HRLC team is led by Professor Jeffrey Kenner and includes Professor Mary Footer and Professor Aoife Nolan as well as HRLC Fellows, including Professor Michael O'Flaherty and Dr Mary Dowell-Jones. Furthermore, on the first deliverable we are collaborating with Maija Mustaniemi-Laakso from Åbo Akademi University, another of the FRAME partners. So there are many people associated with HRLC

who will be contributing to this report, as well as to the work package as a whole.

In December 2012, Prof. Mary Footer and I attended a FRAME Steering Committee in Leuven, which served as a good opportunity to discuss our research progress not only with the other research institutes, but also with members of the FRAME International Advisory Board - Jonas Grimheden (Head of Access to Justice Sector at the Freedoms and Justice Department of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights), Mónica del Carmen Serrano Carreto (Professor of International Relations at the Colegio de México and Senior Research Associate at the Centre for International Studies, Oxford University), Toby Vogel (Political Reporter, European Voice) and Abiodun Williams (President, The Hague Institute for Global Justice).

Furthermore, HRLC leads the research cluster on the EU's engagement with human rights

actors and in that capacity we will host the first Cluster Meeting at the beginning of March in Nottingham. Another FRAME Steering Committee meeting and the annual general assembly will take place in Brussels in June .

HRLC: Why is it important to undertake such a large multi-disciplinary project?

There are many reasons for it. There is no doubt that the EU has gradually expanded its human rights commitments and actions over the last decades and has developed a great variety of policy tools to promote human rights, both internally and externally. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU has now committed itself to put human rights, democracy and the rule of law at the centre of EU external action. But beyond the explicit commitments in official documents, statements and policies, there are various challenges and problems in putting these into practice, obviously. So far, it is still learning by doing.

Enhancing the Rome Statute system of justice: Strengthening of criminal justice procedures through technology

Every stage of criminal adjudication for core international crimes involves a web of laws and high volumes of factual and legal materials. States usually have to reconcile national and international obligations, while investigators, prosecutors, lawyers and judges often need to be familiar with the legal requirements of core international crimes under their national legal system as well as their broader international obligations.

These challenges will be addressed by a research-based capacity building project, funded by the European Union through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights and the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The project is led by the Case Matrix Network (www.casematrixnetwork.org). HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit, led by Professor Olympia Bekou, is one of the project partners, together with the Central and Eastern European Initiative for International Criminal

Law and Human Rights (ICLHR Initiative).

The broader aims of the project are to develop national participation in the Rome System of Justice, by empowering national criminal justice actors, through technology-driven services. The project will develop four new thematic toolkits, which will support legal work, policy and advocacy concerning core international crimes and serious human rights violations. The toolkits will include databases and manuals, thematic guidelines, advisory papers which will be available for free to all stakeholders worldwide. The project will also provide technical assistance and capacity development partnerships in seven priority countries (Georgia, Mexico, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Mongolia, Indonesia, Sierra Leone).

Within the broad scope of the project, HRLC's ICJ Unit will develop the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD), which will

function as an add-on to the National Implementing Legislation Database (NILD), a relational database developed by the ICJ Unit since 2006 and which operates within the International Criminal Court's Legal Tools.

Approximately 40% of State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court have yet to implement their obligations under the Statute to enact legislation with regard to cooperation with the ICC. 50 out of 122 State Parties have not yet ratified the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC). As the presence of adequate legislation is a crucial step in ensuring that State cooperation is forthcoming, CJAD will provide a central information hub on all aspects of cooperation legislation. Through free universal access to CJAD, States will be able to gain information, review, compare, and access online information regarding the drafting of cooperation legislation. This will, in turn, enable

Efficient and accessible redress against data protection violations: HRLC research findings form part of new EU report on data protection remedies

On the eve of EU Data Protection Day (28 February 2014) the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published a report entitled *Access to Data Protection Remedies in EU Member States*. The report provides an overview of the legal framework and the procedures people can use in cases of data protection violations.

The report draws upon the findings of desk and fieldwork research HRLC - as the UK contractor for FRANET (the Agency's multi-disciplinary research network) - conducted for the FRA *Data Protection: redress mechanisms and their use* project in 2011. This project considered the existing procedures and the legal consequences concerning data protection violations in the UK. Professor David Harris, HRLC Co-Director said: *"More and more information is being stored about individuals both by government and privately. This project revealed the great harm that the recording of inaccurate information can cause individuals and the need for them to have*

accessible and effective remedies when this happens."

