

THE ROAD LESS → TRAVELED



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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER
ANTONIO PAPISCA



Global Campus
of Human Rights

Laboratory Humour and Human Rights

Humour, a less explored tool to advance human rights

Humour is a gateway to many emotions that can in turn make people advance human rights. Humour as a tool for human rights education, advocacy and communication has not been given enough attention and this is the road less travelled that we are considering exploring in this laboratory.

We believe that humour can be a powerful tool for human rights. It opens doors to complex issues, persuades us emotionally, breaks down social barriers, challenges the absurdities of institutional power and creates communities. Saul Alinsky viewed a sense of humour as a key quality of a successful organiser, to 'maintain sanity' and to identify and make sense of contradictions. It also plays a role in communicating effectively ideas and feelings and bringing people together.

The objective of the Laboratory is to bring together in Padova around 15 interested individuals, human rights advocates/academics/practitioners, comedians, cartoonists, ... to discuss how we can use more and more efficiently humour to advance human rights. The participants might as well identify potential areas that could be explored further through academic and less academic projects.

We aim at discussing during this two-day laboratory the potential of humour as a tool for

- **Educating about Human rights;**
- **Communicating human rights** (E.g. What makes humour an honest and a direct communication tool for people? How do social networking and digital media transmit user-generated political and humorous content?)
- **Advocating for human rights** (E.g. Why do activists choose to use humour to expose the absurdities of institutional power and uncover human rights abuses? How can they use humour even more to achieve this?)
- **Building communities centred on human rights** (E.g. Can humour be the foundation for resistance? A coping mechanism that helps build community on joy?)

When and Where: **June 15-16, Padova, Italy**

The project will cover the travel costs (up to 400 euros) and the accommodation costs in Padova (up to 3 nights in a hotel). Taxi costs and other costs will not be covered.

If you are interested in joining us for this Laboratory, please do apply by filling the [form](#) before **May 5**. We will get back to you by May 12 to let you know.

About Us

The [Road Less Traveled](#) is a project initiated by the [Human Rights Center of the University of Padova](#), and done in cooperation with [Global Campus of Human Rights](#). The project explores how graduates from human rights master use their knowledge and their skills by taking less usual career paths.

This exploration of those less usual paths started in 2022 through a series of webinars, which was followed by a first season of podcasts. A second season of the podcast The Road Less Traveled started in March 2023.

Follow the project on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).