



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE  
"ANTONIO PAPISCA"



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair "Human Rights,  
Democracy and Peace",  
University of Padova

# Cities, Territories and the Struggles for Human Rights: a 2030 perspective



International Conference  
University of Padova, 26th - 27th November 2018

70  
YEARS

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF  
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# Concept Note

There is a **growing function of “the local” in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the development of human rights mainstreaming**, especially in a perspective of multi-level governance and subsidiarity. This has been acknowledged, for instance, in the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City (Florence, 2011), stressed in the Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions (2015/C 140/07), emphasised by the UN Human Rights Council (see the 2014 Report of the Advisory Committee A/HRC/27/59) and highlighted by the EU with special reference to territorial cohesion in Europe. Cities and local entities were also evoked in the 2016 Habitat III World Conference in Quito, and are deemed to be crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, whose Goal 11 is about making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**Cities and territorial units are indeed a key component of any global strategy for the governance of contemporary social phenomena and the management of related risks** – be them ecological, technological, economical, etc. Thus, local authorities are pressured to adhere to and abide by global strategies devised by decision-makers in political and financial headquarters. **Cities and territories however also provide the set where the failures of such grand designs are represented, and where innumerable instances surface of resistance to the globalisation.** Cities and local governments, including self-government units, are therefore simultaneously at the periphery of the global scene, and at its centre; the socio-economic and cultural hub for individuals’ and communities’ lives, but a marginal actor in politics and international relations. Laying on the faultline between top-down policy implementation and bottom-up policy contestations, status quo preservation and search for fresh visions, cities and local governments experiment a dichotomic tension both as democratic spaces (poleis) and as accountable bodies in the multi-level legal framework.

The **international conference aims at charting ideas and experiences that support a claim for a stronger political role of sub-state and non-state territory-based entities in the global world.** Cities and local communities lay at the intersection between an array of lines of tensions: they face challenges such as the ecological and social consequences of climate changes, the impact of development projects of natural and social environments, ruthless competitions to attract investments and intercept financial and trade flows, socio-political conflicts as a result of unresolved religious and ethnic confrontations, the waves of technological innovations and their costs. Migration and new religious and cultural diversity in the cities raise the necessity for better understanding of urban identities and question the concept of inclusive city with the new challenging policies on religious freedom governance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue with the focus on religious and ethnic minorities.

**New ways of conceptualising human rights and framing human rights policies are taking shape in these contexts**, that seem to depart from the mainstream human rights koine, leading to output both more radical and more unstable, including in connection with children’s rights, women’s rights, anti-racism, participatory urban planning, cultural participation, etc. Transformative and even transgressive practices in subsidiarity (“right to the city”, shelter cities, carbon-free cities, cities and local governments for peace and human rights...) challenge the conventional forms of multi-level governance.

Against this background, **interdisciplinary research is much needed to shed some light over the transformations that lay ahead**, taking the 2030 SDG Agenda as a fundamental yardstick to evaluate progress..

# Conference Programme

Monday, 26th November 2018

Venue: Aula Nievo, Palazzo Bo

9.00 - 9.30

## Registration

9:30 - 10:00

## Welcome Addresses

**Annalisa Oboe**, Vice Rector for Cultural, Social and Gender Relations,  
University of Padova, Italy

**Marco Mascia**, Director Human Rights Centre “Antonio Papisca”, UNESCO Chair “Human Rights, Democracy and Peace”, University of Padova, Italy

**Gerd Oberleitner**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Security, UNI-ETC,  
University of Graz, Austria

**Koen De Feyter**, Law and Development Research Group, University of Antwerp, Belgium

10:00 - 12:00

## Opening Plenary Session

chaired by: **Paolo De Stefani**, University of Padova, Italy

**Yvonne M. Donders**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Shelter Cities: Defending the Human Rights Defenders

**Ivan Koprić**, University of Zagreb, Croatia  
New Citizenship, New Local Policies, but the Same Old Human Rights? A Need for Innovative Local Policies and Re-Defined Human Rights in Contemporary Europe