The fieldwork research conducted by HRLC, which involved over 40 interviews with legal professionals, intermediaries and members of the public who had experienced a data protection violation, identified the following key findings with regard to access to data protection remedies in the UK:

- Victims are less likely to pursue their case in the courts as it is often time consuming, costly and difficult to provide evidence of a data protection violation; instead, most victims complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (the national data protection authority);
- When seeking redress victims of data protection violations are not motivated by financial gain but rather wish to prevent the recurrence of similar data protection violations



- in the future due to their experiences of psychological and social distress;
- There is a lack of legal expertise in the area of data protection and a lack of resources allocated to organisations who specialise in the area of data protection;
 - Civil society organisations are crucial to the individual by providing advice, legal assistance and representation, as well as playing a part in publicising and raising awareness around data protection issues.

Supporting national ownership y-driven services

increased cooperation with the ICC. Furthermore, CJAD will be a valuable tool not only for States, but also for other stakeholders, such as The Hague's Working Group on Cooperation; the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, Presidency, Chambers and Registry; international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The 'Ratification, Implementation and Cooperation' toolkit will comprise CJAD, a user manual in English and French on its use, as well as comparative cooperation charts which will graphically and statistically demonstrate information on cooperation. Other toolkits to be developed in the course of the overall project will address 'Investigation and Fact-Finding', 'Case Mapping, Selection and Prioritisation' and 'Case Analysis'. All toolkits together will form the Case Matrix Network Knowledge Hub.

The project is led in Nottingham by Professor Olympia Bekou, Head of HRLC's ICJ Unit with assistance from Daley Birkett, HRLC Research Associate (see page 8).



The above findings are also consistent with the overall findings of the FRA report that explain why the available redress mechanisms are not widely used by capturing the experiences and views of key stakeholders involved in the enforcement and use of redress mechanisms. These include the national data protection authority, leading legal practitioners on data protection, consumer protection organisations, governmental departments and other non-governmental organisations.

The report recommends the following initiative to improve individual's access to data protection remedies in EU Member States:

- Raising public awareness of complaint mechanisms, including the existence and role of national data protection authorities;
- Strengthening the independence and resources of data protection authorities;
- Data protection training for legal professionals so they can offer more informed advice.

The report is available from the FRA website at: http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-access-data-protection-remedies_en.pdf.

Social media, human rights and political change

Professor Sarah Joseph, Professor of Law and Director for the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University, Melbourne, delivered a lecture in November 2013, on *Social Media, Human Rights and Political Change*. The lecture considered the capacity of social media to be an agent for political change and reflected upon the impact of social media on human rights.

Events in Tunisia in December 2010 and the broader Arab Spring prompt the question: are social media an efficient activist tool? They facilitate unprecedented access to information from a variety of sources that is no longer reliant upon or controlled by traditional media intermediaries. They facilitate a global conversation between individuals. Not only did social media alter the capacity of citizens in the region to bring about political change, but it also served to highlight the fact that they were not alone in their struggle. However, social media as an activist tool have two main limitations: i) social media revolutions are leaderless and do not propose sustainable solutions and ii) they are extremely vulnerable to government crackdown.

However, the internet and social media can pose dangers to progressive change and human rights. They can facilitate the spread of hate speech, be the source of misinformation, increase surveillance and bullying. They are difficult to regulate. Are social media platforms reliable facilitators of

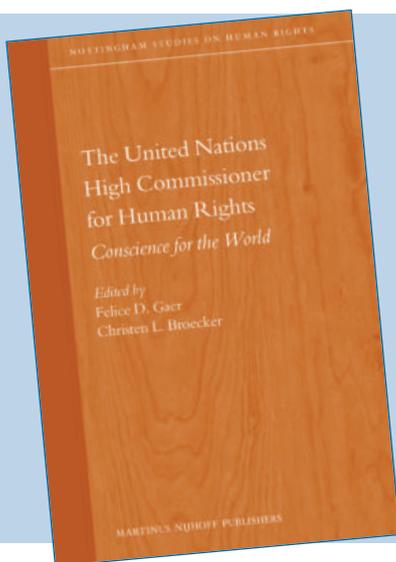


Professor Sarah Joseph with HRLC colleagues

political activism? They are perceived to be a public space, but in fact they are private spaces where companies like Google, Facebook and Apple exercise extraordinary rights which impact upon privacy and limit free speech. They should be scrutinised and monitored, so that their self-interests do not drown out the positive potential of social media.

