The Realisation of Human Rights in Societies Beyond Growth

British Academy and Wellcome Trust Conference, hosted by the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex, 30 April-1 May 2024

Venue: Lecture Theatre Building Room 8 (LTB8)

Agenda BST (GMT+1)

TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2024

8.50-9.20 Registration and Coffee

9.20-9.40 Welcome

- Jules Pretty, Professor of Environment and Society, School of Life Sciences, University of Essex.
- Karen Hulme, Professor and Director of Education, Essex Law School, University of Essex.
- Judith Bueno de Mesquita, Interim Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex.

9.45-11.30 Panel 1 – Climate Change and the Realisation of Human rights: Imperatives, Opportunities and Challenges of Social and Economic Transformation

- Kate Raworth, Author of Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think like a 21st Century Economist. “Human rights, climate wrongs and doughnut economics.”
- Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights; Professor of Law, University of Louvain. “Beyond GDP: Combating poverty and realizing human rights without growth.”
- Annalisa Savaresi, Professor of International Law, University of Stirling. “Human rights and climate change litigation: a reassessment.”
  - Discussant: Birsha Ohdedar, (SOAS); Chair: Judith Bueno de Mesquita, (University of Essex).
  - Open discussion
11.30-45 Coffee break

**11.45-1.15 Panel 2 – Placing Established and Emerging Rights Holders at the Centre**

- **Sandra Liebenberg**, Professor and HF Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights Law, Stellenbosch University, and **Aoife Nolan**, Professor of International Human Rights Law, University of Nottingham. “The economic, social and cultural rights of future generations.”
- **Koldo Casla**, Senior Lecturer, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “Human Rights Local: An academic contribution to make human rights locally relevant.”
  - Discussant: Professor **Jessie Hohmann**; Chair: Professor **Karen Hulme** (University of Essex).
  - Open discussion

1.15-2.15 Lunch (Lecture Theatre Building room 5)

**2.15-4.00 Panel 3 – Alternatives to Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities of International Law**

- **Emily Jones**, NuAcT Fellow, Newcastle Law School, Newcastle University. “The rights of nature: A new economic paradigm or more of the same?”
- **Margot Salomon**, Associate Professor, London School of Economics (LSE) Law School, LSE. “Taking back the economy.”
- **Tara Van Ho**, Senior Lecturer, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “Moving the business & human rights agenda to a post-growth agenda: challenges and opportunities.”
- **Claiton Fyock**, Lecturer, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “A critical phenomenology of ecocide: Investigating the capitalist lifeworld of international law.”
  - Discussant: Dr **David Birchall** (London South Bank University); Chair: Dr **Marina Lostal** (University of Essex).
  - Open discussion

4.00-4.15 Coffee
4.15-6.00 Panel 4 - Policy Implications 1: Voluntary Simplicity and the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, Including Continuous Improvement of Living conditions

- **Birsha Ohdedar**, Lecturer, School of Law, Gender and Media, SOAS. “Watering down growth, reimagining rights: The human rights to water and eco-socialist degrowth.”

- **Jessie Hohmann**, Professor in Law, University of Technology, Sydney. “What can a right to continuous improvement of living conditions add to human rights in societies beyond growth?”

- **Jackie Dugard**, Senior Lecturer, Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University. “Using the master's tools to dismantle the master's house (?): Reflections from property rights contestation in South Africa on the use of law to undermine privilege and potentially advance degrowth.”

- **Godswill Agbaitoro**, Lecturer, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “Reconceptualising energy justice from a corporate social responsibility perspective: Old body in new robes.”
  - Discussant Professor **Sigrun Skogly** (Lancaster University: Chair: Professor **Aoife Nolan** (University of Nottingham).
  - Open discussion
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9.00-10.45 Panel 5: Policy implications II: Beyond Growth in the Global South: Development Alternatives, Global solidarity and International Cooperation

- Ashish Kothari, Kalpavriksh, Vikalp Sangam and Global Tapestry of Alternatives. “Eco-swraj: radical pathways to human and planetary rights.”
- Roopa Madhav, Professor of Law, National Law University, Delhi. “Property rights, commons and community management of natural resources: rethinking paradigms.”
- Cristina Blanco, Lecturer, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and doctoral researcher, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “Amazonising human rights: rethinking the human-nature relationships through the Kukama-Kukamiria onto-epistemology.”
- Wouter Vandenhole, Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Antwerp. “Postgrowth and the Global South: Implications for international cooperation.”
  o Discussant: Professor Olivier De Schutter (UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights); Chair: Dr Claiton Fyock (University of Essex).
  o Open discussion

10.45-11.05 Essex Human Rights Centre Clinic: Project Presentations

  o Chair: Dr Koldo Casla (Director, Human Rights Centre Clinic).

11.05-11.15 Coffee

- **Remco Van de Pas**, Senior Research Associate, Centre for Planetary Health Policy; Lecturer, Institute of Tropical Medicine, University of Antwerp. “The need for transformation to a post-growth health and economic system.”
- **Ted Schrecker**, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University. “Health care and social security in a postgrowth world: Prospects for Britain’s National Health Service and the Canada Pension Plan.”
- **Stephen Turner**, Senior Lecturer, Essex Law School, University of Essex. “Alternatives to sustainable development and GDP: the example of Bhutan and Gross National Happiness.”
- **Judith Bueno de Mesquita**, Senior Lecturer, Essex Law School and Interim Director, Human Rights Centre, University of Essex. “What right to health entitlements would we have in a post-growth society?”
  - Discussant: Dr **Julian Sheather** (Consultant, World Health Organisation and Medecins Sans Frontieres); Chair: Professor **Anuj Kapilashrami** (University of Essex).
  - Open discussion

12.55-1.35 Lunch (Lecture Theatre Building room 5)

1.35-2.50 Closing Panel 7: Bringing Human Rights, and Rights and the Environment, into Balance

- **Sergio Chaparro Hernandez**, International Policy and Advocacy Lead, Tax Justice Network.
- Discussant: Dr **Claiton Fyock** (University of Essex); Chair: Dr **Birsha Ohdedar** (SOAS).
- Open discussion

3-3.10 - Close