**Josep Maria Llop**, University of Lleida, UNESCO Chair in Intermediate Cities, Spain  
Urban planning as a recognition and implementation of the right to the city

12:00 - 12:30

## Discussion

12:30 - 14:00

## Lunch

## Parallel Research Panels

### Panel 1. Smart Cities and Human Rights

Venue: Library, Human Rights Centre, 14.15 - 16.15

chaired by **Koen De Feyter**, Law and Development Research Group, University of Antwerp, Belgium

**Hadi Pendar, Soroush Masoumzadeh and Salar Kamjoo**, University of Art, Tehran, Iran  
Investigating the strengths and challenges of utilizing navigation apps in the procedure of transformation of a traditional city toward a smart city with emphasis on the human rights, related to the urban design qualities; Case study: Tehran, Iran.

**Poorva Priyadarshini**, Architect and Urban Planner, India  
Challenges of vendors and their exclusion from their functional territories: A case of Varanasi ghats, India

**Lucas Costa dos Anjos and Maria Clara Oliveira Santos**, Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Brazil  
Urban landscapes and dystopian scenarios: smart cities for whom? Tales of inclusionary and exclusionary practices

**Hikmet Kirik and Yaser Murshed**, Istanbul University, Turkey  
A Citizen-Centric Approach For Smart City Development in Developing Countries

**Saeed Rostamalizadeh**, Trade Promotion Organization of Iran  
The Right to Privacy Ignored in Smart Cities Mission

**Alessandro Carrieri**, University of Torino, Italy  
At the Edge Of The smart-City, Between new apartheid and old resistance

### Panel 2. Governing New Religious Diversity in the City

Venue: Aula Nievo, Palazzo Bo, 14.15 - 16.15

chaired by **Olga Breskaya**, University of Padova, Italy

**Gozde Orhan**, Altinbas University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Religious Freedom Governance or Institutionalization of a Heterodox Religion? Turkey's Urban Policies With respect to Alevi Population

**Cristina Ghanem**, University of Padova, Italy  
Integrating Muslim migrants with a gender perspective? An Analysis of the multilevel governance of integration policies in the city of Brussel

**Adriana Michilli**, University of Padova, Italy  
Inter-Religious Dialogue in Post-Conflict Societies: An Analysis of Application in Bosnia-Herzegovina's Educational System

**Christiane Lemberg-Dobler**, Friedensbüro der Stadt Augsburg, Germany  
The Peace Office Augsburg and the Round Table of Religions Augsburg – Chances and Conflicts in a modern diverse society

**Magdalena Ratajczak**, Instytut Studiów Międzynarodowych, Poland  
City as a meeting place

### **Panel 3. Microfinance to Start-up Bottom-up Social Changing Initiatives**

Venue: Aula Iqbal Masih, Human Rights Centre, 14.15 - 16.15

chaired by **Sara Tonini**, South Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town, South Africa

**Laura Andrea Duarte Reyes**, University of Padova, Italy, **Nadia Fernanda Sanchez**, She-Is Foundation, Colombia, and **Giulia Fattori**, Microfinanza Srl, Italy

Microfinance as a means for women empowerment in the Colombian post conflict scenario: Transformational development or a tool for better managing poverty

**Manoj Fernando**, University of Tasmania, Australia  
Microfinance for social inclusion in post-conflict states

**Bharat Singh Thapa**, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal  
The Social Impact of Microfinance in Nepal

**Lucia Poletti**, University of Parma, Italy  
Contextualizing Microcredit in Europe: a Focus Group Exploration in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, and Italy

**Monica Rossolini**, University of Milan Bicocca, Italy  
Financial (il)literacy vs Individual's behavior. Evidence on credit card repayment patterns

### **Panel 4. Cities as International Actors – Shifting Normative and Political Frameworks**

Venue: Aula Iqbal Masih, Human Rights Centre, 16.30 - 18.30

chaired by **Gerd Oberleitner** and **Lisa Heschl**, UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Security, University of Graz / UNI-ETC, Austria

**Raffaele Marchetti**, Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali “Guido Carli”, Italy  
The diplomacy of Italian cities and human rights