Social media offer unprecedented opportunities for individuals to broadcast and connect with each other. They also provide some leverage to ordinary citizens against traditional bastions of power. Nevertheless, in the light of the Prism revelations, it may be necessary to consider whether we have sleep-walked into a situation where privacy doesn't exist anymore.

Listen to the full lecture at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/events/special-events/lectures.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Conscience for the World

The third volume of the Nottingham Studies on Human Rights series considers the role of the top United Nations human rights official. *The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Conscience for the World*, edited by Felice Gaer and Christen Broecker, is an analysis of the achievements, leadership styles of, and obstacles encountered by the various role holders.

It also includes recommendations for the future. A total of 18 expert contributors including present and former UN policymakers, human rights practitioners, legal scholars, and current High Commissioner Navi Pillay examine how UN High Commissioners past and present have worked to end atrocities, hold perpetrators of human rights abuses to account, promote equality and justice, and provide protection and redress to victims.

Developments in the right to be forgotten

Following his keynote address at the *Internet and Human Rights conference*, Prof. McGoldrick's article on *Developments in the Right to be Forgotten* has now been published in the *Human Rights Law Review* (Oxford University Press, Volume 13, Edition 4, December 2013).

The article considers the human rights implications of the proposed right in the European Commission's 2012 Proposal for a Regulation on General Data Protection. The article also assesses a 2013 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Węgrzynowski and Smolczewski v Poland* in which the Court had to consider the protection of personal rights in a context of published material which continued to appear online.

The development of a right to be forgotten has important implications for our understanding of the right to privacy and would have a significant impact on aspects of freedom of expression. The proposed right is controversial and faces political and commercial opposition.

The compatibility of sharia law with the European Convention on Human Rights

Prof. McGoldrick has published an essay on *The Compatibility of Sharia Law with the European Convention on Human Rights* in a major collection on *Islam and English Law – Rights Responsibilities and the Place of Sharia*, edited by Robin Griffiths-Jones (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Prof. McGoldrick advocates for Muslim engagement with the ECHR rather than calling for the incorporation of sharia law into the law of European States. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams triggered a storm of protest in 2008 when he suggested, in his foundational lecture at the Royal Courts of Justice, that some accommodation between British law and Islam's sharia law was 'inevitable'.

This book combines developed versions of public discussions on Islam and English Law at the Royal Courts of Justice and the Temple Church in London with new contributions. Theologians, lawyers and sociologists look back on developments since the Archbishop spoke, and forwards along trajectories opened by the historic lecture and the implications on Islam, sharia and jihad and the principles of the ECHR such as family law and freedom of speech.



HRLC in the School of Law

Spotlight on economic and social rights scholarship at Nottingham

Following the establishment of the ESR Unit (see page 1), a launch event marked the publication of three books on economic and social rights. Two of these 'Nottingham' publications are written or edited by the Unit's Joint Heads. The third is the second volume in the Nottingham Studies on Human Rights Series, by Dr Amrei Müller. Dr Müller completed her PhD at the University of Nottingham and is now based at the University of Oslo. The book is based upon her doctoral work.

- Thérèse Murphy, *Health and Human Rights* (Hart Publishing 2013);
- Aoife Nolan, Rory O'Connell and Colin Harvey (eds), *Human Rights and Public Finance: Budgets and the Promotion of Economic and Social Rights* (Hart Publishing 2013);
- Amrei Müller, *The Relationship between Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and International Humanitarian Law: An Analysis of Health-Related Issues in Non-International Armed Conflicts*, Nottingham Studies on Human Rights (Martinus Nijhoff 2013).

Life imprisonment worldwide: principles and practice

In the first comprehensive study of its kind researchers are to examine life imprisonment on an international scale.

The work will be led by Professor Dirk Van Zyl Smit and Dr Catherine Appleton who has joined the School of Law as a Senior Research Fellow.

The study, *Life imprisonment worldwide: principles and practice*, is funded by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust. It will encompass all fully indeterminate sentences. The researchers hope to establish criteria for ensuring that all life prisoners are treated justly in prison and when they are considered for release.



Get your Human Rights Master at Nottingham – One of the UK's top law schools

At the University of Nottingham School of Law, prospective postgraduate students can choose from a wide range of specialist degrees, with over 50 different modules. The diversity of the programme is matched by the cosmopolitan nature of the academic and student body: each year we admit about 150 students, typically from over 40 different countries around the globe. The School is able to offer a number of scholarships to the very best students on our full-time programmes.

All modules are offered specifically to

postgraduate students; the class size is conducive to an intellectually stimulating debate. It is an evolving programme with new modules and new specialisms to reflect the dynamic intellect of the School of Law and the changing international environment. Graduates from Nottingham's taught master's programme have progressed to a wide variety of successful careers; from government legal service to private sector legal practice, from universities to industry and commerce, and from non-governmental organisations to the United Nations.

Discrimination: Philosophical perspectives

In February 2014, Professor John Gardner challenged Nottingham postgraduate human rights students to consider the philosophical perspectives of discrimination law.

In an HRLC Seminar on the topic, Prof. Gardner, who is Professor of Jurisprudence at University College, Oxford outlined the contemporary academic debates around the conceptualisation of discrimination, the

identification of behaviours that are considered to be discriminatorily wrong and the regulation of discrimination in certain circumstances.

The seminar was delivered as part of his visit to the University of Nottingham School of Law as the 2014 JC Smith Trust Fund Visiting Scholar from 10 – 14 February 2014.

Forthcoming events

Rights of the Child: HRLC Summer School

The HRLC Summer School on the Rights of the Child will run from 23 to 27 June 2014.

The objective of this exciting programme is to consider issues concerning the rights of the child that are a matter of current legal, political and societal attention, both internationally and comparatively. These include violence against children, child participation, child poverty, children in conflict and child rights and advocacy.

The Summer School will examine international and regional child rights law, including the work of the international courts and treaty monitoring bodies mandated to consider violations of the rights of the child. This is an interactive programme in which all participants will be encouraged to be fully involved. The training methods include Q and A and group exercises. The working language will be English. All participants will receive an extensive electronic file of resource materials.



The Summer School faculty are all highly experienced experts on child rights, with backgrounds in advocacy, research and practice.

The Summer School faculty for 2014 includes:

- Michael Freeman, Emeritus Professor of Law, University College London and Editor of International Journal of Children's Right;
- Professor Matthew Happold, Professor in Public International Law, University of Luxembourg;
- Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Head of the Department of Law and Director of the Child Law Clinic, University College Cork;
- Professor Laura Lundy, Director of the Children's Rights Centre, Queen's University, Belfast; Dr Najat Maalla M'jid, former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- Dr Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the African Union, and member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Lisa Myers, Director of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Geneva.

Previous participants stated that they found the Summer School to be "highly valuable, inspiring and uplifting! The diversity of themes combined with excellent teachers and presentations are setting new standards." More information about the Summer School faculty, fees and registration, is available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/summerschool.

HRLC Distance Learning Course – Autumn 2014

The next HRLC international human rights law distance learning intake date is Monday 29 September 2014.

Further information on course content, fees, dates and contact details are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse.

HRLC International Human Rights Law Short Course – Autumn 2014

The HRLC international human rights law short course will run in Autumn 2014 for three months.

Further information on course content, fees, dates and contact details are available at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/hrlc/shortcourse.

New research staff on the HRLC Team

Petr Pribyla was appointed as Research Associate for the FRAME project in October 2013. Petr came to HRLC from the Human Rights Policy Instruments and Bilateral Cooperation Unit of the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, bringing with him policy insight and practical knowledge of the implementation of the EU's external human rights policy. Previously he worked for the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER), T.M.C. Asser Instituut, in The Hague. He also worked for the Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (CCHRD) and for the OSCE /ODIHR election observation mission in Mongolia.

Petr obtained his MA degree in Political Science (2011) from the Masaryk University. He also holds a Master's in Human Rights and Democratisation (2012) from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice and KU Leuven. Petr also studied at University of Helsinki and National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Daley Birkett is Research Associate within HRLC's International Criminal Justice Unit. Having joined the University of Nottingham in March 2014, Daley's principal focus will be to develop the Cooperation and Judicial Assistance Database (CJAD) (see pages 4 & 5). Previously he was an intern to the International Judges of the Supreme Court Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) under the auspices of the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT), having served as intern to Judge Anita Ušacka in the Appeals Division of the International Criminal Court.

Daley holds an LL.M. (with distinction) from Leiden University where his LL.M. Thesis, 'The Legality of the 2011 Kenyan Invasion of Somalia and its Implications for the Jus ad Bellum', was awarded the Leiden Journal of International Law Thesis Prize. Previously, Daley read for an LL.B. at Durham University, where he acted as research assistant to Professor Michael Bohlander.



Daley Birkett (left) and Petr Pribyla

HRLC Updates

For all the latest updates on our activities, follow us on Twitter at @UoNHRLC or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hrlc-centre.



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