**Petra Bendel** and **Janina Sturner**, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany  
The two-way “glocalisation” of international law or how cities become international actors in migration governance

**Alejandro Fuentes**, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Sweden  
Human Rights Cities: An institutional model of governance for the realization of fundamental rights at local levels

**Karina Gomes da Silvia**, Independent Journalist and Human Rights Consultant, Germany  
New Urban Agenda and Human Rights Cities: Mutual Learning between the Global and the Local

**Barbara Oomen**, Utrecht University, University College Roosevelt, The Netherlands

## **Panel 5. Beyond the State-centric Approach to Human Rights – Challenges and Opportunities in Human Rights Implementation, Protection and Development by Sub-state and Non-state Territory Based Entities**

Venue: Library, Human Rights Centre, 16.30 - 18.30

chaired by **Peter Johansson**, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

**Paul Gready** and **Liz Lockey**, University of York, UK

Indicators for Sustainable and Just Cities: A Case Study of the SDGs and Human Rights Indicators in York (UK)

**Gülay Günlük-Şenesen**, Istanbul University, Turkey

Human Rights Responsive Budgeting: A Step forward from Intention to Commitment?

**Elif Durmus**, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

Cities' Engagement with Human Rights – A Preliminary Typology

**Monika Mayrhofer**, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Austria

Monitoring human rights – the role of cities

**Cristiano Gianolla**, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Heritage as a Postcolonial Human Rights Border

## **Panel 6. Evaluating the City: Problems, Prospects and Migration Flows**

Venue: Aula Nievo, Palazzo Bo, 16.30 - 18.30

chaired by **Lilija Alijeva**, **Martin Crook** and **Damien Short**, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, UK

**Yelda Yücel**, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey

Perspectives in 'human rights' measurement in the city context: Case of Turkey

**Claudia Araujo**, Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal

New Municipalism in Spain and Migration Management: a Comparative Study of Barcelona in Comú and Ahora Madrid

**Andrea Mora**, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Internal migration and urban (dis)integration in Neo-liberal States. Exploring the third "season" of informal urban growth in Lima, Peru

**Michela Trentin**, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK

Who has a "right to the city"? The case of Brixton's gentrification and the struggle for the urban space

**Silvia Mazzocchin**, University of Padova, Italy

Managing urban space towards intercultural and sustainable cities. A case study of the neighborhood Arcella, Padua

19.30

**Dinner**

**Tuesday, 27th November 2017**

Venue: Aula Nievo, Palazzo Bo, 9.30 - 12.00

**Plenary Round Table ‘The local struggles for human rights: policy- and action oriented perspectives’**

chaired by **Damien Short**, School of Advanced Studies, University of London, UK

**Francesco Martone**, ‘In Difesa Di’ Network, Italy

Strategies and tools for human rights defenders protection and support: the case of the Italian CSO Network “In Difesa di”

**Aysel Madra**, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sweden

A Framework for building human rights cities in Turkey

**Desirée Campagna**, University of Padova, Italy

Cities as laboratories of participatory governance of culture

**Frédérique Hanotier**, Human Rights Cities Network, Belgium

Human Rights Cities Network : challenges & opportunities

**Discussion**





The Conference is organized in the framework of the activities of the **International Joint Ph.D. Programme ‘Human Rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance’**, and is organised in collaboration with:

Human Rights Consortium, University of London  
School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg  
European Training Centre for Human Rights and Democracy and UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security, University of Graz  
South Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town  
Law and Development Research Group, University of Antwerp

The Conference is organised with the sponsorship of the **University of Padova** and of the **Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies**, in cooperation with the Bachelor Degree Programme in “Political Science, International Relations, Human Rights” and the Master’s Degree Programme in “Human Rights and Multi-level Governance” and with the support of the research project Measuring Microfinance Impact in the EU (Memi) funded by EIB University Research Sponsorship.

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#### Contact information

University of Padova Human Rights Centre  
Via Martiri della Libertà, 2 - 35137 Padova  
Td +39 049 827 1813/1817  
centro.dirittiumani@unipd.it  
<http://unipd-centrodirittiumani.it>

Conference website

<http://bit.ly/HRRResearchConference2018>

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